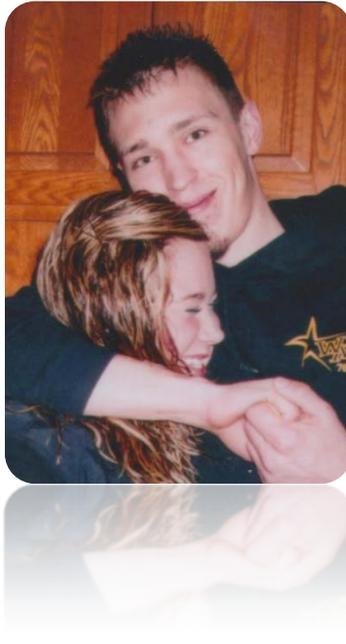


October 21, 2015



Cody James Bragg, 23
~ 01/30/1989 - 07/27/2012 ~

IFH Group (Innovative Fuel Handling Group) in Rock Falls, Illinois

By: Kristy Bragg

How does a parent put the value of their sons' life into writing? I don't know if I can write this. I guess I'll start with what happened to my son.

My sons name is Cody James Bragg. Cody was 23 years old and an extremely hard working young man. He supported himself, and lived in his own place with his girlfriend Kelsey (who we believed he was going to marry) Cody worked for a company named IFH Group Inc. IFH was a business that made parts for tractors and such. Cody was a Laser Operator that frequently helped out within the plant in other departments. One day Cody was helping out in another area by working a fork-truck moving 5x10 plates of steel in order to place the material in a Mazak load

tower. These steel sheets weigh an average of 4500 pounds. Sometime between 3:00 and 4:00 pm, Cody was off of the fork-truck. No one actually saw what happened to him, so we don't really know what the issue was that made him get off the fork-truck. At this time the steel sheets slid off or fell off the pallet and landed on him, instantly killing him. I know this is something that happened frequently, because the same thing had happened the day before. He told his Supervisor how dangerous these steel sheets were, because they were sliding around. The Supervisor said, "If you see them sliding off again, Run." Cody went home that day and also told it to Kelsey.

The transcript from the call placed to OSHA states: Cody Bragg was moving sheets of metal with his forklift as instructed, when the sheets slid off onto the ground. Cody got off his forklift to try and hold them up when his forklift rolled back and 4,500 pounds of sheet metal fell on top of him."

OSHA did do an investigation and found several serious violations which all together totaled \$20,790.00 in fines. The original penalty was reduced to \$16,632.00.

So I guess a 23 year old young man's life is worth \$16,632.00. How does a family recover from the loss of a son? Well, you don't. You don't recover and not one member of this family or the family dynamics will ever be the same. I know the owner of the company. I am sure he has long forgotten about Cody. Cody is the first thing I think about when I get up and the last thing I think about before I go to bed. Every breathing moment of my life will be this way from here on till I die. There are two parents missing a son, and a young man missing his older brother who can never and will never be there for him now. Birthdays and holidays are the hardest, because as other peoples' lives go on, ours are stuck in that loop where no matter what we are doing, there is always a missing family member from that event, function or occasion. Time passes for others,

but yet it does not for this family. It's like a bad dream that you want to wake up from but cant. Every time I wake up, it's there. In my opinion, the fines for violations should be higher. Maybe if big companies knew they could lose more money, they would be more concerned and keep their employee training updated and make the environment safer. Work should not be a place of death, but what the heck, they paid their reduced fines so it's all good, right? What's the value of a young man's life worth?