



## Daniel Barden

September 25, 2005 - December 14, 2012

Daniel Barden was an active first grader, a budding athlete who was a member of the swim team and loved to play soccer.

He was a "sweet boy," said Karin LaBanca, whose 8-year-old daughter, Maggie, was friends with 7-year-old Daniel. The two children took the school bus together every day, she said.

Daniel's parents were identified in public records as Jacqueline and Mark Barden.

Friends visited the family's Sandy Hook home Saturday morning with Rich Flashman, a pastor at the Beacon Hill Evangelical Free Church in Monroe, Conn. He said he prayed with the family.

"They're hurting," Mr. Flashman said. "They just need prayer right now. All they know is they lost their child."

Ms. LaBanca said Daniel was in the first-grade class of teacher Amanda D'Amato, who couldn't be reached for comment. As Maggie spoke about her friend, Ms. LaBanca, 41 years old, stood close and put her arm around her shoulders. The mother gently pushed the bangs away from her daughter's eyes.

During the rampage, Maggie hid in a classroom with her third-grade

classmates for about an hour, until police brought them to a nearby firehouse. She said she looked for Daniel there, but couldn't find her friend. "He likes to play foosball and soccer," Maggie said.

Ms. LaBanca, speaking of the Bardens, said: "I know that they're just so devastated."