

50



Andrea Ashmore



"I'd see her go on retreats, and that made me want to be more of a part of things," Jeanne said.

Faith sharing also helps enhance the relationship between Brian and Deanna Moroni, from St. Cecilia's Church in Irondequoit. Both are active in their parish youth group, and they'll even give a presentation together during a diocesan retreat this spring at Camp Stella Maris in Livonia.

Brian said that he and his sister share a unique bond, both at home and in public.

"You might see brother-and-brother together, but you rarely see brother-and-sister together," said Brian, 19.

Brian and Deanna often converse for hours on end, and freely give and accept each other's advice — especially when the subject is dating.

"All teenage girls want to know what guys are thinking," Deanna, 17, noted.

"And all teenage guys want to know what girls are thinking," Brian replied.

Deanna said that some of her friends are envious of her tight bond with Brian.

"They say, 'I think it's great you get along with your brother because I hate my brother,'" Deanna remarked. "They say they sit in separate rooms and fight constantly."

On the other hand, combative feelings have dropped way off between Eli and Cody after the mishap in Avon.

"We hardly ever fight anymore," Eli said. He now puts a much higher priority on his relationship with his brother, he said, because his friend's death taught him that you often "don't really realize what you've got" until it's too late.

Deanna said that she and Brian still have their share of disagreements, but "we don't hold grudges. By the end of the night we'll be talking."

Grudges have been non-existent between Jeanne and Anne as well.

"We'd always fight, but we'd wind up laughing because we couldn't scream at each other without realizing how silly it was," Jeanne remarked.

pital, she would have died.

When Samantha first saw Andi at the hospital, she recalled, "She had millions of tubes stuck in her. I don't know if I ever cried that hard in my life."

Andi came out of her coma on Dec. 26. After spending time at both Strong Memorial and Rochester's St. Mary's Hospital, she returned to her Ontario home in late January. She still walks with difficulty and cannot remember anything that happened for four months prior to the accident, but she communicates clearly and is hoping to soon resume her normal lifestyle.

In the meantime, Samantha has eagerly stepped into the caretaking role that Andi formerly held. Worried that Andi might fall and aggravate her injuries, Samantha has assisted her as she slowly resumes her ability to walk and climb stairs.

"When she was walking around by herself, I'd be saying 'Andrea, you're not supposed to do that,'" Samantha remarked.

Samantha added that she is much more aware of her feelings toward Andi since the accident.

"I tell her I love her a lot more now," Samantha said. "When I look at Andi, I think of how much I love her."

It was another sobering event

that deepened the relationship between Eli and Cody Cooper, parishioners at St. Mary's Church in Dansville. In August 1995, Eli's best friend, Chris Hagan, was killed in a freak accident in Avon.

Eli and Chris were jogging through a cemetery with two other friends when Chris slipped and fell. The impact caused a loose tombstone to crash down on his head.

Since that tragedy, Eli said that he has turned to his brother to fill the emotional void left by Chris' death.

"I felt like there wasn't really anyone there — but Cody was there," said Eli, 17.

Cody, 13, said he was glad to help his brother out during this distressing period.

"I felt like I had to support him more," Cody said.

Jeanne Kidera, 15, and her sister Anne, 19, are two other siblings who have bonded tightly in the face of challenging circumstances. Both sought the other's support when their parents recently went through a divorce.

"We realized how much we needed each other, and to reassure each other," said Jeanne, from St. Thomas More Church in Brighton.

In September, Anne began her freshman year at Loyola College in Baltimore. Jeanne — who lives with her mother — admitted that she has sometimes struggled with the absence of both her sister and father.

"I'd be sitting home alone and I'd expect someone to come walking down the stairs. It makes you realize how big a part of your life they are," Jeanne said.

However, Jeanne and Anne maintain contact through e-mail and long-distance phone calls. "She always finds a way to brighten up my day," Jeanne said.

Jeanne added that Anne — a former member of the Diocesan Youth Committee — has been a guiding light in helping deepen her faith life.

I look at Andi, much I love her"

— Samantha Ashmore

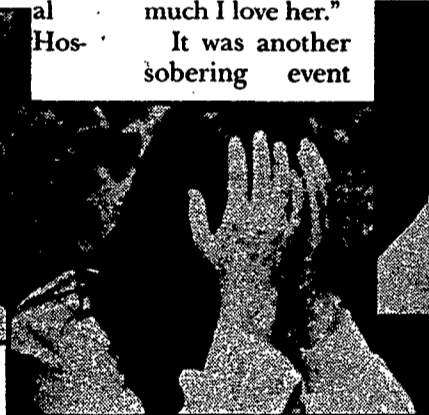
Sometimes, though, a life-altering event can push that love to the surface — and also permanently change the course of the relationship.

This past Nov. 10, Andi was involved in a two-vehicle accident in Wayne County. She was thrown from the truck she was driving and landed on her head, cracking her skull and falling into a coma for more than a month. Andi also broke her pelvis, her collarbone and several ribs — and, had she not been transported by a Mercy Flight helicopter to Rochester's Strong Memorial Hos-

pital, she would have died. When Samantha first saw Andi at the hospital, she recalled, "She had millions of tubes stuck in her. I don't know if I ever cried that hard in my life."



Samantha Ashmore



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