

Chicago Sun Times

Commentary

Hug life in Danny's honor

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Danny Stanton wanted a hug every morning, and he hugged right back.

Sometimes it takes a 4-year-old to remind us of what counts.

We grow older, put up our guard, calculate our actions, calibrate our reactions. We bury the spirit of childhood -- it can't be helped -- but still envy the unfiltered compassion and joy of a Danny Stanton.

We wonder if we were ever this good.

Danny, a little boy on Chicago's Northwest Side, died Saturday from complications from a seizure. In his death notice, his family wrote: "Please go and enjoy your life. Danny did."

Newspapers don't write obituaries about children too much. There just isn't much by the measures of the world to mention -- no career, no public service, no honors or dishonors.

But Sun-Times reporter Maureen O'Donnell wrote a lovely story about Danny on Tuesday, one that reminds us, as we said, of what really counts.

"If he felt you were down," his Uncle Tom said, "he would come and sit on your lap."

"All was right in the world when Danny was around," a neighbor, Pete Lazzara said. "He had a very infectious smile."

Today we honor Danny, as we should all honor every child, every day.