Bob and Anita Walbaum have cherished memories of their son, Charles: his caring manner towards others, his green thumb, his love of food and cooking and his brilliant mind. By creating the Charles R. Walbaum Memorial Fund, they hope to keep alive his legacy and memory and also provide help for others in educational or social service areas. This fund is donor-advised, and monies from the fund will assist in special projects.

Charles, 44, born in Springfield, was a graduate of Springfield High School and the University of Illinois. He also attended graduate school at Louisiana State University. Throughout his life he made and kept many friends. His wit, humor and keen intelligence are always mentioned by those who knew him. He would not allow anyone in his presence to speak in a derogatory manner of others, and he was kind to everyone he met. His interests included cooking, painting, music, horticulture, antiques and history. He could converse on a wide range of subjects.

Charles died on September 25, 2011, after a long illness. He was hospitalized in Miami for the last six months of his life awaiting a liver transplant. “He was incredibly brave and fought valiantly to stay alive. We were very proud of him,” said his mother.