



# Michael Helaman Ackley

September 27, 1994 - December 15, 2021

<https://zoom.us/j/96330058923?pwd=TnNGN2VUZHIyOWJKRkVQMUC1ajNaQT09>

Meeting ID: 963 3005 8923

Passcode: 204851

Michael Helaman Ackley, age 27, passed away on December 15th, 2021 at his Eagle Mountain home, surrounded and embraced by his family and loved ones. Michael could be recognized instantly by his distinct and bright red hair that mirrored his fiery spirit. Michael was known by those closest to him as “Michael Man.” Although no words could ever fully describe his impact, the most simple and accurate description is that Michael was a ray of sunshine.

Michael came into and departed this world fighting. He was born four months premature to William and Denise Ackley on September 27, 1994. Weighing only one pound and nine ounces, Michael persevered those critical early days of his life. Due to his incredible

strength and the aid of those around him, Michael was able to live an unexpected and wonderful twenty-seven years.

Throughout his life, Michael was a beloved son, brother, uncle, cousin, nephew, and friend.

Michael was cared for daily by his father and primary caregiver, William Ackley, and his mother and constant nurse, Denise Ackley. Michael was a loving brother to Sydney Cranford, who was his continual advocate and best friend. Michael was also a proud brother to Maria Robison, his paternal cousin, who nurtured and protected him through many of his challenges.

In addition to his immediate family, Michael was cared for by his many family members, respite caregivers, and medical staff. He was also cared for and educated by devoted teachers at Dan Peterson School, Horizon School, and ATEC West School, who were key to his development and happiness. In his last years, Michael loved most to attend his Friends4Life day program and take part in his church's Special Needs Activities Program (SNAP). Michael's true enjoyments in life were toys, music, watching movies, dancing, roller coasters, Disneyland, and spending time with those he loved. Michael enjoyed a miraculous life filled with love, joy, and adventure. Michael will continue to live through the love and memories of all those who knew him.

All are welcome to join the family in celebrating Michael and his life at the

funeral service on

December 20th, 2021, at Eagle Mountain East Stake Center from 11:00a.m. to 2:00p.m..

Michael's joy and talent was in bringing others together in love, so he would absolutely rejoice in this gathering and life celebration.

Any donations in honor of Michael Ackley can be made through the following GoFundMe

fundraiser: <https://gofund.me/6c7969c3>. All contributions to the "Michael Ackley Memorial"

fund will be given to a charity or organization that works to improve the lives of people like

Michael.

# Cemetery Details

## Pony Express Memorial Cemetery

4648 North Eagle Mountain Boulevard  
Eagle Mountain, UT 84005

# Previous Events

## Viewing

DEC 20. 11:00 AM - 12:45 PM (MT)

Eagle Mountain East Stake Center  
7250 North Porters Crossing Parkway  
Eagle Mountain, UT 84005

## Funeral Service

DEC 20. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (MT)

Eagle Mountain East Stake Center  
7250 North Porters Crossing Parkway  
Eagle Mountain, UT 84005

# Tribute Wall



“ *Michael Helaman Ackley*

October 05, 2023 at 07:49 PM



“ *I was so blessed to have been a bus aide for Michael. His beautiful red hair and his smile. I so admired how Mr Ackley cherished and took such good care of his beloved son. He would put him in his truck and take him with him. It was such an incredible testimony to me of a parents love and care for his son. Michael was a bright light. So thankful to of known him. Missy Poppenger*

**Missy Poppenger** - December 20, 2021 at 02:47 PM



“ *Our hearts are with you at this difficult time. We know that Michael was a bright light in your lives and that you will feel a void and miss him greatly. He has such a delightful smile. Love seeing all the fun photos! My choice memories and the love and support and family and friends and your testimonies sustain you and give you comfort and peace at this time.*  
*Bev & Bruce whiting*

