



Dear Portage Bay family,

As many of you know, we lost our son Jackson Antonio Clark (Toddler 1 classroom) last September very suddenly and unexpectedly in his sleep from unknown causes, ruled as "Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood" (SUDC). The last six months have been incredibly challenging, and we have felt carried by our family and friends, including the wonderful Portage Bay community. Thank you to all who sent cards, meals, and kind words; we are so very grateful for your loving support.

Our healing after this tragedy has largely focused on finding ways to honor Jackson and give back to others. Over the holidays, we kicked off an ongoing "Kindness Project" (tall-like-a-tree.org/kindness-project) to spread Jackson's love and kindness around the world. We have also found healing in smaller projects, like SUDC Foundation fundraisers and physical memorials. Many of you raised funds for a Woodland Park Zoo tile that will be installed this summer, thank you! A very fitting gift, as we used to live across the street from the Zoo and cherish many special memories there with Jackson.

In turn, we have contributed a small gift to Portage Bay daycare. We recently met with Georgia Gerber to find the perfect small sculpture to install at Portage Bay. You've probably seen some of her bronze statues around Seattle — "Rachel the Pig" at Pike Place Market, the cows and turtle in U Village, and several monkeys in the Woodland Park Zoo. We selected two bunny statues: one for our own "Jackson garden" at home, and another for Portage Bay's "Jackson garden" currently in the works, because Jackson loved bunnies. We have many memories walking around Woodland Park, spotting the bunnies in the baseball field and the rose garden. As Jackson got older, he would always hop down the Portage Bay stairs at the end of the day, calling himself a "hoppy bunny". Our hope is that this gift will be something to memorialize our son, provide joy and wonder to your children still at Portage Bay, and that it'll get a bright patina from years of petting by little toddler hands in years to come.

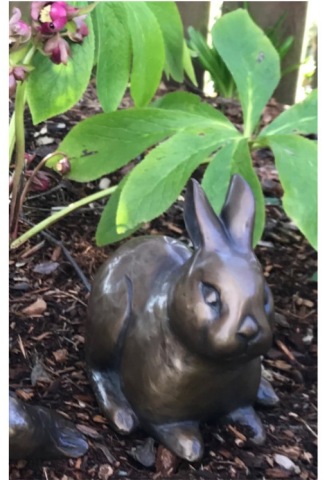
Being a part of the Portage Bay community was one of the many blessing of Jackson's short but joy-filled life. As Jackson's parents, being a part of this community continues to be a blessing, providing support, healing, and shared memories. We are forever grateful, thank you.

With love,

Natalia Garcia and Bryan Clark



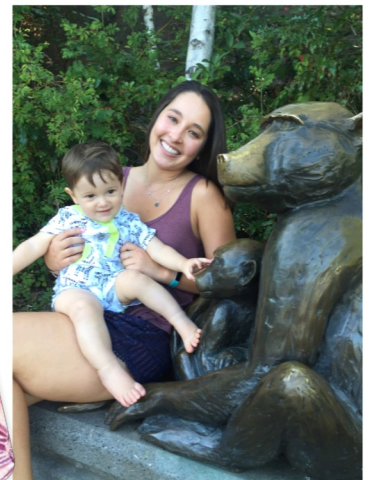
Jackson and his Dada with Georgia's orangutans at the Zoo



"Hoppy Bunny" ready to go to Portage Bay



Bryan and Natalia with Georgia Gerber



Jackson and his Tita (aunt) with Georgia's baboons at the Zoo

