## Todd Hudson



Jay and Terri Hudson created the Todd Hudson Memorial Basketball Scholarship to honor their son who died at the age of 51 after living for thirty years with a severe brain injury. "We wanted to remember Todd, and it seemed one of the best ways to do that was to create a scholarship for someone who played the sport he loved," says Jay.

Although Todd had various interests in school including an interest in photography, he was "driven" when it came to playing basketball. He told Terri that it was his dream to lead his team on the court and he persevered until he accomplished that goal as point guard for the Fort Bragg Timberwolves. She says it was his "biggest thrill."

In addition to basketball, Todd was known for his compassionate nature. One friend told Terri that when his father died, Todd was the only person at school who really stopped to listen and to understand how difficult it was. Todd also is remembered for coming to the aid of someone who was bullied at school, and volunteering to help kids learn basketball at the recreation center. "He was a good friend and someone who stood up for people who needed help," Jay says.

Todd's life totally changed after his third year of college when he sustained a brain injury in an automobile accident. After extensive therapy, he was able to return to the Hudson's home where he received 24 hour/day care. During that time his greatest joy came from annual family trips to Maui. "It was very social for him," says Terri. "When people are on vacation they have more time. There were more people who were willing to talk with him and even sing with him. There was a way for

him to go into the ocean wearing a swimming collar, and every day there was a social time in the pool. People would ask when Todd was going to swim so that they could join him. He loved it."

In creating the scholarship fund, Jay and Terri look to help others who share their son's qualities – his perseverance, his sense of humor, and his interest in basketball and sharing his love of that sport with younger children. Scholarships will be awarded for an initial year and be reviewable for up to three years and are open to boys who have played varsity basketball at Fort Bragg High School.