**Bev & Bruce** - December 20, 2021 at 01:33 PM



*correct "my" to " may", sorry for the typo. Didn't edit well enough.*

**Bev** - December 20, 2021 at 01:35 PM

BE

“ I always loved to see Michael and say hi to him and see him smile. My favorites are when Bill had him in the truck with the music jamming and he was moving back and forth to the beat. Always made me smile and loved seeing him happy. Gave me a huge smile when Bill would call and say he was taking the day Michael to Lagoon or a movie. Thanks Bill and Denise for all you do and we sure love you and Michael!❤️❤️

Ben Ercanbrack - December 20, 2021 at 11:48 AM

TC

“ My favorite memory of Michael was watching him change the lives of many young men during a youth conference activity. This activity was designed to “leave no one behind.” I remember the young men coming up to us and letting us know that they were taking Michael over the wall. They weren’t leaving him behind. One of the most humbling moments of my life. I loved the power I felt from Michael that day. He changed me and those young men forever.



Tony Child - December 20, 2021 at 10:57 AM

NI

“ I was at Tracey Aviary one winter day with my two little kids walking around when I suddenly noticed Michael there! I was so excited to see him and be with him for a few moments unexpectedly. He truly was such an incredibly special person, I will miss him.

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**Nile** - December 19, 2021 at 12:35 PM

CM

“ I first met Michael and his family when he was 10 years old. His mischievous smile and bright red hair stood out in my memory from that visit. I had the opportunity visiting him in various settings for the next 14 years. While he was born with limitations, that did not stop him. He enjoyed life and his relationships with others. Denise, his mother made sure he had the healthcare he needed, whether she provided it, trained others to do so, or knew that it was time for another hospitalization. She was a great advocate for him. Bill, his father took him on fast rides at amusement parks, and drives (not fast) in his truck when he was running errands. His showed his love for Michael in many ways. His family took him on family vacations, and wherever they went, he loved the experience. His sister Sydney, and cousin Maria provided many hours of caring support, and with many others who provided care, he touched with his life. Michael, you will be missed, but never forgotten. Till we meet again.

*Cathy Maurer*

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**Cathy Maurer** - December 19, 2021 at 12:21 AM

DA

“ ...took the time to get to know him...  
I will miss you Buddy!!!

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**David Ackley** - December 18, 2021 at 03:32 AM

DA

“ *Michael was truly a gift to all who*

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**David Ackley** - December 18, 2021 at 02:51 AM

SW

“ *Our heartfelt prayers are with you. The affect your family had on Tim as he home taught your family and saw the great love you have for Michael and each other was always inspiring and uplifting to him and he shared this with me. May that same serenity be with you as we all know Michael is experiencing something in heaven that you prepared him well for. The vision you’ve always had for Michael is truly a gift you gave to each of us who knew Michael and you. The plan of salvation is real. And it is a happy one.; even when we have to wait patiently upon the Lord. Michael taught us to wait patiently, with joy 😊*

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**Susie White** - December 17, 2021 at 09:56 PM

WA

*Thank you Susie! He certainly taught us how to “wait upon the Lord”*

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**William Ackley** - December 17, 2021 at 11:20 PM

RM

“ *Michael was a joyful angel among us! It was my privilege to know him! We love his great parents and have learned so much as we have watched them care for both of their children through the years. We love you and pray that peace will be yours in the coming days.*

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**Ryan McMurtrey** - December 17, 2021 at 05:27 PM

DP

“ My memories of Michael are connected to all the people around him who took care of him, celebrated him, and loved him. He was and is a divine sparkle!!! He will be truly missed here but he is no doubt shining brightly elsewhere! Much love to you all!!

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**Deeanna Price** - December 17, 2021 at 03:04 PM

AC

I love “divine sparkle.” What a great description. He’s truly a heavenly gift we were privileged to have shine in our lives.

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**Ann Checketts** - December 17, 2021 at 03:17 PM

SC

“ Michael has a strong and valiant spirit! He, and his family, are an inspiration to SO many. I love when Michael looks directly at you and connects with your heart! I love when he grabs your hand and lets you “hold on tight!” I look forward to hugging him again someday...and HOLDING ON TIGHT!

