



Bereaved Parents of the USA

Anne Arundel County Chapter

January 2007

www.aacounty-md-bereavedparents.org

2007..... "Happy New Year," my friends wish me. And I mimic them back, "Happy New Year to you too." But what I'm really thinking is... "Are you CRAZY ???" How could I possibly have a happy year when I have lost my child? No, they're not crazy, many of my friends just don't know what it's like to lose a child. And what I really wish for them, is that they never know what the years are like for me now.

For us, tragedy has come into our lives, and the years are never the same as before. It's possible that our priorities change, our relationships change, and our daily lives change. Each of us faces the changes in our lives and finds ways to cope. There is no right or wrong way to cope with our grief, just our own individual way to make it through the years, often with the help of others.

Without our child, our lives morph into a new dimension... and a new direction. My life now includes many moments of spiritual reflection, perhaps yours does too..... When memories of our child consume us, when we long for just one more day with our child, when we get "pennies from heaven," when we catch a glimpse of a shadow across the room, when we feel the brush of a kiss on our cheek....

Each year, I have managed to find moments of peace that comfort my soul..... moments of joy that brighten my day..... and moments of love that will last forever.

As you face this new year, I wish you moments of peace, joy and love....forever.

Carol Tomaszewski
Anne Arundel County Chapter BPUA

GOALS OF BEREAVED PARENTS OF THE USA

- to educate families about the grief process and all its complexities as it applies to the death of a child at any age and from any cause.
- to aid and support those who are suffering such a loss, regardless of race, creed or financial situation.
- to provide a library at each meeting place where members may borrow books with up-to-date information about the grief process.
- to supply the telephone numbers of other bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents who are able to offer support to other more newly bereaved families.
- to inform and educate members of the helping professions who interact with bereaved parents as to the nature and duration of parent/sibling/grandparent bereavement.
- to provide monthly meetings with sharing groups and occasional informative programs.

The printing and mailing of this newsletter has been donated

By Aimée and Bill Kilian in memory of their son
Stephen William Kilian
and

By Juliet and Leonard Rothman in memory of their son
Daniel Maurice Rothman



**Anne Arundel County Chapter
Bereaved Parents of the USA
P.O. Box 6280
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It is our sincere hope that you will find comfort somewhere in this newsletter. It is our intention to offer you hope in knowing that you are not alone. We encourage you to write about your feelings and to share your feelings with others who understand.

Material to be printed "in memory of" must be sent to the editor 6-8 weeks in advance of the newsletter in which you wish the item to be printed.

February submissions are due by January 10.

Library:



Our lending library is available to help you understand and deal with your grief. Most of our materials have been donated in memory of a child. When you have finished with them, please return them at our monthly meeting or mail them to the post office box listed above. Thank you.

Refreshments at our monthly meetings:

A sign-up sheet is on the refreshment table at the meeting. Drinks, ice, and paper products are provided by the chapter. For information, contact Carol Tomaszewski at 410 519-8448.



MEETING INFORMATION

Next meeting: January 4, 2007

Doors open at 7:15 p.m.

Meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.

(Meetings usually held on first Thursday of month)

Calvary United Methodist Church

301 Rowe Blvd., Annapolis

Please park in the lot behind the church

TELEPHONE FRIENDS:



Sometimes we feel the need to talk to someone who understands the pain we feel and will listen to us. When you have questions to ask, a need to talk, or have a difficult day, these people welcome your call.

Marie Dyke, single parent, daughter, 17, only child, car accident.

Janet Tyler, daughter, 5 and brother, 33, car accident. 410-969-7597

Tia Stinnett, miscarriages and infant death. 410-360-1341

Sandy Platts, infant death. 410-721-6457

New Chapter Answer Line:

We are pleased to announce the establishment of a new Telephone Message Line for our Chapter. The number is:

443-57-BPUSA or 443-572-7872

Information about Chapter activities such as meeting time and locations, our website, monthly meeting topics, upcoming special activities and meeting cancellation announcements is provided by the service. You can also leave a message and someone from the Chapter will get back with you to discuss any issues or concerns you may have.

Check it out and let us know what you think! Hopefully you will find this an easy way to keep in touch with "What's Happening" with the Chapter.

CHAPTER NEWS AND NOTES

Sponsor Our Monthly Newsletter or Website

You can help underwrite the costs of our newsletter or our website by sponsoring a monthly issue of the newsletter or by sponsoring a month of the website. To sponsor either one, contact Dave (dralex@sdaalex.com). **For the Newsletter**, in 2007 full sponsorship of an issue of the newsletter is \$200.00. Up to two people or families can sponsor an issue, and the cost will be divided equally - \$100 each. If someone has already signed up for full sponsorship of a month, and another member would like to share in that month, they will be allowed to do so. Where there are more than two members or families wishing to sponsor an issue, preference will be given to members who did not sponsor an issue the previous year, otherwise it will be on a "first-come-first-serve" basis.

