

# In Memory of Dalton Lambrecht, many, many, many thanks...

For weeks now, we've been trying to figure out how someone writes thank you notes to nearly a thousand people making sure not to leave anyone out (we are soooooo blessed to have so many amazing family members and friends). We decided that there's really no way to make that happen without either having notes written by someone other than John or I, or trying to write one big thank you. We opted for the latter because at least then you know it comes *straight from our hearts*, and you know we've spent hours poring over the words to make sure it says what is most important for John and I to share with you.

We decided the best place to start is the day our lives changed forever; *December 29th, 2013..*



Photo by Andrew Hiniker

**Kelly Brown:** There are no words to give enough thanks for everything you have been for us... Just like when John's accident happened two years ago, you took charge and made things happen. For being there with John and Dalton while the medical team worked to try to save him, to getting John back to the trailer, to explaining what happened to me in words I could *sort-of* understand, to making all the phone calls and taking my phone to continue conversations when I could no longer speak, to getting your family (Thank you, Hiniker's!) to help move us from Glamis to Rio Bend in El Centro, while we waited *four more excruciating days* to see Dalton again, to locating Dalton's bike after they towed it away, to getting us home, all the while being our rock, knowing you had just lost your shadow... You are our Guardian Angel. Thank you for you.

**Sonya Brown:** I will never forget standing in the doorway of our trailer, looking over at you standing in your trailer, still not understanding what John was trying to tell me, as Kelly told you the news and seeing you fall to the floor. Thank you for all the calls you made, keeping everyone fed, holding us when we couldn't comprehend reality, taking care of Brennan and Daxton, and keeping it all together when you had just lost your best little buddy.

**Chris and Melinda Ravsten:** Who else could we have ever asked to do the unthinkable; *telling my family the tragic news?* That took more courage than we could ever imagine having. Thank you for handling all the text and email communications while we tried to figure out details of getting Dalton home, for allowing me the time off to handle Dalton's service, and then rush off to Texas for Bill's service, for being patient with me, *even now*, while my brain is still so fuzzy. Mel - for the amazing decorations at the service, organizing all the help, for all the plants at the office, the beautiful flowers on my desk, and for your constant compassion. Chris - for narrating our lives... from the happiest day; our wedding day... to our worst; saying goodbye to our Sugarbear. Thank you *both* for spending time with me at the office making sure I can make it through each day. We love you more than words could ever express. Thank you for being everything you are to us, *and to the world*. It truly is a better place with both of you in it.

**Pam:** For having to do the unthinkable in Texas; *telling Mom and C.O. and the rest of the family*. For organizing the trip to California to be with us, and organizing the rush trip back to Texas after we found out Bill was in the hospital. For being the rock Mom needed to help make it through what had to be the most awful weeks of her entire existence. For the prayer you said New Year's Day at the crash site, for "Amazing Grace" and the many in-depth conversations... Thank you.

**Mom:** We are so amazed by your strength each and every day. Thank you for rushing to California to be with us, helping with calls and plans and holding us while you were suffering from the unimaginable grief of losing Dalton *and Bill* within days of each other. Thank you for giving us the time to complete Dalton's service before heading to Texas for Bill's. *We love you to Texas and back, to infinity... and beyond...*

**Mom, Daddy, Shauna, Fabricio, Steven, Mathew, & Bella-Boo:** We have always known that we're a closer family than most... The "I love you family," as all my friends said while we were growing up. For all the hours of travel, tears, hugs, cuddles, cleaning, preparing food, organizing people and lists and cards and gifts and deposits and work stuff, spending the night when we couldn't be here alone, and trusting us when we thought it was time we do it on our own, *thank you all*. We would never have made it this far without you and your undying support and love. *We love you all to infinity... and beyond...*

**Andrew Hiniker:** Who could have known when I took this picture of DJ in March of 2012 that it would become the defining photo of our baby's life, and that hundreds of people on Facebook would make it their profile picture to honor Dalton's life? Thank you for adding the beautiful wings to our Angel, and for all of your talents on the other pictures we now have proudly displayed in our home.



**Sandrine:** We are so happy that you made it here in October to see Dalton one last time. We never would have expected you to make it back for the service, but we're so honored that you did. With all those miles back and forth from France, there's gotta be a free ticket in the works from one of the airlines, right?

**Peg & Doug:** Thank you for flying to California to help and support us, for all the meals, the photo collage and, most importantly, for finding your way back to us after all this time.

**Aunt Luane:** Thank you for the beautiful prayer at the celebration and, as always, your words of wisdom and amazingly *well-thought-through* questions that always get to the heart of whatever subject is under discussion. You always have such an amazing way of making everyone around you feel so important. *We hope you know how important you are to everyone you come in contact with.*

**For all of our Family and Friends** who traveled to be with us during this, *the most difficult and challenging time of our lives*. We greatly appreciate you and the time, effort, and money it took to get here.

**Dominic, Alexis, Karen & Tim Wilderman:** Thank you, Lulu, for organizing the most amazing welcome home candlelight vigil anyone could ever imagine, especially in -4 degree temperatures! Dalton loved all four of you so very much, oftentimes wanting to be with you more than us, I think, especially when he knew Karen would give him Dr. Pepper ☺! Nico and Lulu – your DeeJ thought the world of you and loved every minute of the 11 years of amazing memories you gave him. Thank you for giving him so much love and attention while he was here. Keep talking to him, Nico! He's listening!

**Jeff and Theresa Scott:** After everything life has thrown at you the last year, you still somehow found the time and energy to set up the Meal Train, the Memorial Fund, the website, purchase the Keurig (brilliant idea!), and upload pictures for the celebration. Thank you for giving Dalton the best babysitter and "big sister" he could ever ask for in Heather, and for being such a big part of our lives. We love the Scott family!

