



## Joseph "Joey" Paul Wheat

August 24, 1998 - February 16, 2019

Joseph Paul "Joey" Wheat,

Joseph Paul Wheat, known for his amazing hugs, unparalleled enthusiasm for Steak 'n Shake frisco melts, and devotion as an incredible son, brother and friend, died peacefully at home on Feb. 16, 2019. He was 20 years old.

Joey was born on Aug. 24, 1998, in Indianapolis, to Brian and Kelly Wheat.

He was a sweet, tenderhearted little boy who loved wearing his Batman pajamas, even on 90-degree days, adored and followed his older sister, Lexie, around, and was quick to laugh. Early on, he learned that making weird faces and pterodactyl noises was comedy gold, especially around his sisters, said his mother, Kelly.

"We would get into such big trouble with mom at church because he would make a funny face and I would laugh inappropriately loud," Lexie said. "Our punishment was that we weren't allowed to have doughnuts. We didn't get doughnuts very often."

As a young man, Joey was known for his kindness and compassion toward his family and friends. His younger sister, Katie, remembers Joey taking care of her and checking on her constantly during a recent illness. He helped a young cousin, Violet Kingsbury, last year with a birthday project. He didn't like to let his friends down, even in the smallest ways.

"He was a very trustworthy friend," said his father, Brian. "In several cases he took the blame for something one of his friends did, just because he thought that's what friends were for. He loved his friends and often told them so."

Brian Wheat said sometimes Joey's friends would make him uneasy at first. But that led to the biggest lesson his son taught him.

"Joey taught me not to judge people before I understood them," he said.

"Once I got to know them I learned what great kids they were."

Joey graduated from North Central High School in 2017 and later worked as a custodian at Planet Fitness in Carmel. In eighth grade, during a school project at Center for Inquiry where students were asked about future dreams, Joey spontaneously declared that he wanted to be an astronaut. When his family later questioned him, he said, "I didn't have anything else to say," his maternal grandmother, Bonnie Kingsbury, said with a laugh.

But Joey did excel at science and math, could fix computers and helped his father, an engineer, in their music studio, editing files. His sister, Lexie, said Joey would have been a great video game tester; he enjoyed playing online games such as RuneScape, League of Legends and Minecraft and trash-talking with his friends. His paternal grandmother, Gerry Wheat, often remarked that Joey should have been a model, especially because of his beautiful smile.

"Honestly, I think like a lot of young guys, he wanted to be paid to be one of those YouTube guys who makes hilarious remarks about other people playing video games," said his mother, Kelly.

Joey was a true "junk-food junkie," Bonnie Kingsbury said. The drawers in his bedroom were packed with boxes of Little Debbie Oatmeal Creme Pies and cartons of Mountain Dew; he was a night-owl who worked a third shift.

His sisters remember many of his lovable quirks. For example, even though he had multiple and often new pairs of socks at his disposal, he'd often wear the same pair, Katie said. Lexie said her brother "at one point in his life would spill ketchup on his shirt at least once a day." Joey once impulsively got a Wu Tang Clan tattoo, even though he wasn't THAT big of a fan. He also had a small gap in his front teeth that he decided not to fix after a girl told him it was cute, Kelly Wheat said.

"Joey would tell you something embarrassing about himself just to make you

laugh," Kelly said. "Like, Christmas morning, Brian was talking about how much work it was to unwrap a chocolate Kiss and Joey said, 'Yeah, Starburst are like that too. I just eat them with the paper on.'"

Joey shared a birthday with his uncle, John Kingsbury; the two had to make an annual decision on the color and flavor of their dual cake at the family-wide celebration. Joey was given his middle name, Paul, in honor of his paternal grandfather, Paul Wheat, who preceded him in death.

Joey was passionate about the New Orleans Saints, liked early '90s music including Nirvana and Pearl Jam and enjoyed "getting knocked off an inner tube at Wawasee (lake)," Lexie said. He especially loved animals; cats and dogs were drawn to him. One year he asked for pet rats for Christmas, which he cared for and loved.

The family asks that memorial contributions be made in Joey's name to the Indianapolis Humane Society. Joey was also an organ donor, a selfless decision that gave hope to other families who are struggling with life-threatening illnesses.

But Joey's loved ones will remember him most for his hugs. Bonnie Kingsbury described her grandson as "one of those quiet ones who runs deep," and though he was often quiet and shy, his hugs and expressive eyes communicated so much to family and friends.

"Joey's hugs were the best ever," his mother Kelly said. "He'd really pull you in and squeeze."

