

### Brother's memory spurs Fund

Jody Rainey didn't have an easy life, but he made it easy for others to remember him.

Rainey was paralyzed at birth and later suffered health issues that left him with a mild cognitive disability. Despite those obstacles, Rainey's infectious personality and unwavering spirit left an indelible mark on those closest to him that is still visible ten years after his death.



Bob and Mary Rechner

"I don't have enough years in my life to get over his passing," said Mary Rechner, Rainey's sister. "He was a great person. He taught me a whole lot. We thought we were all there to help him. We were wrong. He was there to help us."

Those memories helped spur the creation of the Jody Rainey Memorial Fund through the Community Foundation for Land of Lincoln. The donor-advised fund gives Rechner the ability to support a broad range of needs, but it will likely focus on support of people with disabilities.

"We want to keep his memory alive. We are happy that people will remember Jody," Rechner said. "It will be anything involving people with special needs. Anything that will help people with special needs will come first."

Rechner recently celebrated her 63rd birthday and instead of presents, donations were made to the Fund leading to its fruition this year. Rechner is excited to have the Community Foundation shepherd the Fund.

"I am very comfortable that the Foundation will take good care of Jody's legacy," Rechner said.

This is the second Fund established in honor of Rainey. A scholarship was previously started in recognition of Rainey's desire to learn.

"Back then when we were growing up you didn't have Americans with Disability Act," Rechner said. "He didn't get a formal education. One thing is he always wanted to go to school. He was like a sponge."

Instead of going to school, Rainey's parents hired tutors to teach him how to read, write and do basic math. He absorbed it all, showing his sister and family how strong he was.

"Jody had such a heart. He never thought he had a disability," Rechner said.

For more information on donor-advised funds contact the Community Foundation at 217/789-4431.