

Judge Tina Nadeau,

My Name is Dan Frazier and I am writing to you today as both an advocate of Chad Evans and as a father of three children.

I met Chad back in 1986 when he repeatedly applied for a job at the Keene McDonalds restaurant that I was managing. I was impressed with his persistence so even though we rarely hired 15-year-old high school freshmen, I decided to give this eager young man a chance. Immediately after Chad started I could clearly see I had made the right decision. This young man had an unbelievable work ethic and it was clear from the start that he had tremendous leadership qualities unimaginable in a person of his age. Within his first two months he had mastered every aspect of his job, but the amazing thing was he was a natural leader. All of his team members respected this 15 year old. Many employees who had been with us for years found themselves following the direction of this high school student. This was truly a special leader, especially for someone so young.

As time went on Chad continued to impress all of us with his levelheaded leadership. It was then that I made a decision to promote Chad to an assistant manger. I still consider this decision the best I ever made. Molding together a diverse team of employees is never easy, but Chad was the glue that brought everyone together. Chad's attitude towards people in general was one of building friendships and relationships. Chad was there to help every person and would give every hour of his day towards helping his people to succeed. It was amazing to see people fifty to sixty years old going to this 17 year old for help and guidance. They knew that personal problems would not be shoved aside by Chad. They knew that Chad would help them to overcome whatever was going on in their life so that they could have an enjoyable work experience. Chad handled himself as a listener as well as a speaker. When he spoke people listened because if you spoke he would listen and try to help any way he could. Chad always spoke with passion and conviction that would captivate the group he was speaking to. He was just a person people wanted to follow and be around because he knew he would succeed if they did.

Chad was one of our youngest restaurant mangers and then one of our youngest supervisors ever promoted. He had wisdom, work ethic, accountability and passion for hard work that should not have been there in someone so young. He has taken the attitude that he is only successful if his people are successful. Countless people owe their career to Chad and that is why I think so many people have rallied around him at this time of need because he has proven through the years that he has been there for them.

I could go on forever talking about Chad's work ethic but there is so much more to this man than just a hard working, dedicated worker. He is someone whom I came to care about because of his conviction to help everyone, not just his employees. The first time I saw this is when after graduating from high school, he decided he wanted to be on the Keene Board Of Education because he felt that the people making decisions for the

students did not know what was going on in the schools and did not listen to the students or their parents. Chad felt he could make a difference and help the students, so at 19 years old, he became the youngest board member in the state of N.H. He did make a difference and many people on the board were quoted as saying he brought a new perspective to the board that had been lacking. This was from the student's perspective. Chad also would often spend his day off visiting seniors at the McKerly nursing home not just because he knew it brightened their day but also as he often said it made him feel special to help them. Chad did this because he was brought up in a home where he was taught to think of others before himself. I know his family very well and I have never met a more generous group of people.

Chad and I obviously became close friends. Chad would often spend time at my home with my family. He would attend my three children's birthday parties and would bring them Christmas presents. Other times he would come over just to, "Play", with my children. My youngest daughter kept a picture of Chad that was in the Keene Sentinel when he was elected to the School Board on her dresser. She still has the picture and speaks of it often. Chad and I often spent many hours talking about the problems we faced and it still amazes me that he was so level headed and caring when we spoke. He always tried to make you feel as though things you were going through, you were going through together. Although Chad moved away from Keene, we stayed very close. I watched him excel not only professionally but mature as a person. I have seen Chad get married and then I saw him as an excellent, loving father to not only his son Kyle but also his stepson Brent. I saw the heartbreak when the marriage didn't work with Tristan and I saw the same old Chad, active as ever in both his son's lives. He treated them both as equals. He wasn't what most people would consider the typical stepfather. I saw the introduction of Amanda and Cassidy to his life and I have talked to him since about Cassidy's death and the mistakes that were made and the poor judgment that was at times used.

I hope that the above gives you a glimpse of the person I know Chad Evans to be. Now I would like to talk to you as a father of three children. This senseless tragedy grabs me by the heart as I suspect it does most people. I followed this trail fairly closely. First, out of my concern for Chad but also my concern for society. I do not know Amanda very well, I do not know the babysitter at all, but I do know Chad inside and out. I can tell you this, no one feels worse about this tragedy than Chad. He knows that he has made some mistakes and that lives heavy on his heart daily. I have my own opinion about the verdict but I understand this is not the place to question the justice system. Most of my exposure to the trail was through the subjective eye of the media. Let me just say this if I may, nothing seemed conclusive from the outside looking in. Because of that I do not envy your position in the least.

