



## Andrew Ponchin

March 3, 2000 - April 22, 2023

Andrew Ponchin, age 23 of Mentor, passed away Saturday, April 22, 2023 at UH Tri-point Medical Center in Concord. He was born March 3, 2000 in Mayfield Heights.

Andrew was continuing his education at Lakeland Community College pursuing a degree in Human Services. He had hoped to help others who struggle with mental health and addiction. Locally, Andrew worked at Target in Painesville, Giant Eagle in Mentor-on-the-Lake and at Harris Teeter while living in Asheville, NC.

Andrew loved his family, close friends and the people that supported him on his journey. He enjoyed the escape of a good video game or movie and the unconditional love given by dogs.

Survivors include his parents: Chris and Michelle Ponchin; sister: Olivia Ponchin; brother: Zachary Ponchin; grandparents: Antoine and Rita Ponchin and grandmother: Susan Kollai; uncles and aunts: Michael Ponchin and Eric (Shawna) Kollai; cousin: Summer Kollai; furry friend: Milo and “that damn bird”, Farley.

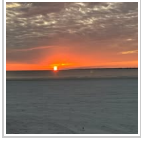
Preceding Andrew in death is his grandfather: Darryl Kollai.

Private family services will be held at Brunner Sanden Deitrick Funeral Home & Cremation Center, 8466 Mentor Ave., Mentor, OH 44060.

The family requests contributions be made to Next Step Recovery, 900 Hendersonville Rd., #203, Asheville, NC 28803.

Offer condolences at [www.brunners.com](http://www.brunners.com).

# Tribute Wall



“ *Andy my first born son. I miss you so much! From the moment I saw you I was in love! The prettiest baby I’ve ever seen. You grew into a smart and willful child. Always pushing the boundaries. A master negotiator. I can go on forever describing you. But I wish I wasn’t using the past tense. I will love you for all of my days.*



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**Michelle Kollai Ponchin** - May 11, 2023 at 08:19 PM

SK

*This makes me cry! I will always Love You Andy.*

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**susan kollai** - May 24, 2023 at 12:14 PM



“ *Mrs. Fields Thinking of You Combo Tin was purchased for the family of Andrew Ponchin.*



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May 08, 2023 at 11:27 PM

DW

“ *My condolences to you Michelle and your family. Although I never met your son, he sounds like such an amazing human being that touched so many lives. You are such a kind and caring person and it is obvious that you passed on those attributes to your son. I am so sorry to hear of this unbearable loss.*

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**Deborah Watson** - April 29, 2023 at 11:06 PM

NF

“ I watched Andy and Olivia while Andy and my Riley attended the South Euclid Co-op, a wonderful pre school. Such cuties- I have fond memories of both of them playing with my Riley and Rory. Michelle, I'm so sorry for your loss. I cannot imagine what you are going through.

Nora Flynn - April 28, 2023 at 10:20 PM

MM

“ I rented out my in law suite to Andrew some years back, my first close interaction with someone whom had mental health issues. That boy took me on some roller coaster ride adventures here in quiet Grand River. I got to know Michelle very well, and Chris somewhat also. I don't think he could have had better parents. He was always polite, nice, charming (& paid his rent on time 😊) . Since that time, i have experienced people very close to me having depression and I ain't no psychologist but I think I found one common denominator in most all of them - lack of God in their life. We nurture our bodies, but our spirit needs nurturing as well. 🕊️💖 to you Michelle, Chris and your other two children. Hope to see you at the Celebration of Life. Michael M

Michael M - April 28, 2023 at 01:51 PM

LM

“ Love, Angel & Allen Grant and Rachel M. purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Andrew Ponchin.



Love, Angel & Allen Grant and Rachel M. - April 27, 2023 at 10:14 PM

DF

“ I am so sorry to hear about Andrew. I have fond memories of him in my art class throughout his early school years. He was always so kind and caring. I'm praying for you all and sending love. ~Donna Fiore



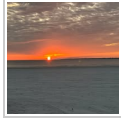
Donna Fiore - April 27, 2023 at 08:08 PM

EK

“ The first news of Andy came with a bang. I was in Zimbabwe when Michelle sent the picture that shut down the internet for 2 days in our little village. He always had quite the impact without really trying. He always called me "uncle Eric" in an endearing way that just made me feel so special. Andy knew what he did and didn't like but always had this fun curiosity that led to so many great moments. I remember vividly the peacock chasing him in Waimea when Andy wanted a closer look. He brought us all to tears running for his life from the big bird with feathers on full display. He had such determination to open a coconut with a machete, spending hours in the backyard hacking away only to be one upped by the dog. He was even up to try Shawna's exotic cooking concoctions that were way outside of his comfort zone. Sometimes he even took a second bite! That smile became more elusive with age, but was really magical when it appeared. Really sad to be left with only memories. Rest easy kid. Uncle Eric loves you and will miss you very much.



