

The Donna Miller Story

My daughter, Donna Miller, was a 35 year old, hard working mother of four children. Donna worked as a waitress at Bob Evans earning \$2.13 an hour plus tips. Donna had been denied public assisted health care and could not afford health insurance through her job. This past April Donna got sick. She thought it was just a cold and she would get better, but she didn't. Several friends and I encouraged her to go to the emergency room, but Donna didn't want a bill that she couldn't pay. We suggested she go anyway but she felt if she were given a prescription, she couldn't afford the medicine. Her friends told her to just throw away the bill, but Donna said she didn't want a bill she couldn't pay. Donna said she would be OK and would treat the cold with OTC medication. On April 18, 2007, Donna, that afternoon, lay down to take a nap before her shift at Bob Evans. Donna never woke up and died in her sleep. The autopsy revealed she died of acute pneumonia, a condition that could very well have been treated with inexpensive antibiotics or, perhaps, a brief stay in the hospital. She simply died because she couldn't afford health care.

Vernell Miller