**Ryan James Messinger**

*Ryan James Messinger was granted his angel wings on March 6th 2005, following a lifelong illness. His final days were spent surrounded by family and friends that Ryan had touched in some small way throughout his short, yet very memorable life.*

*Ryan’s life would seem too short to many, but those who were touched by him understood that the quality of existence far exceeds the quantity of time in which one lives. His gentle smile could melt the hearts of those around him and though he never spoke a word, his voice and thoughts could always be heard.*

*Although Ryan’s illness made him appear frail, he possessed strength, perseverance, and an ability to overcome incredible odds and physical challenges. With his courage he led us to believe that each day is a blessing and an opportunity to create lasting memories. He could spend hours rocking in his favorite chair while cuddling close to those he loved so much. He enjoyed music, sleeping late, and reading stories. He loved the color red and listening to the sounds of children and especially laughter which would make him smile. He spent the summers camping with his family in Rangeley, where he loved to watch the sunsets, sit by the campfire, and listen to the loonsand the wind in the trees. It was one of the few places he could always sleep peacefully through the night.*

*With Ryan’s passing we remind others that his life is one to be celebrated. Although we will miss him every day, especially his winning smile. He will forever remain in our hearts. Through his teachings about life, we were able to create wonderful memories and it has been a privilege to be his parents. We are so thankful Ryan’s sister Meghan met her brother so she can hold dear the memory of Ryan’s gentle spirit.*

*Ryan leaves behind many wonderful caregivers that provided love and support that enhanced his quality of life. Ryan’s love extends to his wonderful nurses, Elaine, Hattie and April. There is a special place in our hearts for Ryan’s best friend “Dr. Chris;” because of her continual dedication, love and support, Ryan was able to survive some of his toughest medical challenges. He will be dearly missed by all his special caregivers at the Morrison Developmental Center, and his friends with The Jason Program. All of these special people, too numerous to mention, provided Ryan with love and dignity in his life and also in his death.*

*Ryan is survived by his loving parents, Craig and Jennifer Messinger of Raymond Maine; sister Meghan Messinger; paternal grandparents Bob and Gerrie Messinger of Kennebunk Maine; uncle Jeff Messinger of Phoenix Arizona; and cousins Alex and Eric Messinger.*

*He was predeceased by his maternal grandparents Albert and Jean Fish and by one of his long term nurses Kathy G.*

*Calling hours are to be held Friday March 11, 2005, from 6-8 pm at Dolby and Dorr Funeral Home, Windham, Maine. There will be a memorial service March 12, 2005 at 11:00 am at the Raymond Village Community Church in Raymond, Maine. A collation will follow the service.*