

My brother Zachary Stauffer died from Tay-Sachs disease when I was six years old. I did not feel the impact of his death right away since I was only six at the time. However, over the years I have seen the impact more and more in my life and I am grateful for this. Now I am a twenty years old junior who just transferred from Northampton Community College to West Chester University to study criminal justice.

Zach has affect my life in every aspect. I have done my best in school, work, and sports because of him. I want to do my best in memory of him as well as not letting him down. If he was still alive I know he would want me to do my best and that is how I live my life every day.

My goal is to become a police officer in a semi larger city. Zach has impacted my decision on being a police officer because I want to be able to help people. As a first responder, I will be the first on the scene and will be able to assist people when they are at their worst. I hope that my presence will help to save lives. This is important to me because I lost my brother and I would not want anyone else to experience that feeling.

Another impact that Zach has had on my life is helping me realize how to live my life. He made me realize how fragile and special life is. He taught me how easily life can be taken away from you. Because of this, I have learned to live life to the fullest. Some people think that living life to the fullest means going out and partying. That is not what it means to me. To me it means making the most out of my life. I want to be able to go out and make a difference in the world. I want to be a leader and help change people's lives. By being a police officer, I will be given the opportunity. I will see people when they are at their worst and hopefully I will be able to help them get back on their feet. I realize that I will not be able to help everyone but hopefully I can make an impact in at least one person's life. This impact has also helped me go out and be a leader and move up in the work force. I have worked at CVS pharmacy for 2 years and

counting. I started in the front store and I have now worked my way up to a pharmacy technician. In the summer I work at the Borough of Hellertown pool. I worked four years in the snack bar before becoming the assistant manager of the entire pool for the past two years and hopefully a third year this summer. My responsibilities have grown and I have accepted the challenge. Being able to move up in both of my jobs is how I want to live my life to the fullest. This also helped me to become captain of the cross country team at my high school for my junior and senior year and I was captain of the track team my senior year. I was able to accomplish my goal of qualifying for the state meet my junior year and win two MVP awards my junior and senior year. I am accomplishing goals in my life and living my life to my fullest potential with the ability to keep growing. This is the biggest impact Zach has had on my life.

While Zach's time on earth was short he still affected my life a great deal. While I wish he was still here, I am grateful for what his life meant to me and how he has impacted my life. No matter what happens in the future, I know he will continue to impact my life and keep me moving in the right direction.