

Aaron Christopher Story

September 22, 1974 – February 24, 2023

Born in Northeast Ohio, Aaron grew up in an 1865 farmhouse situated in a rural area of the city of Aurora, Ohio. Aaron was the middle child of Jim and Andrea Story; he shared his childhood with an older sister Heather, a younger brother Zachary and a wide assortment of pets.



From the time he was a baby, Aaron faced multiple medical challenges with his hearing, his sight and his heart.

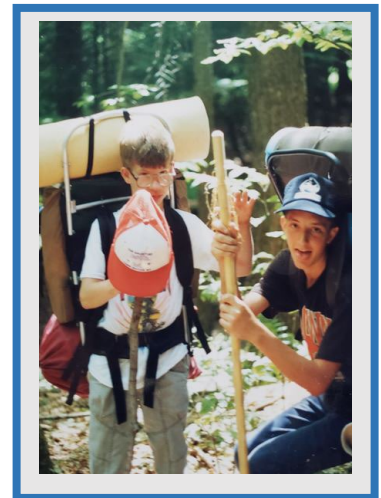
As a result, he endured a series of operations, culminating with open heart surgery to replace his mitral valve when he was 14 years old.

As a toddler, his lack of speech was explained by a pediatric neurologist and experts at Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital with a diagnosis of "Developmental Apraxia".

Aaron received years of Speech Therapy and went through a program called the Tomatis Method to help him express himself. In elementary school, he was placed in Special Education classes.

Out of school, he enjoyed Riding for the Handicapped classes, Boy Scouts, Little League and other non-curricular activities.

In high school, Aaron's desire to be a contributor became apparent. Though he couldn't play contact sports, he helped the football team as a "water-boy", the basketball team as their videographer. Long-distance running was not possible, but Aaron could sprint, so he tried his best on the track team and earned the admiration and nickname of "Truckster" from his coach and teammates. Among his many sports trophies is a 1st place in the 120lb category of the High School Lift-a-Thon.



Aaron's life changed in many ways after he accepted an invitation from his aunt and uncle to live with them in New Mexico. His Aunt Jo-Anne and Uncle Tim were instrumental in obtaining SSDI status for Aaron and in introducing him to the local fire chief in Los Lunas New Mexico. Chief Atilano Chavez accepted Aaron as a volunteer and became his mentor, partner and friend over years of working together. Aaron was eventually promoted to the rank of Sergeant and awarded "Volunteer of the Year" in 2008 for his "generous commitment of time, dedication and support to Los Lunas Fire Department".



When Aaron returned to Aurora, he continued volunteer work with the local fire department in his home town.

By this time, his parents had built a retirement home in Florida and Aaron joined them there.



Aaron's aunt in New Mexico discovered Noah's Ark on the internet and referred us to it as a possibility for Aaron to live independently. We made an appointment with Margaret McNutt to meet at Noah's Nest...and the rest is history. Aaron loved his new home and the community of Lakeland.

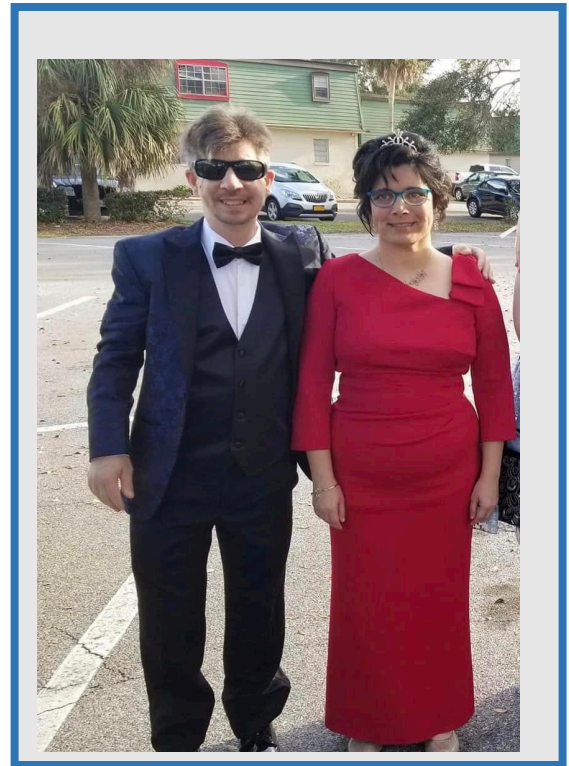


Though the fire department in Lakeland near his house did not have a volunteer department, Aaron joined the Lakeland Police Citizen's Academy and volunteered his efforts with that group. He continued working at restaurants in the area and participated on many Special Olympics sports teams.

Aaron discovered Out of the Box Theater productions and particularly enjoyed being part of the cast in many plays. When he had free time, Aaron loved flying planes and driving big trucks on his computer as well as playing many sports and adventure games with his friends.

Halloween was Aaron's favorite holiday; he loved decorating his home and helping with Trunk-a-Treat at the local church.

A highlight of each year was Tim Tebow's "Night to Shine" event. He looked forward to dressing up, dancing and having fun. He proudly escorted his sweet and lovely girlfriend Brittany to the event in 2023, just weeks before his life unexpectedly ended.



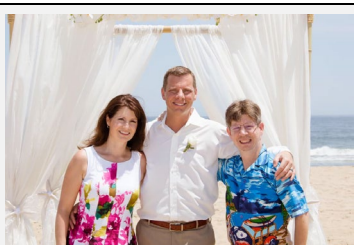
Along with "Truckster" and "Sarge", Aaron earned the nickname "Big A". Though slight in stature, Aaron had such a resiliency to hardship and such a loving, positive spirit to share with everyone. He was a teacher to everyone about what is important in life.

Big A would be so proud to know that he is being remembered in a way that honors others who give of themselves to his chosen community...

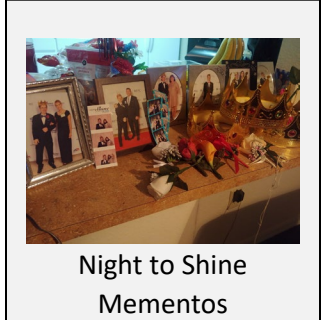
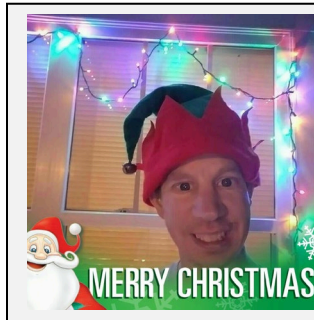
Aaron with Mom & Dad



Aaron & Los Lunas Fire Department at lunch



Aaron with Heather & Zach



Night to Shine Mementos

Aaron so enjoyed spending time with his fellow residents and friends...

