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Grieving mothers act as 'Angels' of monumental task

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There is nothing more heart-wrenching for any parent to face than the loss of their child.

Sylvia Gaumond of Southbridge knows that just as well as anyone. She lost her 31-year-old son Jason two years ago this week — Jan. 27, 2004.

Jason Gaumond, a 1990 graduate of Southbridge High School, was somewhat an adventurer that enjoyed the outdoors. After graduating from Lyndon State College in Vermont, he worked in Lake Tahoe and several ski ranches and resorts across the United States. He climbed approximately

50 mountains, each of more than 4,000 feet between July 19, 2002 and Nov. 13, 2003. Those climbs made Jason a member of the 4,000 Footer Club of the White Mountains.

"He was very versed in the outdoors," Sylvia said last week, looking back at her son's life.

Two years later, she still has trouble talking about her son — as do many other parents who have suffered the tragic loss of a child. Parents like Linda Bilodeau of Shrewsbury, who lost her 27-year-old daughter Jill in a Sept. 9, 2001 traffic accident. Clinton J.



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