

THANK YOU DAVEY DERBY for the donation for Raymond Degraaf.

What do you do when someone you love has a terminal illness? My loving brother Ray was diagnosed with ALS last year. Like many, my family's reaction is to swoop in and wrap him in loving arms. Then the financial reality sinks in. While money can't buy love and devotion, it can buy comfort for the terminally ill. ALS is both a devastating and an extremely expensive disease. Coming from a family with modest financial resources, I realized that we needed help—and that realization is hard.

My brother John has participated in the Davey Derby for many years. He told me he has won some prizes but I wonder if that is a big fish tale. Thanks to John, I decided to write a letter and ask for some help.

Thanks to the wonderful response from Audie Williams, I no longer feel so alone.

The joy in my brother Ray's eyes upon receiving the donation was like a little boy getting his first puppy. The donation will give Ray and his family a little freedom to enjoy Ray's favorite natural places while he is still wheel-chair free.

Above all, we wish to thank the Davey Derby for their incredible work on behalf of so many wonderful people and causes.

With my love and admiration,

Ramona, Hilda, Howard, John and RAY Degraaf, Julie Nygaard and all of the wonderful children in our family.