**The Schroth's:** You are the only family in the world that just might be closer than ours. Your relationships and respect for one another are something every family in the world should strive for. Dalton loved you all so very much, as John and I do, and the gift you all share for bringing smiles and laughter to everyone you meet are much the same as Dalton's gifts to the world. What an honor it is to know you and love you the way we do (especially my boyfriend, Willy ☺).

**The Beverly Hillbillies:** You all know how much the movie Pay It Forward means to our family and the candlelight homecoming was much like the end of the movie. Thank you all for giving our Angel the tribute he so deserved for the big, beautiful life he lived in such a short amount of time (15 years, 8 months, 3 days, 15 hours and 37 minutes). Thank you all for your help unloading and cleaning the trailer and fixing the frozen pipes during the coldest days in Colorado history. There is no greater neighborhood than Beverly Hills Estates!!!

**Kasie Chihoski:** Thank you for taking time off work to help find and organize the venue for Dalton's celebration, for organizing the support staff the day-of, and helping Shauna figure out the food, and for always being there when I call.

**Molly Winsor:** Thank you for being the best darn grief counselor I don't have to pay for and the best "wife" John and I could ever have ☺. Your amazing grace, wisdom, and subtle ways of helping me organize and re-organize my jumbled thoughts are some of the biggest blessings I could ever imagine.

**Kasie, Molly, Jack, Ryanne, Jen, & Andrea:** Everyone thought I was crazy because I'm such a spreadsheet fanatic, but thank you all for checking everyone in so we didn't have to hand-write every single one of these envelopes! ☺

**And, last, but certainly not least, many huge THANK YOU's to:**

- ♥ **Everyone** who brought meals and gift cards. I never dreamed we would need the Meal Train, but we seriously would have starved without it. We had no idea how much brainpower it takes to prepare an edible meal. John's probably still wishing the train was still going because I actually forgot to feed him now that I have no sense of hunger ☺.
- ♥ **Everyone** who came and cleaned the house before and after the hundred plus visitors we've had.
- ♥ **Everyone** who sent the many flowers and plants that now fill our quiet rooms.
- ♥ **Everyone** who donated to the Memorial Fund (see below for details).
- ♥ **Steve and Nancy at Ponderosa Valley Funeral Services** for accommodating our many requirements.
- ♥ **Michael & Crew at Posterdog.com** for dealing with a crazy crying mom to make the huge posters of Dalton.
- ♥ **Ethan & Martin at Walgreens CPN** for rushing the photos for Dalton's celebration and the hugs.
- ♥ **Cindi and Scott at Ecographics** for printing all the programs, letters, and PIF cards included here.
- ♥ **Linda at GL Specialties** for the purple bracelets and buttons.
- ♥ **Nancy Mills** for the DIFDL Do It For Dalton Lambrecht stickers.
- ♥ **Andy & Angie Wood of A&A Photography** for handling the photos, videos, and music at the celebration, and for taking so many beautiful family photos for our family all those years ago. →
- ♥ **Kim Fullerton and Lorna Leader** for the t shirts.
- ♥ **Julie Hutchison and the Chelsea Hutchison Foundation** for the buttons and magnets.
- ♥ **Kellie and Matt at Brunswick Zone** for taking such great care of us when we brought all of Dalton's friends out for a night of fun. We'll be back!
- ♥ **Andrew and Kevin at California Pizza Kitchen** for the great hospitality for our huge dinner with Dalton's friends.
- ♥ **All the Writers** of the beautiful articles written in Dalton's memory. What an honor!
- ♥ **All the Parents of DJ's AMAZING Friends** who have allowed us the opportunity to take their teens out to share funny stories about DJ and also share the little ways we've all paid it forward that particular week.



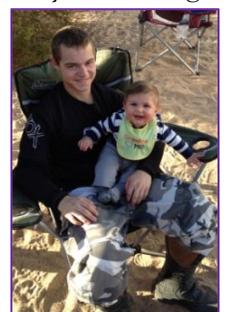
**Please understand if we happened to forget to mention someone. Know that we appreciate every single card, letter, email, phone call, voice mail, text, and Facebook post, even when you don't know what to say (because there's nothing that can be said that makes this better). Just knowing you're around if we need a shoulder to cry on, or to help when our foggy brains aren't working, makes all the difference.**

And, lastly, we have included two Pay It Forward cards for each of you to perform a small act of kindness for someone. This could be buying their coffee at Starbucks (Thanks for the great idea, Deb!), paying for a meal at a restaurant, or just offering an ear when someone needs to talk through a tough situation in their lives. You'll be surprised how many small kindnesses can multiply and have a domino effect in your daily life. Then, if you would be so kind, please visit [www.DoItForDalton.com](http://www.DoItForDalton.com), and share the story of the gift you gave, and/or the gift you received, in memory of our Angel, Dalton Lambrecht...

**With much love and many hugs,  
and more appreciation than could ever be said in these two pages,**

♥♥♥ John & Roni Lambrecht ♥♥♥

John cell: 303-903-6630 / Roni cell: 303-902-0121 / Email: [cci@comcast.net](mailto:cci@comcast.net)



P.S. We've had a lot of questions as to what we will be using the memorial funds for.

If at all possible, we wish to have one-way signs installed on Sand Highway in Glamis, where Dalton's accident happened, to help prevent this from happening to another family. If that doesn't work out, then we will use the funds for a cause we know Dalton would support 100%. Donations can be made at any 1stbank of Colorado to account #588-120-5301. Checks payable to The Dalton Lambrecht Memorial Fund can also be mailed to us and we'll deposit it directly into the fund. Thank you for your support!!!