

DAVID CASSIDY

# I'm Not Giving Up

THE FORMER PARTRIDGE FAMILY IDOL WON'T LET DEMENTIA KEEP HIM FROM LIVING HIS LIFE TO THE FULLEST

Despite David Cassidy's recent revelation that he's battling dementia, the 66-year-old singer is determined to keep on fighting. "There's still so much David wants to do," a friend tells *Closer* of the *Partridge Family* alum, whose mother, Evelyn Ward, died at 89 in 2012 of Alzheimer's-related dementia. "He has felt the past few years this day was coming — that, given his family history, he was a candidate to develop dementia. But now, more than ever, he wants to move forward."

He'd like to do that while making amends with his children — actress Katie, 30, and singer Beau, 26. "I've never really had a relationship with her," David says of Katie, whose mother, model Sherry Williams, had an on-again, off-again relationship with David during the '70s and '80s. "I was her biological father, but I didn't raise her." He helped raise Beau but divorced his son's mom, songwriter Sue Shifrin, last May.

Due to his problems with alcohol, David hasn't always been the best dad, but he's

determined to change that. "Reconnecting with his family is paramount in his life right now," says the friend, who adds David would like to go hiking with Beau in California's Yosemite National Park.

David would also like to keep working as much as possible. "There is a renewed interest around him, and many of his longtime fans will want to see him perform one last time," says the friend. "He hopes to feel strong enough both physically and mentally that he can do some touring and consider it a victory lap for a long career, instead of a sad goodbye." He still has time left to live, but he has no time for tears. "I want to love. I want to enjoy life," David says. "In the end, I just want to be happy."

— Bruce Fretts, with reporting by Katie Bruno



David with TV mom Shirley Jones on *The Partridge Family*...



...and with his real-life mother, Evelyn Ward, circa 1975.

**"I want to focus on what I am without any distractions."**

— David