



## Daniel Valdespino

August 25, 1987 - March 29, 2015

Daniel Valdespino was born on August 25, 1987 at Beth Israel Hospital in Manhattan to Andres Valdespino and Michelena Hallie. He lived in Tarrytown for the first four years of his life, and moved into his home in Sleepy Hollow when he was four with the arrival of his brothers Matthew and Gregory. Sleepy Hollow was always Dan's home, where he went to school from his first day of kindergarten through his graduation from Sleepy Hollow High School. He filled his days with lacrosse, piano, and all sorts of shenanigans across town with the life long friends he had here. He found particular passion in playing the drums with his friends. After high school, Dan went off to Oberlin College in Ohio. There he lived in the campus' vegetarian co-op Harkness, where his duties included cooking for upwards of sixty friends every week. At Oberlin, Dan continued to play the drums as well as the harmonica while enjoying the company of the talented musicians and wonderful friends that made his college experience such a highlight of his life. While at Oberlin, he began studying Spanish, which would take him to Costa Rica and Chile. After college, he found his true passion in life and began teaching. He worked at several schools in low-income communities in Colorado Springs for two years through Teach for America, and then three and half years in San Jose. With his incredible passion and deeply held belief in the transformative power of education, Dan shaped the lives of hundreds of students. Dan believed strongly in his ideals, but never settled with just thinking. Dan acted to never just settle for the world as it is, but pushed forward to create the world as it

should be. In this, he never forgot to brighten people's world with his smile and laugh every step along the way. Those who loved him will miss the love, compassion and comfort he provided, and the new ideas he encouraged us to explore. A few years ago Dan donated his beautiful long hair to Locks of Love, and as an organ donor his kidneys have already been transplanted. Dan is survived by his father Andres, his mother Michelena, and his younger brothers Matt and Greg.

# Tribute Wall

**ME** “ *Mr. Valdespino you were a calm and great teacher, you made 4th and 5th grade fun for me. One of the best teachers I had, my condolences. Rest In Peace*

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**Mellvin** - May 08, 2019 at 09:01 PM

**YS** “ *A candle was lit by your Rocketship student*

*on February 27, 2017 4:33 PM*

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**your Rocketship student** - March 28, 2019 at 05:03 PM

**CM** “ *A candle was lit by Caroline Mellusi*

*on March 18, 2016 7:18 PM*

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**Caroline Mellusi** - March 28, 2019 at 05:03 PM

**JS** “ *A candle was lit by John Sardy*

*on March 8, 2016 7:06 PM*

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**John Sardy** - March 28, 2019 at 05:03 PM

**JS** “ *From one man of la mancha to another !!!!*

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**John Sardy** - March 28, 2019 at 05:03 PM

EE

“ A candle was lit by emily escorza

on June 17, 2015 4:27 PM

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**emily escorza** - March 28, 2019 at 05:03 PM

TF

“ A candle was lit by The Gottlock Family

on May 18, 2015 8:53 AM

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**The Gottlock Family** - March 28, 2019 at 05:03 PM

LH

“ A candle was lit by Lizbeth Hernandez

on May 15, 2015 2:15 PM

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**Lizbeth Hernandez** - March 28, 2019 at 05:03 PM

MH

“ Thank you mr.v for all you have done you have impacted my life a lot i will you remember you always see ya in heavean when i go too, (he was my 3rd ,4rth and 5th grade teacher i love you

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**my heart** - March 28, 2019 at 05:03 PM

KR

“ I heard so much about Mr.Valdespino and my friends told me he was a great teacher so im just here to support the family and friends of Mr.Valdespino

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**karla rodriguez** - March 28, 2019 at 05:03 PM

KR

“ A candle was lit by *karla rodriguez*

*on May 15, 2015 2:09 PM*

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**karla rodriguez** - March 28, 2019 at 05:03 PM

SL

“ *Dear Michelena, I am so very sorry for your unimaginable loss. A wise person once said, "Aren't we ALL just walking each other home?".*

*As we once walked each other home from Stillman.*

*Love to you and your family.*

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**Stephanie (Crites) Lombardo** - March 28, 2019 at 05:03 PM

SL

“ A candle was lit by *Stephanie (Crites) Lombardo*

*on April 10, 2015 8:07 PM*

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**Stephanie (Crites) Lombardo** - March 28, 2019 at 05:03 PM