Eric D Kollai - April 27, 2023 at 01:20 PM



Michelle Kollai Ponchin - April 27, 2023 at 03:25 PM

WY

“ Andrew was a kind soul. I knew him from Giant Eagle. I knew of the challenges he faced and when he came back from NC he would stop in, just to say Hi every so often. He looked good, he looked healthy and he was more outgoing then he had been before. It was great to see him getting on with his life. I saw him just last week. He was looking for some part-time work. Before he left, I gave him a hug, little did I know, that would be our last visit. That makes me sad beyond belief. It was too short a journey and I hope he is looking down and seeing the impact he made on others.  
My condolences our with his family.  
Wynne

Wynne - April 26, 2023 at 09:30 PM

LM

To the Ponchin Families: we are so very sorry to hear this news. Hoping peace is realized as he joins our other family members who are home for all eternity. Know that you are in our thoughts and prayers 🙏



There's a quote that really provides comfort, to believe "we are all just walking each other home". May the Angels look after him. We love you, The Moschera families in NJ 🙏❤️

Lisa Ann Moschera-Chernigovets - April 27, 2023 at 04:52 PM

MF

“ Monica Fetheroff lit a candle in memory of Andrew Ponchin



Monica Fetheroff - April 26, 2023 at 09:03 PM

AC

“ Ashley Carr lit a candle in memory of Andrew Ponchin



Ashley Carr - April 26, 2023 at 08:39 PM

AC

“ I am heart sick over the loss of Andrew. Introspective, witty, caring...and always willing to finish the other half of my bagel. You will be missed and forever loved, Andrew. Thoughts of peace during this time, from Asheville. 💜

Ashley Carr - April 26, 2023 at 08:38 PM

KM

“ Michelle, Chris, Olivia, Zachary and Family: We were so, so sorry to hear about Andrew. Our thoughts are with you as you grieve this inconsolable loss. We will hold you close in our hearts - although the world has lost your precious son, he will remain always in your hearts and memories. May God surround you with all the strength and love you need. With deepest sympathies, Kathi & Scott McGill.



Kathi McGill - April 26, 2023 at 08:06 PM

MD

“ I’m so sorry for your loss. Andrew was my best friend growing up, we had a lot of memories. Too many to share here. I can’t imagine how hard this has to be for the family. I hope you can find comfort knowing he’s at peace.



Micah Davis - April 26, 2023 at 07:35 PM



“ Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Andrew Ponchin.



April 26, 2023 at 03:17 PM



“ Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Andrew Ponchin.



April 26, 2023 at 02:07 PM

MF

“ Heartfelt Condolences to all of you 🙏 Michelle, Chris and your whole family are in our prayers 🙏

Monica Fetheroff - April 26, 2023 at 11:20 AM

BW

“ *Andrew, you are and will be truly missed. I hope you are at peace. I love you! Aunt Bev*

Bev Wallis - April 26, 2023 at 08:36 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Andrew Ponchin.*



April 26, 2023 at 08:31 AM

WT

“ *My heart aches for all of you. Hope it's some consolation knowing that Andrew is at peace. Wendy Toolis*

Wendy Toolis - April 26, 2023 at 06:17 AM

SK

“ In the short time I got to spend with Andy, I really enjoyed his company. I appreciate that he didn't try to pretend to be what he wasn't - he told you if he didnt want to do something without being rude about it or making you feel bad. I think that's a skill that most people don't have and I value that - he knew who he was and he was always real. I will always remember that time he was visiting us in Hawaii and he ate the Noni even though i told him it tasted like dirty socks. His face when he tasted it still makes me laugh when I think about it. And then how he just spit it out and said, "Yep." Churro also sends condolences, remembering Andy as one of the few people on Earth who would have given her all the undivided love and hugs and pets, with a baby in the same room. I also remember when we visited him in Asheville when I was pregnant and we were trying to figure out what to do. After we asked him what there was to do and he said he didnt really get out much, we were like, well, there's gotta be fun stuff to do - what is Asheville known for? And he just goes "Beer." We all just looked at each other - I couldn't drink, he couldn't drink...it made us all laugh. We will miss Andy so much.  
Love,  
Shawna, Summer and Churro

