

WCTC honors memory of Delaney Krings

*5-year-old died in January
after brain cancer diagnosis*

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PEWAUKEE — In January, Delaney Krings of Pewaukee gained her baby angel wings. Now thanks to the kindness of Waukesha County Technical College, steel angel wings are on display as a memorial to the little girl who captured hearts around the globe. Heather Krings, her mother, said all of her children went to the day-care at WCTC.

“We got to know the staff and Angie Todd (WCTC associate dean of Hospitality & Design Professions and former director of the WCTC Child Development Center). Delaney was a fun part of their day,” Heather said.

In October what started out as a simple ear infection turned into every parent’s worst nightmare. After a CT scan, Delaney’s parents were told the little girl had an aggressively large brain tumor.

Her prognosis was originally up to 12 weeks, but a complication shortened it to six weeks.

Delaney’s diagnosis was a shock to her family, friends and the staff and kids at the daycare.

“We kept Angie apprised of the situation so she could share with the other families and kids. She had to address it that Delaney wasn’t coming back to school,” Heather said.

Delaney’s fifth birthday was Dec. 16. She was a Make-A-Wish child whose wish was to visit Disney World with her family. The family, which includes her siblings, brother Carson and sister Brooke, went years ago. Sadly, the little girl was too sick to travel.

A group of truck owners banded together to hold an epic birthday parade for Delaney. Andrew Kreblin, with The Wisconsin Truck Takeover Enthusiasts, helped organize it. Over 600 participants showed up on Dec. 16 for a huge birthday parade.

Before the parade began, City of Pewaukee Mayor Steve Bierce read a joint proclamation from the village and city declaring Dec. 16, 2022 Princess Delaney Krings Day.

See **DELANEY**, PAGE 8A



In January, Delaney Krings of Pewaukee gained her baby angel wings. A memorial dedication ceremony was held at WCTC at the Child Development Center to honor the little girl.

Courtesy of
Heather Krings



Courtesy of Waukesha County Technical College

On June 8 a memorial of steel angel wings was dedicated at Waukesha County Technical College in memory of Delaney Krings. Delaney, who was enrolled in day care at the college, died in January after fighting brain cancer.

Delaney

From Page 1A

Sharon Tomlinson is the Shorewest real estate agent who helped the Krings family buy their Pewaukee house. She started a post on social media asking people to send birthday cards to the little girl, and as a result, more than 15,000 cards from around the world poured in.

Angie Todd approached Heather about doing a memorial to Delaney at WCTC.

Because of Delaney's story, her history there and connection to students, and other parents, and the early child learning students (who took turns doing student teaching in the daycare) everyone was deeply impacted.

"Delaney Krings will be remembered as a little girl with a giant heart, contagious laugh and a smile that could light up any room," said Angie Todd. "She touched the hearts of anyone she came in contact with and this statue symbolizes her impact."

The WCTC Foundation funded the creation of a permanent sculpture, Delaney's Wings. The sculpture was created by three WCTC Metal Fabrication/Welding-Advanced students (recent

May 2023 graduates) as their capstone project — Dusten Wirts, Julien Green and Quinn Johnson.

Additionally, Joe Chaney (instructor) helped the WCTC students with the project, and Mike Shiels, (dean of the School of Applied Technologies) also had a hand in the project.

Heather said she didn't know how big the memorial would be.

"I said I think that would be lovely. I was expecting a small plaque at the base of a tree," Heather said.

When the memorial was close to being finished, Heather and her husband, Jack, were invited to stop by.

"We were surprised it was wings and personalized. It would be installed at the front entrance of the development center and dedicated to her with a plaque," she said.

Delaney was a huge fan of Disney's "Frozen" and the WCTC students used computer-based programs to incorporate it in the memorial. The students added elements of Elsa's dress in "Frozen 2" such as earth, wind, fire and water and cut them into the a few feathers of the wings. They also added cancer ribbons which were welded to the back.

"There are snowflakes and

paintbrushes. Delaney was an artist," Heather said.

Heather was blown away by the attention to detail. The wings are at the same height as Delaney. They did their research by looking at the Caringbridge page, Facebook pages and other documents.

The WCTC students also made a few additional items that were sent home to the family to display in their front yard (metal signs and other small items). They also made snowflakes to symbolize "Frozen." These were given to families to have for display at home and one will be on display at the college's Child Development Center playground.

A dedication ceremony was held at WCTC at the Child Development Center to honor Delaney Krings.

Piasecki Funeral Home offered their services to help with Delaney's funeral in February. Funeral director Matt Martin, is also an emotional support animal handler, was at WCTC for the memorial dedication to comfort the children. It was important to the daycare and Heather that were was emotional support for the daycare students.

Community continues to rally

People around the globe are still showing support and love for Delaney and her family. On the Facebook page "For the love of Delaney" people continue to post pictures and notes.

Heather said her family is blown away anytime she sees posts.

There is a hidden number of 96 engraved in the memorial. The number signifies the amount of days from her cancer diagnosis until her death.

"Her story got out to the masses. In 96 days, the effect of her story, her smile and her legacy has had on the world ... She changed my world and I think a lot of people's worlds and lives," Heather said.

Heather still can't believe people reach out to her on Facebook and email her. She gets letters and cards from people saying they were having a rough day and they remembered to choose kindness. They said it made a difference in their lives.

The Krings family receives homemade items and touching cards about people who lost a loved one. The notes said Delaney helps them remember to keep moving forward.

"That is the legacy that Delaney is always going to have," Heather said.