



## Michael Stewart Santella

August 6, 1995 - April 1, 2014

Visitation for Michael "Mikey" Stewart Santella, 18, of Bradley, will be from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday at the Clancy-Gernon Funeral Home, Bourbonnais, where funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday. Celebrant will be Toni Hassett. Cremation rites will be accorded. Memorials may be made to Bradley-Bourbonnais Community High School Best Buddies. He passed away Tuesday (April 1, 2014) at his home.

He was born Aug. 6, 1995, in Vancouver, Wash. He was a 2013 graduate of BBCHS. He enjoyed the BBCHS Best Buddies, Gigi's Playhouse for Down syndrome, listening to music, watching movies, playing basketball and dancing.

Surviving are his mother, Beth Kirkman, of Bradley; father, Robert Santella Jr. and his fiancée, Tresa Smith, of Frankfort; two sisters, Christina Santella and Stepheny Santella, both of Bradley; maternal grandparents, Denny and Bette Kirkman, of Valparaiso, Ind., Vonda Gehret, of Vancouver; paternal grandparents, Robert M. Jr. and Barbara Santella, of Denver, Colo.; several aunts, uncles and cousins; and special friend, Margie Hamilton.

He was preceded in death by his paternal grandmother, Jane Santella.

Memorials may be made to BBCHS Best Buddies - [www.bbchs.org](http://www.bbchs.org)



# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR **11**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.  
295 Main St., NW  
Bourbonnais, IL 60914  
(815) 932-1214  
cgfuneral@gmail.com

## Funeral Service

APR **12**. 1:00 PM (CT)

Bourbonnais - Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes, Inc.  
295 Main St., NW  
Bourbonnais, IL 60914  
(815) 932-1214  
cgfuneral@gmail.com

# Tribute Wall



“ Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Michael Stewart Santella



Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes - April 14, 2014 at 09:31 AM

KT

*Priceless tribute to a wonderful young man!! May you find all your rainbows Mikey !!*

Kim Timm - April 15, 2014 at 02:46 AM

KS

*Beautiful is all I can say!*

Karen Irby Santos - April 15, 2014 at 05:21 AM

EC

*That is wonderful!*

Eric Cyr - April 15, 2014 at 10:37 AM



*Fitting tribute to a special young man .....he was blessed*

Mike Brouillette - April 15, 2014 at 05:36 PM



“ So honored to have been Michael's teacher and friend. He has touched my heart in so many ways. I will cherish all the memories I have of him. Love Ms. V



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**Tracey Lynn** - April 15, 2014 at 12:25 AM

JM

“ This is a tough one! We will all miss him. I will remember him best as he made me laugh, especially when he would flush barbies & his mom's jewelery down the toilet and laugh. He really got a kick out of that, and so did I. I will miss you Michael!!

*Love ya buddy  
Joe Meyer*

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**Joe Meyer** - April 11, 2014 at 10:44 PM

MP

“ To Beth and her family you have my deepest sympathy in Michael's passing. You will definitely have a very special angel looking out for all of you. You will be in my thoughts and prayers.

*Mary Lou Pallissard*

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**Mary Lou Pallissard** - April 11, 2014 at 06:58 PM



MP

“ *Mary Lou Pallissard lit a candle in memory of Michael Stewart Santella*



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**Mary Lou Pallissard** - April 11, 2014 at 06:54 PM



“ *Bare Heart Buddy - Messages of Love Bear was purchased for the family of Michael Stewart Santella.*



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April 11, 2014 at 10:00 AM

MI

“ *I had never met you Michael, but often remember all of the wonderful pics that were on the walls at the workplace. You are truly loved and always will be. Despite never having met you, I could see what a gift you were to your friends and family. Even looking at your pictures made me smile! My love to all of you.*



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**Missy** - April 10, 2014 at 01:59 PM

TB

“ *I'm so blessed to have had the oppurtunity to know you Michael. God bless you and your family.*

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**Tara Bolek** - April 10, 2014 at 11:08 AM

MM

“ It is so evident by reading the other posts what a kind, loving, happy young man you were. Though I was never able to meet you in person, I had the honor of knowing you though the conversations with your Dad & Tresa and being able to share the photos & stories that were shared on Facebook. The Joy that you brought into people's lives is evident by the outpouring of affection left on this wall. My thoughts & Prayers to your family to give them strength during this difficult time. May God Bless you all.



*Maureen Meyer*

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**maureen meyer** - April 09, 2014 at 09:56 PM

BB

“ Michael always had a smile on his face and so happy to see you. He brought so much joy to so many people.