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**Sharon Checketts** - December 17, 2021 at 01:50 PM

LC

“ Michael is a great example of a patient, humble spirit. I appreciated his presence at family gatherings and how he reminded us to slow down and focus on the basics; a laugh a smile, the joy of being together. I want to express my love and empathy to Michael and his family and all those grieving his loss.

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**Layton Checketts** - December 17, 2021 at 01:46 PM

OP

“ As a young girl he taught me to appreciate the small things, as he would express joy over some of the simplest things. I loved that about him. I will never forget Michaels laugh and smile, as genuine as they come.

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**Olivia Purser** - December 17, 2021 at 01:24 PM

JB

“ Love to Michael & his family from Friends 4 Life. Michael was such a delight and we were so blessed to have him as our friend!



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**Jessica B** - December 17, 2021 at 01:11 AM

MW

“ Micheal always knew how to make me smile. It was always impossible to be mad at him. He could pull his button out, scratch my arm, headbutt me in the nose, and it still would be impossible. Some days he would be so stubborn that I would have to step away, take a deep breath, and ask for help. But then he would smile at me, the most beautiful and pure smile that would melt my heart in a moment.

There have been times where I have struggled with anxiety and depression, and Micheal could make it all go away even if it was for just a short amount of time. I am so grateful for all the time I had with him. I'm thankful for the time I had with him as a little girl with him in primary; I'm grateful for the time spent at the zoo, movie theater, church events, lagoon, and everything in between. But, I'm forever thankful for the years that I got to be his caregiver. It was so much more than just a job. I didn't go to work every day; I went and hung out with my best friend. It wasn't always easy, but it was always and forever worth it.

I know that God has called Micheal home for a reason. I know that he is up in heaven going about the Lord's work. I smile at the thought of him running, dancing, and singing, and more importantly, I know he is watching over me and everyone else that he loves. I love you, Micheal, and I hope that I can make you proud!

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**Michaela Watters** - December 16, 2021 at 11:11 PM

MW

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Michaela Watters** - December 16, 2021 at 11:10 PM

VA

“ *Sending my love to the friends & family of Michael! The care he received was amazing & beautiful. It was touching to see him surrounded by these loved ones through his final hours. One of memories I will cherish is listening to Maria sing Silent Night while laying next to Michael a few hours before he passed. It was such a peaceful moment for me and for Michael. I will be forever grateful.*

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**Vance** - December 16, 2021 at 08:37 PM

DC

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



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**Darby Checketts** - December 16, 2021 at 07:09 PM

DC

*Michael always drew our family together like no other person did. This is our favorite family reunion photo that captures the bond he had with his cousins and other family members.*

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**Darby Checketts** - December 16, 2021 at 07:15 PM

VA

*I love Michael for so many reasons! Not the least of which is his striking resemblance to my son, his cousin, Clark :) I know Michael is off running & trumpeting with angelic loved ones who proceeded him in this journey.*

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**Vance** - December 16, 2021 at 07:41 PM

LC

*I am Lory Conover , Mike's nurse at Friends forLife . Even though this sweet young man could not speak a real sentence he gave away so much love and happiness! He thought me patience and how to seek the love he shared! His infectious smile was so warm and welcomed and on occasion he would laugh up a storm ! He danced in his wheelchair when he heard the music playing on the tv at the Center. He was a real delight and I loved him very much ! I'm looking forward to our meeting again in a wonderful place that we can renew our embrace! The Lord's bleeding to Mike and his family!*

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**Lory Conover** - December 17, 2021 at 07:00 AM

WA

*Lory, Thank you for your devoted care of our sweet Michael!*

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**William Ackley** - December 18, 2021 at 07:58 PM

LB

*No one could love a child more than the two of you do. I know how much he was a part of your life. Sorry to hear of his passing. May your memories give you joy at this time of separation from your sweet son. He will watch over you now as you did him in life. Denise, You are such a awesome lady and a wonderful nurse. Please take care of yourself now. May God bless you at this time. WE all miss you at Aetna. condolences from my family to yours, Linda Bertelson*

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**Linda Bertelson** - December 29, 2021 at 01:36 PM