REMEMBERING DAVID CARSEL

BY LAUR MOONIGHT

When a work colleague pours heart and soul into a job for his sheer love and dedication, he will never be forgotten. David Carsel was such a person.

In 2008, under then-Executive Director Maryjane Links, Children Awaiting Parents (CAP) had the pleasure and good fortune of hiring David Carsel as a financial officer. He was an efficient, organized and jovial addition to CAP. His supervisor at the time—Program Director Patricia Bufe—quickly realized David’s many additional talents and skills, advancing his position to office manager and finance, and bringing him on in development and event roles as needed.

David was able to juggle a mountain of financial obligations while keeping everyone in the office on their toes. Under his care, even the office plants grew wildly, spreading for yards across office cabinets. David was one of those well-liked staff members with whom everyone enjoyed conversing and sharing a good laugh. Without reservations, board and staff loved and respected him. He was that staff person to whom everyone went for help, advice, support, and even home ideas. He had an innate gift for beauty, finding unique antiques that he made into decorative pieces for his home. His kind heart also extended toward animals, especially to his beloved cat.

David’s love and commitment to CAP can never be replaced. He made CAP a priority in his life. At the recent celebration of his life, I had the privilege of meeting numerous people whose lives he touched. In a quiet way, David was the one who demanded perfection, and many of his close friends said they imagined he performed the same way at CAP.

David’s talents also extended to figure skating, where, at the Genesee Figure Skating Club, he had many admirers. At his celebration, close friend and fellow skater Marianna O’Brien related David’s love and talent for skating over many years, often skating together.

Other GFS members told of David’s great skating ability and his love for the sport.

Coming on as CAP’s executive director in late 2018, I only had the privilege of working with David less than two years, but—with his thorough knowledge of all aspects of the organization—he was my “go-to.” He could figure out the financial issues, pull a budget together in no time, help plan a gala, and keep the office neat. Recently, I struggled with our mutual decision to begin diminishing his hours so he could work toward retirement within the next year. COVID’s restrictions...
“David was able to juggle a mountain of financial obligations while keeping everyone in the office on their toes.”

Mary Jane Lenz was so proud she had hired David, who, with his 14 years at CAP, took on the unofficial role as “CAP Human” plus so much more. CAF Adoption Specialist/Program Manager Veronica Riches related how she, Pat Rieber, and David had become family, celebrating holidays together over the years. David supported Veronica in numerous ways both as friend and colleague. His true spirit shown through as an annual RSC Center volunteer with Veronica, helping cook, clean and serve meals. “There was no one like David, he would do anything for anyone,” Veronica said. And that was true. During COVID, David supported collections for families and youth, and even donated items for staff that he thought they might enjoy.

CAF will never be the same. It is my hope that David’s love and dedication will act as an example—a beacon for the organization as we move into the future without him.”
“David’s love and commitment to CAP can never be replaced. He made CAP a priority in his life. At the recent celebration of his life, I had the privilege of meeting numerous people whose lives he touched.”