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**Shawna Kollai** - April 26, 2023 at 01:36 AM

SK

*I Love You Andy. I hope that you finally found your peace. My heart breaks for all of your love ones that you left behind. Prayers and Love to Michelle, Chris, Olivia, Zak and all who cared and treasured Andy. I will miss you. Love You Always!*

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**Susan Kollai** - April 26, 2023 at 05:01 PM

KW

“ So very sorry for your family's loss Michelle. May God bring you all comfort and strength each day. You loved and cared for your son in amazing ways, Michelle. You will be in my thoughts and prayers. Kathy Wahlgren



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**Kathy Wahlgren** - April 25, 2023 at 10:58 PM

VB

“ Andrew and had a lot in common. I always enjoyed our conversations. He had a big heart and a great sense of humor. He will be missed in the Asheville community for sure.

Valentine

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**Valentine Botta** - April 25, 2023 at 10:32 PM

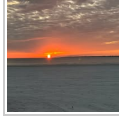
CW

“ Quiet, reserved, respectful, observant...just a few words to describe Andrew. It took a minute, but he finally allowed me in. Once I earned his trust, he let me show him a few things; laughing, relaxing, responsibility, integrity, and discipline. He liked routine and did not care for anyone who tried to disrupt it. Andrew and I were opposites. I am animated while he was modest. My hope for Andrew was always to accept himself for who he was, differences and all. He will truly always hold a special place in my heart and will never be forgotten. This loss has effected a number of people due to the way he touched everyone's heart.

Clark (Baah)

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**Clark Wright** - April 25, 2023 at 08:52 PM



*Thank you. You clearly knew my son. Your words mean a great deal to this heartbroken mom* ❤️

Michelle Kollai Ponchin - April 25, 2023 at 10:38 PM

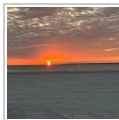
FS

“ *Our heartfelt condolences to both the Ponchin and Kollai family. No words can describe how sorry we are for your loss. Praying for some measure of peace and comfort during this difficult time*

*The Sieg Family*

*Scott, Fran, Jess, Jacob and Jenny*

Francesca and Scott Sieg - April 25, 2023 at 08:02 PM



*Thank you* ❤️

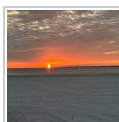
Michelle Kollai Ponchin - April 25, 2023 at 10:39 PM

FF

“ *Michelle & Chris, Words can't express the loss of Andrew. Know that we hear for you and your family in these difficult times when you need anything. Our hearts goes out to you! Even though we are unsure what to say we wish you comfort and peace as you remember Andrew!*

*Love, The Faron Family*

Frank & Christine Faron - April 25, 2023 at 07:19 PM



*Thank you my friend* ❤️

Michelle Kollai Ponchin - April 25, 2023 at 10:39 PM

DB

“ Dear Ponchin Family,  
My heartfelt condolences to you all. I have good memories of  
Andrew as a student at Shore.  
Mr. Doug Baker

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**Doug Baker** - April 25, 2023 at 06:36 PM

KA

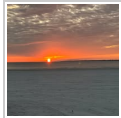
“ Andrew was a child of God. He would lift me up in conversation  
when I ran into him at Harris Teeter. I am terribly sorry for your loss.  
We met in late 2020 while living together in the mountains of North  
Carolina.

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**Kai** - April 25, 2023 at 04:06 PM

SS

“ I feel so fortunate to have had the amount of time I had to get to  
know and love Andrew. He will forever have a special place in my  
heart and the hearts of many others who loved him.

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**Susan Stader** - April 25, 2023 at 03:35 PM



Thank you Susan ❤️

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**Michelle Kollai Ponchin** - April 25, 2023 at 10:41 PM

EL

“ Andrew always lit up when he greeted my dog who he loved. He  
was always kind and agreeable. He was always such a kind and  
friendly guy and he will be missed.

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**Elliot** - April 25, 2023 at 03:18 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Andrew Ponchin.*



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April 25, 2023 at 02:59 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Andrew Ponchin.*



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April 25, 2023 at 02:46 PM