Sick and Dying in Somerville

In a town of just 1,700 people, Somerville has seen more than its share of babies with birth defects and adults with cancers both disfiguring and deadly. Clearly, the problems are not restricted to any one age, ethnicity or gender. Here are just some of their faces; those edged in black are deceased.

Makayla Antu, 9  
Somerville resident since birth  
Birth defect: intestines neither fully formed nor attached

Angel Orozco, 67  
Raised in Somerville  
Type II diabetes

William Glen Cunningham, 56  
Worked at tie plant 24 years  
Skin cancer

Don “Slim” Hightower, died at 67  
Worked at tie plant 26 years  
Skin cancer

Renee Beaudet, 25  
Mother raised in Somerville; often visited while pregnant  
Birth defect: heart disease

Makayla Antu, 9  
Somerville resident since birth  
Birth defect: intestines neither fully formed nor attached

Angel Orozco, 67  
Raised in Somerville  
Type II diabetes

William Glen Cunningham, 56  
Worked at tie plant 24 years  
Skin cancer

Don “Slim” Hightower, died at 67  
Worked at tie plant 26 years  
Skin cancer

Renee Beaudet, 25  
Mother raised in Somerville; often visited while pregnant  
Birth defect: heart disease

Seth Bede Hill, died at 83  
Somerville resident  
Lung cancer (never smoked)

Leon Orozco, 76  
Raised in Somerville; worked at tie plant 32 years  
Prostate cancer

Arvis Hutson, 53  
Somerville resident; grand-father and father worked at tie plant  
Enlarged prostate; two sisters diagnosed with breast cancer

Douglas Moses, died at 68  
Somerville resident 18 years  
Stomach cancer

Linda Faust, 50  
Somerville resident; husband worked at tie plant 33 years  
Stomach cancer

Seth Bede Hill, died at 83  
Somerville resident  
Lung cancer (never smoked)

Leon Orozco, 76  
Raised in Somerville; worked at tie plant 32 years  
Prostate cancer

Arvis Hutson, 53  
Somerville resident; grand-father and father worked at tie plant  
Enlarged prostate; two sisters diagnosed with breast cancer

Douglas Moses, died at 68  
Somerville resident 18 years  
Stomach cancer

Linda Faust, 50  
Somerville resident; husband worked at tie plant 33 years  
Stomach cancer

Dennis Kreuger, 52  
Worked at tie plant 22 years  
Skin cancer

John Lewis, died at 50  
Somerville resident  
Colorectal cancer, liver cancer

Patricia Thomas, 52  
Somerville resident; father worked at tie plant  
Colon cancer

Kenneth Lister, 50  
Somerville resident 14 years  
Colon cancer

Julianne Davis, 22  
Somerville resident; uncles worked at tie plant  
Cervical cancer