TT

“ A candle was lit by *The Elliott family-friends of Lou and Chey in Tacoma*

*on April 9, 2015 4:14 PM*

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**The Elliott family-friends of Lou and Chey in Tacoma** - March 28, 2019 at 05:03 PM

SC

“ A candle was lit by school

on April 7, 2015 9:25 PM

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**school** - March 28, 2019 at 05:03 PM

SR

“ To the family of Mr. Valdespino, we send our condolences to you in your time of sadness. Mr. Valdespino hadn't taught my daughter, however we did get the opportunity of knowing him and he was an amazing person! He ALWAYS had a smile on his face and showed the children hope each day that school can be fun. I did tell him once "I can't wait until my daughter is in 5th grade so that you can be her teacher!" He was flattered and humbled by my words. He was a bright light at Rocketship and from the other messages it shows that he meant alot to others as well. We will all miss him dearly and pray you find peace in his loving memory. Sending hugs from California.

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**Sophia (Parent from Rocketship)** - March 28, 2019 at 05:03 PM

LC

“ A candle was lit by Lorraine Colarossi

on April 7, 2015 7:33 AM

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**Lorraine Colarossi** - March 28, 2019 at 05:03 PM

DW

“ A candle was lit by Dorothy Handelman and James West

on April 4, 2015 10:36 AM

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**Dorothy Handelman and James West** - March 28, 2019 at 05:03 PM

JR

“ We are in California so cannot attend the service, but we send our deepest sympathy and caring. We have had personal tragedy with the loss of our beautiful young son in law, so we know that words are just words now but in time healing does happen and you will find peace in the love and memories you shared.

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**joan and richard rose** - March 28, 2019 at 05:03 PM

DB

“ Andres, Michalina, Greg and Matt; My heart is breaking for you all, as the years have passed, Daniel touched many lives, even in his death, you truly raised a very special person. My prayers and thoughts are with you all!

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**Dolly Baird** - March 28, 2019 at 05:03 PM

MM

“ Dear Andres, Michelena, Matthew & Gregory,

*My children and I wish to express our deepest and profoundest sorrow at Dan's loss. Even in death he continued to give, a lesson to us all. His loss is felt in many communities, but especially this, his home, where he grew to be such an amazing man.*

*May God gather him, and keep him, and hold him close.*

*With deepest sympathy, Mary McBride, David and Sarah Campbell*

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**Mary McBride** - March 28, 2019 at 05:03 PM

JT

“ A candle was lit by J Drew Byelick Colleyville, TX

*on April 3, 2015 9:56 AM*

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**J Drew Byelick Colleyville, TX** - March 28, 2019 at 05:03 PM

JB

“ Dear Andres, Michaella, Gregory, and Matthew,  
My sincere sorrow and condolences to all of you. My heart and  
prayers go out to you at this time.  
Love,  
Joyce

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**Joyce Balint** - March 28, 2019 at 05:03 PM

NC

“ Tragic  
Heartfelt Condolences and Deepest Sympathy to the Family.  
With sadness,  
Kassiane Pappas Lekai

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**New York City** - March 28, 2019 at 05:03 PM

RJ

“ A candle was lit by Richard Johnson  
  
on April 3, 2015 9:05 AM

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**Richard Johnson** - March 28, 2019 at 05:03 PM

JC

“ Dearest Andres, Michelena, Matthew & Gregory, our deepest  
sympathy on the passing of your beautiful son Daniel. He lived a  
very full 27 years of life and will be sadly missed. We will pray that  
God will give your entire family the strength to get through this  
terrible tragedy. I see Daniel was an organ donor, and through his  
most generous gift he has given life to another person which is truly  
a testament to the way Daniel lived his life. Sincerely Karen and  
Drew Byelick, Irvine, CA

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**J. Drew & Karen Byelick, Irvine, CA** - March 28, 2019 at 05:03 PM

MB

“ As a kid growing up in Tarrytown Dan was one of the first friends I felt a real bond with. I remember going over to his house for a play date as a kid and playing lacrosse in 8th grade together and hanging out after practice at my house. Dan always had a great sense of humor and was a very positive person. When I moved across the river to New City before 9th grade, Dan and I lost touch but I remember the fun times we had and felt a real sense of sorrow when I heard he passed away. I look forward to meeting you again one day Dan!

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**Michael Brennan** - March 28, 2019 at 05:03 PM