For the Website, sponsorship is \$25.00 each month.

MEETING TOPICS NOTE:

Each of our monthly meetings follow the same basic format. We first have a general session attended by everyone. During this first one-half hour we usually have a speaker or panel addressing a topic of interest and value to families mourning the death of a child. Following the general session, we break up into sharing groups. We always have the sharing groups, and the topics they discuss -- particularly for the newly bereaved groups -- do not necessarily focus on the program topic unless it is relevant to the members in the sharing group. We try to cover a range of topics in the programs we schedule, so that over the year we will have covered many topics which are of value to a broad range of members.

Upcoming Meeting Topics

January 4: Happy New Year! – Revisiting the Grief Process Again

The January program will focus on looking ahead to the new year as we continue to deal with the loss of our children.

February 1: No program scheduled

We Can Always Use the Help!

There are dozens of tasks that go into running our chapter and our special events, from helping set up the chairs...to greeting new members when they first come in the door...to facilitating sharing groups...to identifying potential articles and poems for the newsletter...to mailing out invitations to one of our events...to working on public relations.... We can always use the help. If you feel you are now in a place in your grief journey where you can help and give back to the chapter in little or large ways, please contact Dave at 410-544-3634. Most of us find that when we reach a point of giving back to those who come after us, we gain far more than we give.

DO YOU USE AMAZON.COM?

If you use Amazon.com, perhaps you could use the Chapter's website to make the connection and purchase. We have a link to Amazon.com on the home page of our website. Amazon.com gives our chapter a commission of 5% of any purchases which are made *through* that link. Using the link does not increase the cost to the purchaser. Alert your friends, relatives, and colleagues to the link and suggest they use it as well.

You can access the site at:

www.aacounty-md-bereavedparents.org

Click on the butterflies on the welcome page to enter our site, and then scroll down the first page to the bottom. On the bottom left corner is the Amazon.com graphic. Clicking on the graphic takes you to Amazon.com's site. When it does so, it links information relevant to our chapter to the visit to the site. If a purchase is made, it will be credited to our site. Purchases made without going through that link do not get credited.

Since our chapter is a not-for-profit organization and has no dues or fees, we are dependent on donations and fund raisers. These commissions help fund some of our community outreach activities.

Donations: THANK YOU!

Donations may be made to offset the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter, the Chapter website, the annual Remembrance Service, the annual Conference of Hope and Healing, and books and other materials for the Chapter Library.

We gratefully acknowledge the following donations made in the last month:

General:

Lynn and Bill Durner in memory of their son Brian Edward Durner
Aimée and Bill Kilian in memory of their son Stephen William Kilian
Diane and Robert Royer in memory of their son Aaron Sebastian Royer
Ken Smith in memory of his niece Tracy Ann Fotino

Memory Walk

NOTE: This is a continuation from the December issue of the newsletter of the list of donations made as part of the Annual Memory Walk in October

Kern Kramp in memory of Ricky Bessling
Billie Jean Krupa in memory of Timmy Umbel
Janice and Chris Kunkel in memory of Jason Easter
Barb Law in memory of Timmy Umbel
Anna Lawrence in memory of Stephen William Kilian
Dotti Lawson in memory of Ricky Bessling
Carl S. Lochte in memory of Ricky Bessling
Rebecca Maddox in memory of Stephen William Kilian
Kassy Mattingly in memory of Ricky Bessling
Robert McFarland in memory of Ricky Bessling
Brenda McGaha in memory of Mark Hardesty
Darlene Meade in memory of Jeffrey D. Neal Jr.
Karen Meinhart in memory of Stephen William Kilian
Norma Jean and Donald Melcher in memory of Brian Richard Melcher
Cecilia Messenger in memory of Faith and Hope Williams
Amy Messina in memory of Andrew Gawthrop
Nannette Meyers in memory of Mark Hardesty
Ashlyn Michie in memory of Stephen William Kilian
Damion Mitchell in memory of Ricky Bessling
Diana Mitchell in memory of Jane Ingaglio and Janet Cardiullo
Mike Moore in memory of Ricky Bessling
Lorraine Moses in memory of Stephen William Kilian
Doris Neal in memory of Jeffrey D. Neal Jr.
Georgia and Mike Nelsen in memory of Rebecca Faires
Shawn Nicklin in memory of Timmy Umbel
Brian Nottingham in memory of Stephen William Kilian
Patrick Nugent in memory of Ricky Bessling
Sheila O'Connor in memory of Stephen William Kilian
Eileen O'Connor-Liebman in memory of Stephen William Kilian
Ron Opel in memory of Timmy Umbel
Ellen Pekrul in memory of Stephen William Kilian
Dorothy, Dennis, Ashley Phillips in memory of Stephen William Kilian
Stephen and Robin Potter in memory of Stephen William Kilian
Donna Price in memory of Ricky Bessling
Ms. Lee Folia Prince-Fletcher in memory of Stephen William Kilian
Yvette Prowell in memory of Mary Augustus
Christine and Armando Quinones in memory of Stephen William Kilian

