Stephen Rose was a loving and much-loved person whose life, qualities, and values profoundly and positively impacted those fortunate enough to come to know him. While gifted intellectually, physically, and creatively, Stephen was among the most humble, considerate, and unassuming people one could meet. He used his keen wit and sharp sense of humor to lift the spirits of those around him and always sought ways to build bridges between and among people of varied backgrounds, lifestyles, personalities, and interests. A humanist at heart, Stephen’s fondest avocations included writing and drawing. His academic specialties were sociology and psychology. He had chosen to pursue law as his profession.

Stephen lived his life with hope, commitment, compassion and courage. These defining attributes were evident from childhood and characterized Steve’s approaches to study, recreation, and interpersonal relations. They distinguished his efforts in every way and earned Stephen recognition in elementary and middle school, high school, and university. When he took on leadership roles, Stephen inspired his peers as much by his seriousness of purpose as by his respectful and even playful demeanor. Stephen enjoyed a good time and wanted others to engage with him and each other in gratifying and stimulating ways.

As a family man, Stephen was an inspiration across the generations. Always a gentle spirit, Stephen took care to spend time with and express affection to his elders—and to his youngest cousins alike. His deep affection for his brothers, mom, dad, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends will ever be a source of joy and gratitude for us all. Stephen’s family acknowledges the gift of love he gave us so generously and the clear examples his life afforded us.

In his memory, the family of Stephen C. Rose has established The Stephen C. Rose Legacy Fund to promote dialogue about mental health and support activities to build understanding and assistance for mental health among young people from their late teens into their early 30s. These years are a period of considerable challenge for many, and one in which the onset of some serious mental illness symptoms may occur. The fund will support the work of non-profit organizations and institutions to more openly and consistently engage young people and the adults in their environment in discussion about mental health, what to do if they personally experience concerns, and how to respond if they observe possible signs of struggle among those in their peer group. The Fund will also support the study of mental health trends and best practices to serve young people, and provide resources to prepare more talented professionals to enter this field.

The Stephen C. Rose Legacy Fund is a donor-advised collective giving fund within FJC, a foundation of philanthropic funds. FJC has been in operation since 1997 and has over $200 million in charitable funds under management. FJC enables individuals, families, organizations, and companies to raise funds as a group for the purpose of supporting charitable causes and organizations. FJC accepts tax-deductible donations for The Stephen C. Rose Legacy Fund, provides the infrastructure to manage and account for the funds donated, supplies appropriate receipts to donors, and completes all due diligence on grant distributions.

Donations are being accepted by FJC/The Stephen C. Rose Legacy Fund at 520 Eighth Avenue, 20th floor, NY, NY 10018. Alternatively, please visit www.scrlegacyfund.org and use the paypal/credit card link or go directly to http://goo.gl/RZRyl6 (RZRy“el”6).