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**Barbara Blaylock** - April 09, 2014 at 09:56 PM

HR

“ Haley Russell sent a virtual gift in memory of Michael Stewart Santella



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**Haley Russell** - April 09, 2014 at 09:52 PM

BB

“ *Barbara Blaylock lit a candle in memory of Michael Stewart Santella*



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**Barbara Blaylock** - April 09, 2014 at 09:50 PM

RC

“ *What a special young man...following his and the family's journey through the Daily Journal was an incredible experience. His is a story of perseverance, light, and...love. What a beacon Michael was, even to those who did not know him personally. Truly an inspiration- and so are his mom and his siblings.*

*Prayers and peace,  
Miss Czernik  
St. Joseph School*

*“He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.” Ecclesiastes 3:11*

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**Rebecca Czernik** - April 09, 2014 at 08:46 PM

KS

“ *Where do I start with you Michael? Or should I say " Flirter " like we always called each other. Im going to miss you big guy. There was never a dull moment when I was around you. We were always watching movies or just cracking jokes at each other every second of the day. I think it was safe to say we were ALWAYS laughing. You've taught me so much and I truly mean that. I am so fortunate I was able to know and meet someone like you Michael. Rest In Peace. I love and miss you kiddo. - Kevin ( Flirter )*

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**Kevin Smith** - April 09, 2014 at 08:12 PM



“ I am so glad that Beth was able to share Michael with everyone ! It has made me and I am sure many others realize how precious every moment is . God blessed your family with a very special angel and he touched so many and his memory will live forever !!!

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**Donna Jones** - April 09, 2014 at 08:09 PM

PJ

“ I will never forget your laugh!!! You were always laughing and having a great time! You were always caring about others and making everyone happy! I will never forget you bud, you touched my life in many ways! Thanks for all the great memories! Love you! Rest in peace Michael! XO Paige

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**Paige Jarsombeck** - April 09, 2014 at 07:42 PM

 Lisa  
Tollard

“ Though we have never met I feel as though I know you through the loving stories that your Mother shared. I found you to be an inspiration. May you soar with the eagles and dance with angels for you will never be forgotten here. Love and condolences to the family.



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**Lisa Tollard** - April 09, 2014 at 07:41 PM



“ I remember being in Beth Kirkman's study hall class when Michael came in. I had never met him before but turned to me and gave me a hug along with giving a few other people hugs. He made me smile. His random act of kindness stays with me to this day and I'll always remember him. He was such a sweetheart, brightening everyone's day in the simplest ways. Just his beautiful smile, it was so contagious. Rest in peace Michael <3.

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**Jessica Arroyo** - April 09, 2014 at 07:38 PM

SS

“ *Wally & Steph Spooner*  
*Rest in peace Mikey. Heard so many wonderful stories about you, would've loved the chance to meet you. You we're so loved.*

steph spooner - April 09, 2014 at 04:23 PM

MW

“ *Rest in peace, Mikey! Enjoy your stay in Oz, buddy!*

Mike Witthoft - April 09, 2014 at 04:02 PM

NS

“ *Always loved watching movies laughing and playing video games love ya buddy rest in peace !!!*

nick smith - April 09, 2014 at 03:26 PM

TS

“ *Keep Smiling Michael! Thank you for all the laughs, hugs, kisses and memories! I am very blessed to have had the last 3 years with you! Nick, Kevin and I learned how simple things make someone happy! Love you Michael! May you rest in peace. Xo Tresa*

Tresa Smith - April 09, 2014 at 03:22 PM

JD

“ *Jill, Jessi & Tyler Duncan lit a candle in memory of Michael Stewart Santella*



Jill, Jessi & Tyler Duncan - April 09, 2014 at 01:38 PM



“ *Cathy Budis lit a candle in memory of Michael Stewart Santella*



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**Cathy Budis** - April 09, 2014 at 12:54 PM

SP

“ *Beth I know that you are surrounded by people that love you and will give you strength. You Christina and Stephany as well as your whole family are in my prayers! Thinking a lot about Heaven these days! What a great Heaven party it must be!!!! I pray that you will be comforted by God's love and presence. Peace and hugs. Xxxoooo Susan Parker*

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**susan parker** - April 07, 2014 at 08:08 PM

EL

“ *Eric Lippold lit a candle in memory of Michael Stewart Santella*



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**Eric Lippold** - April 06, 2014 at 05:19 PM

MM

“ I pray everyday that God's peace will be with your family, I am saddened for the empty days you will have without his smile, and for your love that was lost. Now Mikey belongs to heaven, where there is no more pain and suffering and he will run and play with other children and the stars will spell out his name forever.



Words cannot express the joy Mikey brought to those around him in his short amount of years. His memory will never fade away, and will always bring us to tears. May we all learn from Mikey, and find the love in our hearts that he was able to give so willingly and so unconditionally.

*Mikey will be greatly missed and never forgotten.*

*Mike Mack*

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**Mike Mack** - April 06, 2014 at 01:11 PM

WM

“ Will, Brendan, Nora, And Maggie lit a candle in memory of Michael Stewart Santella



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**Will, Brendan, Nora, and Maggie** - April 04, 2014 at 06:02 PM

WM

*Will, Brendan, Nora, and Maggie*

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**Will, Brendan, Nora, and Maggie** - April 04, 2014 at 06:03 PM

DD

“ *Daniel Davidson lit a candle in memory of Michael Stewart Santella*



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**Daniel Davidson** - April 03, 2014 at 12:02 AM