Joey is survived by his parents, Brian and Kelly Wheat; sisters, Lexie and Katie Wheat; maternal grandparents, Dr. John and Bonnie Kingsbury; paternal grandmother, Geraldine Wheat; and several aunts, uncles and cousins. Joey's paternal grandfather, Paul Wheat, preceded him in death.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB **21**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Shirley Brothers Fishers-Castleton Chapel  
9900 N. Allisonville Road  
Fishers, IN 46038  
(317) 841-7878  
info@shirleybrothers.com  
<https://www.shirleybrothers.com>

## Memorial Service

FEB **22**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Shirley Brothers Fishers-Castleton Chapel  
9900 N. Allisonville Road  
Fishers, IN 46038  
(317) 841-7878  
info@shirleybrothers.com  
<https://www.shirleybrothers.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Joseph "Joey" Paul Wheat.



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February 21, 2019 at 08:48 PM



“ *Brian and Sandy Moldt* purchased the *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant* for the family of Joseph "Joey" Paul Wheat.



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**Brian and Sandy Moldt** - February 21, 2019 at 11:42 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Joseph "Joey" Paul Wheat.



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February 21, 2019 at 10:14 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Joseph "Joey" Paul Wheat.



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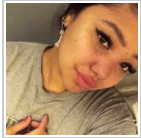
February 21, 2019 at 07:54 AM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Joseph "Joey" Paul Wheat.*

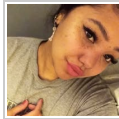


February 20, 2019 at 06:17 PM



“ *I remember Joey and how much he liked reading Stephen King novels. I thought it was really interesting that he liked to read since he was usually known for being the funniest guy in the room. Goes to show you that there are other sides to people. His presence always made the room light up. He was closer to my younger sister (Chyna) and brother (Jonah) but he sometimes came up in our conversations during the walk home from the bus stop. He had an amazing a bright soul. Rest In Peace Joey.*

**Naja Ferguson** - February 20, 2019 at 04:38 PM



*And\**

**Naja Ferguson** - February 20, 2019 at 04:38 PM



“ *Joey was one of the funniest people I have met. A true hidden comedian...that advanced humor was always there, even at a young age. He was a good friend. People always said Joey was more of a brother than a friend. Someone that was always there, 0 judgments, even when the chips were down. Rest easy Joey. We'll all miss you very, very much. My condolences to the Wheat family. Stay strong.*

**Keegan Stein** - February 20, 2019 at 04:25 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Joseph "Joey" Paul Wheat.*



February 20, 2019 at 03:43 PM



“ *When I think of Joey, I always remember how he could make anyone laugh. My fondest memories of Joey are when he would make jokes in 7th grade science class. Joey never failed to make the class laugh, and he made the CFI 84 experience better for us all.*

**Chyna Ferguson** - February 20, 2019 at 03:29 PM



“ *Autumn & Brian purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Joseph "Joey" Paul Wheat.*



**Autumn & Brian** - February 20, 2019 at 02:54 PM



“ *CFI 84 purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Joseph "Joey" Paul Wheat.*



**CFI 84** - February 20, 2019 at 01:06 PM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Joseph "Joey" Paul Wheat.*



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February 19, 2019 at 08:09 PM



“ *CFI 84 is a family and sadly, we lost our brother Joey. Looking at our 8th grade class picture from 2013 brings back a lot of memories. I don't think there was anyone else in the room that made me laugh as much as Joey did. He was an excellent science student and I remember how proud he would be when he did well on a test and then ask for iced sugar cookies from Marsh to celebrate! I'm thankful for the times I got to see Joey since he moved on to high school, still the same sense of humor and mischievous smirk that always made me smile! Rest in peace.*  
*Nick Neureiter*

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**Nick Neureiter** - February 19, 2019 at 06:26 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Joseph "Joey" Paul Wheat.*



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February 19, 2019 at 05:32 PM



“ *Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Joseph "Joey" Paul Wheat.*



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February 19, 2019 at 04:00 PM



“ *Reading through all of these messages, the common theme is that Joey always knew how to make his friends laugh. That is very true true. Any time I was upset and couldn't find a reason to smile, Joey would know just what to say. There are so many hilarious stories about Joey from middle school and high school. He was a wonderful friend and will be missed by so many people.*

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**Hannah Ogden** - February 19, 2019 at 01:27 PM



“ *Platinum - Serene Angel was purchased for the family of Joseph "Joey" Paul Wheat.*



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February 19, 2019 at 12:21 PM



“ *I will never forget all the nights sitting on the Wheat's porch laughing with Joey and our friends, he always knew how to make you smile. Sending love to his whole family, he will be missed by many.*

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**Natalie Mayer** - February 19, 2019 at 12:16 PM

TP

“ Thinking of your family in this time of loss, with sympathy and prayers.

