





Joseph Gonzalez-Heydrich, MD, and Eugene D'Angelo, PhD, above left, are spearheading research efforts, pictured with Tommy Fuss Fund Trustees Christian Mucha and Dan and RoseMary Fuss.

A red Cape Cod in Wellesley was a hub of activity, and at its core: Tommy Fuss.

The kid who saved up his first communion money to buy a drum set. The one who resurrected his high school's bowling club. The one whose pack of friends filled the house for movie marathons, with pizza or the famous Tom Burger always on the menu—and parents Dan and RoseMary always nearby.

Tommy lived life in a big way. So no one could have predicted that he'd take his own life his senior year of high school.

The signs were unclear, at best, disguised as a typical teenager's reach for independence. Less time with mom and dad, more time in his room. Tommy had just started seeing a child psychiatrist.

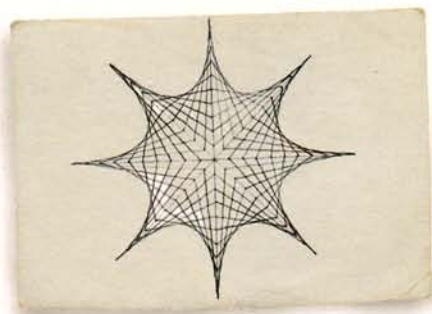
"Tommy didn't give us enough time," RoseMary says. "I often think if he had been given a diagnosis of cancer, we wouldn't have left one stone unturned. But we're finished blaming ourselves. There isn't a day that goes by that we don't celebrate what we had, and try to

prevent this from happening to anyone else."

With better understanding, treatments, and one day, cures for mental illness as a goal, the Fuss family made a gift that helped launch the hospital's Developmental Neuropsychiatry Program. The research group and its clinic harness the expertise of leaders in psychology, genetics, genomics, bioinformatics, neuroimaging and pharmacology.

Today, researchers are studying at-risk children and conducting state-of-the-art brain wave analysis to understand the underpinnings of mental illness. That information translates to the clinic where experts are developing better tools for psychological evaluation, and a companion questionnaire for parents who may see, but not understand, warning signs.

"I live with the hope of understanding and the dream of curing mental illness," RoseMary says.



Tommy created this star using a mechanical pencil and graph paper while a student at Belmont Hill. His parents have embraced the drawing, seeing the overlapping lines, and the complicated designs they form, symbolic of the complexity of mental illness—and their commitment to cure it.