

Candles for slain teens who lit up others' lives

Vigil helps assuage sting for friends, classmates of young homicide victims

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Family and friends of Christopher Cody Thompson and Bodhisattva 'Bodhi' Sherzer-Potter gathered at a candle light vigil held at the Lewis Center on Thursday evening in Apple Valley. The teens' bodies were found at a remote location known as 'The Bunker.'



APPLE VALLEY — Hundreds of friends of Christopher Cody Thompson and Bodhisattva “Bodhi” Sherzer-Potter gathered to remember the couple at a candlelight vigil at the Lewis Center on Thursday evening.

Amid the terror and confusion surrounding the deaths of Cody, 18, of Apple Valley, and Bodhi, 16, of Helendale, the community gathered to celebrate the talented and passionate teens who will never be forgotten.

Elizabeth Hoversten, a Lewis Center graduate, had a ballet class with Bodhi and said she was an incredibly happy and energetic person.

“She was always laughing,” Hoversten said. “She always saw the bright side of things.”

Classmate Chelsea Smejkal could not help but smile when she said, with certainty, that “Bodhi’s going to heaven.”

Steven Orsinelli, a teacher at the Lewis Center, had both teens in his film classes, and Cody was his teacher’s assistant for two years.

Cody was a wonderful assistant, Orsinelli said, and he was very excited about working with his father as an electrician.

“They were the nicest kids you’ll ever meet,” Orsinelli said.

Gordon Soholt, principal at the Lewis Center, encouraged the community to join together in their grief, and to “fight back with love” during this time.

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