

More to missing boy story

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
Thursday, 09 December 2010 16:56 -

Cody Deepe's parents tell about disappearance

Chris and Kari Deepe experienced a range of emotions during the bitterly cold evening of Nov. 29.

Their 12-year-old son, Cody Deepe, had left the house without a winter coat, gloves or hat and the Deepes couldn't find him.

"It was horrible," Kari said. "I got to a place of full-blown panic."

Chris said his feelings ranged from fear to anger and then fear again all in a matter of hours.

"It became surreal," he said.

Family, friends, the local police and fire departments searched for Cody.

The city's CodeRED emergency telephone system was activated to let the community know the boy was missing and described what Cody was wearing when he left his house.

After about four hours, from the time Cody was last seen at 6:30 p.m., the boy was found near his home in the 900 block of 22nd Street.

Fueling their fear during their son's disappearance, the Deepes said, was the fact that Cody suffers from a type of mental illness where he cannot think rationally.

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“When he’s in a rage, he’s not thinking,” Kari said. “He doesn’t think of consequences.”

Although the Deepes have a safety plan for when Cody acts out, it didn’t work the evening he disappeared.

“He wanted to order something from a book catalog from school and we told him no, it was his brother’s turn,” Chris said.

Instead of going to his room to deal with his anger, Kari said their son ran out the door.

When the Deepes couldn’t find Cody on the porch or in the yard, they called friends and started looking in and beyond the neighborhood.

Chris said he thought a sex offender might have kidnapped their son or that Cody might have fallen asleep outdoors.

“The wind chill was below zero and he was in imminent danger of bodily harm,” he said.

Once they were notified that Cody had been found, the Deepes said they felt

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