



Julia Dougherty

April 13, 2016

It is with deep regret that I must write these words, but on April 13th, 2016, my grandmother Julia Dougherty passed away.

For the past 20 years, my mother, Debbie Peruso, has taken care of my grandmother after suffering a life-threatening stroke that left her bed-ridden and paralyzed, unable to speak and walk. Despite the doctors telling us my grandmother had a slim chance of survival, my mother took it upon herself to care for her day and night, and lovingly provided for her against all odds.

Despite my mother's excellent care, my grandmother suffered from an aneurism in her stomach this past Sunday, which led to a severe decline in her health and the eventual passing of her soul to heaven.

My grandmother is not just my grandmother; she is also my earliest friend. I still vividly remember all the days we spent together in my childhood and the lessons she taught me. I remember the laughter and joy she brought with her everywhere she went. I remember her strong spirit and unconquerable will - even in her paralyzed condition after the stroke she suffered, she managed to overcome obstacles. Anyone who knows my grandmother will know what I am talking about... she didn't let the stroke fully take away her speech, she only

let it take everything but the word "when". Seriously, the only word my grandmother could say post-stroke was, "when," yet despite having her whole vocabulary taken away, she still managed to fully express herself. You could have an entire conversation with her only saying "when", yet she was able to get whatever she was saying across to you with her expressive blue eyes and infectious smile.

With the expense of healthcare and the sacrifice my mother made to care for my grandmother day and night, all year round for the past 20 years, my family has struggled financially and have little in savings. The passing of my grandmother was very unexpected and has left us in a difficult position to arrange her funeral.

My grandmother's wishes are to be buried in Holy Cross Cemetery with her mother, Maria Warrington (my great grandmother), with her brother Eddie's ashes in her casket. We hope to fulfill my grandmother's final wish, but funerals are expensive and we really need help to make this happen.

I made this GoFundMe to reach out to my neighbors, friends, and community to help my family in our time of need. If you have the ability to help, I humbly ask you to donate - every dollar counts and will go a long way to helping us prepare my grandmother's funeral.

I am really thankful for your time and consideration. Please keep my family in your prayers and may God bless you.