

January 27, 2008

My son, Kevin Joel Warren, died on June 20, 2002 of bacterial meningitis. He was 21 years old. I am not certain of the strain, I believe sepsis was involved. His father knows all the details; I still can't bring myself to look at the medical reports. All I know is that I no longer have my beautiful, talented son.

I turned my grief online and found many different sites to help me cope. If you have lost a child, then you know that there are no words that can describe the feelings. I met a woman, Adrienne on one of these sites. We were talking about signs that could be sent from loved ones that have died. She told me that her mother sends her dimes. I was very interested in this and asked her how I could get Kevin to send me dimes as well. She told me to just simply ask.

Since that day the dimes have been appearing. In the first two or three years after Kevin's death, they were everywhere. I wrote a story about them and in it I stated, "It is not the finding of the dimes that is so unusual: it is the synchronicity, the coincidence and the timing that is so comforting". I would find them in very strange places, the bathtub, my bed, at work, almost every outdoor place I went, a wedding, when my mom died, they called us to the hospital in the middle of the night and I found a dime in her room on the floor. I could go on and on, I keep a list of the places where I have found dimes.

Since most of my friends and all of my family were interested in the dimes, I wanted to do something special for Kevin. As well as a copy of the story, I provided each of them a jar with "Kevin's Dimes" written on it. If they chose to, they also saved all their dimes. Once a year, in June, we have a party in Kevin's memory. I collect all of the dimes and send the money to the Canadian Meningitis Research Foundation.

A local newspaper got wind of the story; they put mine and Kevin's picture in it, and that year I received dimes from complete strangers. I would open my front door and there would be a bag or jar of dimes.

I have been extremely touched by the caring and generosity of people. One beautiful lady, who I had never met, suffered from breast cancer. She passed away last year, but still managed to save her dimes for Kevin. Another co-worker lost her husband and father and that year she made sure she still saves her dimes. My husband, John works for O'Connor Associates and they have a sister company in Calgary and I received dimes from there as well.

In the last four years, I have collected a few thousand dollars in dimes. I don't find them as much as I did in the early years. I have decided that Kevin accomplished what he set out to do. Get his mom to focus on something positive and not dwell on the horror of his death. I don't need to find them anymore, I know that he is always with me.

Deb Halstead, mom to angel Kevin