

My name is Tammy Heman and I am making this statement today in honor and memory of my cherished sister, Kris Kirk. I will not be commenting on any of the issues that this incident raised nor anything related to the trial or Richard Kirk.

It has been 4 months since the most horrifying and still-inconceivable tragedy occurred in our family when Kris was brutally shot and killed by her husband in their home. It still feels very raw. In the days and weeks immediately after, the shock, grief, horror and disbelief we felt were all-consuming. We know there has been a lot of media attention around this and we were contacted several times for comment. We simply were in no condition to speak with anyone. Our sole focus has been the boys. They have been in our care (my parents and I) since the night of the incident. All we could do is cry together, hug and console one another. Since then, their healing and return to some sort of stability and "new normal" has been our main priority. And that has taken up all of our time. We would like to thank the media for respecting our privacy and giving us that space.

We would like to use this opportunity now to speak up and thank the community and publicly acknowledge what they have done for us. From the very beginning, there was an overwhelming show of love, concern, and support from the community and our friends and family – more than we could have ever imagined. The generosity that has been shown to us, even by strangers truly humbled us, as it would Kris. There has also been an amazing group of people who stepped up and took action to get what we needed done when we were in no shape to know what we needed or even how to ask for it. People just did it – from providing food, a place for us to live, clothes and necessities for the boys, to organizing donations. There are simply too many people to thank individually, but please know that your generosity and help were an immense support to us and a symbol of hope and goodness when we needed it. We are so grateful for the new relationships that have grown, and those that have been strengthened through this unbelievable event. And those relationships continue to help sustain us now.

Many people have expressed a genuine concern for us and the boys and want to know how we are doing. We are taking it day by day – sometimes only hour by hour. There is a lot of healing still to be done. This tragedy hit on many levels. First hand, there is the deep loss, shock, and profound grief we feel over Kris no longer being here. There has also been so much change and complete upheaval of our lives as a result of this. My parents were retired and living up in Summit County. I was traveling overseas for my job for extended periods of time and did not have my own place to live here in Denver. What the boys were accustomed to and what they knew as "home" are gone. Everything about our lives and lifestyles changed in an instant. Set aside the horrific manner in which this happened - that alone has been unbearable to face. Kris was an anchor in our family. She was a key person in each of our lives. We could always count on her, regardless of what else she had going on. So it is impossible to imagine life without her.

For the boys, the loss is immeasurable. They were extremely close to their Mom. She was supportive, protective, and actively involved in every aspect of their lives. She was their biggest fan whether at school, home, or on the sports field. She was their "go-to" person for everything. And they were her greatest pride and accomplishment in life. She loved them unconditionally and she always put them first, before her own needs. Her close bond and relationship with them was something to envy and that can never be replaced.

But those boys are remarkable people - loving, bright, funny, and sensitive. They keep us going. Fortunately, my parents and I have always been close with them and have been active participants in their lives since they were born. So

there is a love and comfort level that is already deeply rooted. They've had a busy summer and have seen a lot of their friends, made new friends, and returned to playing their sports. They love jumping on the tramp, going to the pool, riding their bikes or long boards, playing basketball and just living, breathing and eating anything sports-related. They just began a new school year yesterday which will provide even more routine and structure for us all. In addition, we are all getting help through counseling and therapy.

We know there is a long road ahead filled with many challenges – especially since we are only just now skimming the surface of the emotions caused by the horror of that night and the profound sense of loss we feel without her. The boys are our motivation now and it is our greatest hope that they can still have a happy life. We are committed to giving them the best possible chance for that. We want to continue Kris' legacy of raising them to be strong, independent, and loving young men. And education is a big part of that. Education was always important to Kris. To that end, a Memorial Fund has been established for their future. It is called the Kristine Ann Kirk Memorial Fund which is run through the Fundrazr website: www.fundrazr.com/campaigns/ckCuc

Thank you again to our family and friends and the Denver community for your love and show of support – it has touched and meant more to us than we can ever adequately express.