Kassidy is the clear loser because she lost her life. Chad and Amanda are clear losers in that they have lost Kassidy, they will lose time together and this whole situation has caused both of their families undoubtedly great pain. Society as well loses. All across our country horrible things like this are happening everyday. I saw an article in the NH Union Leader at the end of 2000 that said there were 7 child homicides in the state of NH in 2000. The small article I have included states the NH Attorney Generals office released; "there were 17 homicides in the State of NH in 2001 with an increase in child deaths, particularly infants." As long as these numbers are accurate that puts the states homicide rate at about 50% being children! As a father this make me sick. The problem as I see it is we are not addressing the problem but rather the system. I know this is not your problem alone your honor but it is our problem.

If the numbers of child homicides are increasing instead of decreasing we have a broken system and we need to fix it. In my opinion the problem is with education. What do we do to change things after another child dies? Nothing! We chastise the accused in the media for a while. (Even the medias motives are to sell a paper or a story.) We put the person on trial. If they are found guilty they go to jail if not they go home. Meanwhile, 50% of the public read these stories get sick to their stomachs and think, "well, that will never happen to me", and then toss their papers aside. The other 50% that probably should be reading this stuff and educating themselves never do it. No real corrective measures or even efforts are really put into place so the entire vicious cycle repeats itself 2 months down the road. The thing is, by convicting people and sending them to jail for life we are not really addressing the problem. The number of child Homicides staying the same or increasing every year shows us that. Lets face it, I think the majority of people that do something like this learn from their mistakes and probably live with incredible regret. Punishing a person that may or may not have committed a horrible act like this in all reality doesn't do much to fix the problem. If I recall reading about Kassidy's case correctly, one of the Maine doctors said she suffered, "Abused child syndrome". I think the doctor said she had no way of knowing who was doing the abusing but that it is usually one child that is selected as a scapegoat. To really fix the problem we must grab the public's attention and particularly high-risk people and educate them to help prevent the next person that would commit this horrible crime. I have read the papers about DCYF being under staffed and overworked for years now. I think the key is to do something preventative to keep those kids from becoming the next Katie Silva or Kassidy Bortner. This is why I have included the second article about Nancy Lamprey, which coincidentally is right next to an article about Chad Evans.

I applaud Judge Fitzgerald's efforts to turn a horrible event into something positive. This was a clear tragedy. One ten-year-old girl was killed and 5 other children injured, four of them severely. There are 7 families that are clearly going to be affected forever because of this foolish act. I think the judge recognizes that Nancy Lamprey will be saddled with guilt forever and he even mentions that Ms. Lamprey would never repeat the reckless act. I think the commendable thing is the judge is going to consider a plan that may prevent a, "next time." Unfortunately, we can never bring Katie Silva back, fix the little boys ruptured pelvis or fix another little girls brain trauma. However, if Ms.

Lamprey is allowed to pursue and takes this thing very seriously, perhaps we can prevent the next reckless act in an automobile. I honestly feel this is a step in the right direction. Like the paper says, "the goal is preventing this from happening again"

Which brings me to my next point. I ask you to consider something similar with Chad Evans. The time to do something proactive instead of reactive is before us. I for one would like to see this horrible nonsense stopped and it is obvious to me with the numbers increasing vs. decreasing, we have to do something different. I can guarantee Chad would throw himself into this work tirelessly to educate people. He has the leadership ability, organization skills, the drive, the determination and most of all the uncanny ability to talk to people and get them to understand. Anyone that knows Chad would attest to the fact that if it is results you are after, Chad is the first person you want on your team. He is very convincing because when he speaks it is from the heart.

Your honor, I am no judicial scholar. I barely know the difference between manslaughter and 2<sup>nd</sup> degree murder is the words, "extreme indifference". I have no idea if you have the same power that judge Fitzgerald has to add a postscript to a sentence. If you do I urge you to carefully consider a similar plan. By the looks of things, at least as the paper has them printed, judge Fitzgerald has total control over things. Whether the plan is substantial enough and acceptable, when she can petition to start, whether or not the court will impose other sanctions and probably the one that make the most sense, will she start it while in custody and continue when released at some point.

As a friend of Chad's I would obviously be happy to see something like this because no one wants to lose someone you care about to jail forever. Not to mention, I know Chad's heart. He is heavy with grief and his burning passion is to help people. He wants to make difference. I can't think of anyone I have ever met more capable. I know if he were sentenced to twenty years with no deal of getting out he would still want to do this. That is the genuine human being his is. He may have sat stone-faced in court but I can assure you his nights were not the same.

As a member of society I see we have everything to gain and nothing to lose. If a serious plan is introduced maybe we can not only prevent needless deaths but also decrease abuse all tougher. Perhaps a good dose of someone courageous enough to "bare", themselves for the benefit of others is just what is needed. After all aren't the best teachers in life usually the people that have, "been there and done that" and teach us from their experiences? If even a life is saved isn't that a victory? The goal is to prevent it from happening again. Maybe this will give us a fighting chance. It certainly wouldn't hurt to listen to a plan and decide from there if it is worth pursuing

Thank you for your consideration,



Dan Frazier