

This is a story of unknowns. This is a story of what could have been. This is a story of heartbreaking loss.

In August of 2023 SMARTER received the following letter along with a significant donation. We, at SMARTER, are grateful for the dollars which will help support our mission, however we wish it wouldn't have come under such circumstances.

The letter is from Amy and Derek.

We are donating in honor of a loved one, Bryan, who passed away on July 18th, 2023, due to severe brain injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident in Norton Shores, Michigan.

On July 9th, Amy's stepbrother, Bryan, left a family gathering on his motorcycle, without a helmet. There were no known witnesses to the accident, and it is believed that he lost control of his motorcycle on his short ride home, on a road he had traveled countless times, and in the daylight. Bryan was a very skilled rider, having experience riding dirt bikes from a very young age, as well as riding motorcycles in adulthood. Bryan was 39 years old when he passed away. He was a beloved father, son, brother, uncle and friend.

We do not know if wearing a helmet would have saved his life, but based on the available research, it seems a helmet could have greatly improved his chances for survival. We know Bryan would choose to be alive today versus his consequences from not wearing a helmet.

We hope the education and training that your organization provides, as well as Bryan's story and other similar stories, help others make the choice to wear a helmet so they can return home to the people who love them.