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## Dad recounts tragedy that turned him into activist

21  8 tweets  0

For The Associated Press  
12:39 p.m. CST, December 24, 2010

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Mike Stanton, Holly Stalter and 19 others like this.



CHICAGO — The awful events of Dec. 12, 2009 will be etched in **Mike Stanton's** mind forever. He has retold the story in heartbreaking entries on his blog, <http://www.dannydid.org/an-unfathomable-journey/>, and during advocacy meetings.

Below is an edited, first-person account he gave to The Associated Press, describing how that day turned the Chicago father and his wife into activists on behalf of their 4-year-old son, Danny, and others threatened by Sudden Unexplained Death in Epilepsy, or SUDEP.

"It was 7:15 a.m. 'Mike! Mike! Oh my god, Mike! He's blue! He's blue Mike!!!! He's not breathing! Mike! Mike! Mike!' My wife Mariann blitzed into our bedroom with Danny's 38 pound body drooping across her arms. She had found him in his bed. She handed him to me. I rushed Danny's lifeless body downstairs to our family room. Called 911. . Was that a breath? Danny! Danny! Danny!"

"Danny was rushed to the hospital. Emergency room personnel immediately began working on him. 'Was there a chance? Maybe? . As the minutes passed, as the line stayed flat, as I looked on at my motionless son on a hospital gurney, as I viewed the distressed and teary faces of the doctors and the **nurses**, even then, I couldn't imagine the unimaginable: Danny had died of a seizure while sleeping.

### Top news stories

- Legacy of a life lived right
- Bears facing NFL's most feared corner
- Pope tells Catholics in China to have courage  
*Updated 4:58 p.m.*

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**Grow your Facebook fan page**  
Bright Pink, a non-profit based in Chicago, shares tips for growing your business' Facebook fan page.

**Twitter key for local business**  
Foiled Cupcakes, a Chicago-based cupcake delivery service, used to Twitter to launch its business.



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"Had we known of SUDEP, we would have addressed Danny's condition differently. . Not a night would have passed where Danny slept unmonitored. Would this have saved Danny? I don't know. But I do know that Danny did not die on any of the occasions that we caught him having a seizure.

"I am addressing SUDEP via the Danny Did Foundation, which I formed with my wife, Mariann,. There is much work to be done. We hear daily from people who tell us that their doctors don't know what SUDEP is, whose doctors said that their children won't seize during sleep and, more incredibly, that their children can't die from a seizure.

"It's 8:21 a.m. on December 12, 2009. I ask a nurse to remove the tubes and the tape and the cords from Danny's body.. I pick Danny up and lay him on my chest as I recline on the gurney. Mariann lays next to me. I tuck Danny's arms into his chest so that his hands are beneath his chin. I turn his head to the side so that his cheek rests on mine.Was it an hour that we lay there with Danny, kissing him, caressing him, absorbing his body into ours? A half hour? I don't know. Time went away as Danny's body grew cold against mine."

Mike Stanton lives with his wife, Mariann, and their daughter Mary Grace (9) and sons John (7) and Tommy (2) on the northwest side of Chicago. Their son Danny is buried nearby at All Saints Cemetery. Mike can be reached at [mstanton\(at\)dannydid.org](mailto:mstanton@dannydid.org).

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Online:

Blog: <http://www.dannydid.org/an-unfathomable-journey/>

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<http://www.dannydid.org/an-unfathomable-journey/>

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**Tragedy turns parents into successful activists**  
*(Chicago Tribune)*

**Mom wants a chance to ditch the in-laws** *(Chicago Tribune)*

**High levels of chromium found in Chicago-area tap water** *(Chicago Tribune)*

**Emanuel ruling coming, but it won't be the last word** *(Chicago Tribune)*

**Feds recover nearly 11 tons of marijuana, arrest 7**  
*(Chicago Tribune)*

**FROM AROUND THE WEB**

**Oklahoma executes man using new drug** *(Reuters)*

**Psoriasis – Is It Just A Skin Condition?**  
*(StelaraInfo.com)*

**Organic Food and You** *(Whole Living by Martha Stewart)*

**13 Best Christmas Gifts for Dad: Artfully Disheveled Tie** *(Man of the House)*

**Sweet Potato Hummus** *(Whole Living by Martha Stewart)*

[what's this]

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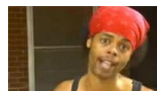
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Example based on survey. Each dealer sets its own price. Your payments may vary. Payments are for a 2011 Silverado LT All Star Ext Cab 4wd with an MSRP of \$34,550. 39 monthly payments total \$11,265. Option to purchase at lease end for an amount to be determined at lease signing. Lessor must approve lease. Lessee pays for maintenance, repair and excess wear. Not available with other offers. Residency restrictions apply. Take delivery by 1/3/11.

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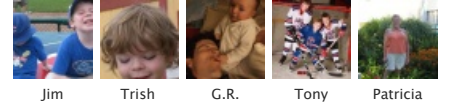
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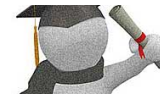
Can Chicago warm up to the Leaf?

### Chicago Homes: Real estate news



Every day is Christmas Day for Uncle Pete

### Jobs: Career news & advice



Winter grads break job recruiting cycle

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