*The Paw Patch Place Staff*

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**The Paw Patch Place** - February 19, 2019 at 09:45 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joseph "Joey" Paul Wheat.*



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February 19, 2019 at 09:42 AM

DM

“ *Joey, aka Joseph, as Jackson would call him....was such a quiet, humble, always smiling boy/young man. I told Kelly just yesterday that even when the boys (Jackson and Joey were being knuckleheads and I would be scolding them he'd still have that humble smile on his face. He will be missed!*

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**Dawn McCord** - February 19, 2019 at 07:28 AM

SM

“ *Sloan, Dawn, Jackson, Carson McCord purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Joseph "Joey" Paul Wheat.*



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**Sloan, Dawn, Jackson, Carson McCord** - February 19, 2019 at 07:21 AM

JH

“ Joey always knew how to make everyone laugh and smile with his funny stories or comments. He was always an amazing friend with a big heart and will be missed a lot. Send prayers and love to his family

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**Jessica Halsmer** - February 18, 2019 at 11:48 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Joseph "Joey" Paul Wheat.



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February 18, 2019 at 11:30 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Joseph "Joey" Paul Wheat.



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February 18, 2019 at 09:37 PM

TM

“ Kelly - and family - we are so sorry to hear that Joey has passed. Porter just told us the news. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

*Tracy, Scott, Porter and Ruby Minor*

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**Tracy Minor** - February 18, 2019 at 09:26 PM

SO

“ *Good night sweet prince: And flights of angels sing thee to thy rest!*

*Sharon Oldham*

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**Sharon Oldham** - February 18, 2019 at 08:08 PM

TB

“ *We am so incredibly sorry for your loss. We wish we had words to ease the pain but please know we are praying for peace and comfort during this unimaginable time.*

*Tyra & Tanner Benzinger*

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**Tyra Benzinger** - February 18, 2019 at 07:18 PM

DK

“ *A much loved GREAT nephew.  
Uncle David and Aunt Barbara*

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**David & Barbara Kingsbury** - February 18, 2019 at 06:20 PM

TC

“ *What a beautiful tribute, Joey sounds like he was an amazing young man that will be missed by many. I am so very for your tragic loss ,Kelly. I will pray that Jesus holds you ,and your family, very tight and grants you all peace in knowing that Joey rests eternally in our Fathers arms.*

*God Bless you.*

*Teri Yates Chambers*

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**teri yates chambers** - February 18, 2019 at 05:47 PM

KK

“ Joey was so sweet and funny. I was his teacher for three years at 84 and will always remember his smile, laugh, and tender heart. So very sad, the world lost a bright light. All my love to your family.  
Love, Ms. K

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**Kate Kuonen** - February 18, 2019 at 05:36 PM

CH

“ Oh Kelly - Joey was so loved by so many and our hearts are breaking for you and your family . God be with you all.

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**Cynn timer Halsmer** - February 18, 2019 at 05:09 PM

RH

“ Brian,  
  
I am so, so sorry.  
  
Ray Hedin

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**ray hedin** - February 18, 2019 at 03:45 PM

SR

“ Brian, I am so sorry to hear this. My thoughts are with you and your family. Susan Rardin (friend of Bob Berry)

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**Susan Rardin** - February 18, 2019 at 03:25 PM

EE

“ Dear Brian and Family,

*I have only recently met you Brian at your studio. I am one of the artists working for Bob Barry. I am so very sorry for your loss, my heartfelt prayers and condolences go out to you and your family.  
Very truly, Erika Edelberg*

Erika Edelberg - February 18, 2019 at 03:15 PM

KA

*Kelly, Brian, Lexie & Katie,  
We truly don't have the right words to express how heartbroken we are for your family. The level of pain that you must be experiencing is unimaginable. Please know that we care and are praying for you!  
Karen and Joe Leone*

Karen - February 18, 2019 at 06:15 PM



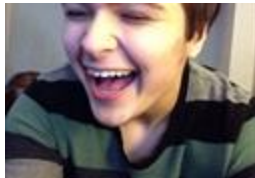
“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Joseph "Joey" Paul Wheat.



February 18, 2019 at 01:53 PM



“ Always had the brightest smile



Katie Wheat - February 18, 2019 at 12:38 PM



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



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**Shirley Brothers Mortuaries & Crematory** - February 18, 2019 at 07:34 AM