

The Beginning

Sunday, 7:40 a.m., 20 of January 2002. The telephone rings. It's the chief officer of the road traffic police of the department of Kalithea, Athens. He announces the road accident. It's the day I will never forget. It's the day when grief and sorrow will forever nestle in the hearts of all the members of my family.



Dimitris along with his girlfriend Constantina and his childhood friend Michael, walk on the pavement after a night out, looking at the recent photos taken from the night club they visited before. LIFE- HAPPINESS. From the direction of the sea side road a car was approaching. Its driver was found in the opposite direction, he hit and destroyed the street lights, then he hit over the protection balustrades and at the end he fell over the kids. Dimitris' childhood friend was thrown on a glass wall and immediately killed. Dimitris and his girlfriend were taken in the G. Gennimatas Hospital of Athens.

I contact the family of Dimitris' childhood friend and both families travel to Athens, to the hospital. Dimitris and Constantina are in the intensive care unit. Strangling and hoping for good news is constant. Dimitris, after 22 days died.

Dimitris was a young man, who loved life, the explorer of the PCs- this was his field of study-, a young man who loved music- which he was composing- a young man with plenty of feelings, a young man who was escorted to his last residence by hundreds of people, thousands of flowers and speeches, a young man who never hurt those who loved.

From the day I lost my son, I dedicated my life in making others be careful when driving and state bureaus to materialize their decisions about road safety.

I thought that there must be ways to soften the pain and to do whatever you can in order to avoid this happening to others and prevent other mothers to feel what I felt.

Dimitris would have done the same...during a discussion of ours he once said:

'Mother, life is not counted by duration but by offering...'

For all the reasons mentioned and for all these that we expect about road safety, in the memory of my Dimitris who was so unfairly killed by a driver who was under alcohol use and who made two families suffer, Rhodes EFTHITA Department was founded.

The main goal of EFTHITA is to support the road accidents' victims and to promote activities which advance road safety, to empower traffic education, research and studies, aiming mainly in prevention and decrease of road accidents.