Regina Rinehart in memory of Ricky Bessling
Kim Ritter in memory of Mark Hardesty
Doug Roop in memory of Ricky Bessling
Joanna and Serafin Salgado in memory of Kelly Schultz
Joe Schreyer in memory of Ricky Bessling
Barbara Schwartzman in memory of Ricky Bessling
Mark Scott in memory of Stephen William Kilian
Barbara Seeley in memory of Wendy Jean Bolly
Carl Sherman in memory of Ricky Bessling
David Slomkowski in memory of Stephen William Kilian
Sandy Smith in memory of June and Milton Bull
Tammy Soehnlein in memory of Mark Hardesty
David and Dana Spetter in memory of Stephen William Kilian
Jackie Spetter in memory of Stephen William Kilian
Pat and Barry Spetter in memory of Stephen William Kilian
Barbara Stairley in memory of Stephen William Kilian
Judy Steele in memory of Mark Hardesty
Cynthia Stewart in memory of Mark Hardesty
Darlene Storm in memory of Mark Hardesty
Steve Storr in memory of Ricky Bessling
Lisa Takemoto in memory of Stephen William Kilian
Donald Talley in memory of Ricky Bessling
Christine Thomas in memory of Stephen William Kilian
Kim Thomas in memory of Stephen William Kilian
Mark Tidwell in memory of Ricky Bessling
Jason Trimmer in memory of Cortney Belt
Daisy Turner in memory of Stephen William Kilian
Janet and Allison Tyler in memory of Brittany Nicole Tyler
Rick and Mary Ann Umbel in memory of Timmy Umbel
Wanda Wardlaw in memory of Ricky Bessling
Stacey Warehime in memory of Ricky Bessling
Terry and Dawn Watkinson in memory of Mark Hardesty
Ann Weale in memory of Mark Hardesty
Anne and Leslie and David Green Wells in memory of Stephen William Kilian
Glenn, Denese Jones, Austin Wells, Devin Wells, Garrett Wells in memory of Stephen William Kilian
Katie Wilhelm in memory of Cortney Belt
Randy and Emilee Williams in memory of Samuel and Grant Williams
Sharon Williamson in memory of Stephen William Kilian
Debra Wilson-Smith in memory of Christopher Smith
Dorothy Wink in memory of Kelly Ann Schultz
Denise Wooten in memory of Stephen William Kilian



SIBLING PAGE



It's the Music That Bonds the Soul

The room you once lived in
Doesn't look the same.
The people who used to call you
Never mention your name.

The car you used to drive
They may not make them anymore.
And all the things you once treasured
Are boxed beyond the closet doors.

The clothes you set the trends by
Are surely out of date.
The people you owed money to
Have wiped away the slate.

Things have changed and changed again
Since you went away.
But some things have remained the same
Each and everyday –

Like this aching in my heart
A scar that just won't heal.
On the way a special song
Can change the way I feel.



Brother, you must know that the music
Bonds us and will keep us close
Because secretly I know deep in my heart
It's the music you miss the most.

So let the world keep on turning
And time can take its toll.
For as long as the music keeps playing
You'll be alive and dancing in my soul.

Stacie Gilliam, TCF Oklahoma City, OK

Sibling Thoughts

So many parents really want to do the right thing for their remaining children; but it is very hard when you are still in so much pain. Relatives and friends compound the problem by telling the siblings to be strong for their parent's sake. That is too much to ask of any sibling. We, too, are in pain and seeking comfort. We have lost not only a brother or sister; but our parents also, for they are now consumed by grief.

Dianne Workman, TCF, Norman OK

I am writing to announce the publication of my new book, **Sibling Grief: Healing after the Death of a Sister or Brother**. I am the director of the Sibling Connection, an organization that provides resources for bereaved siblings and have written many articles in Compassionate Friends newsletters. Called by Compassion Books "a moving, very readable guide -- one of the finest resources available on sibling grief, for individual or professional use."

From the back cover:

Author P. Gill White, PhD, was only fifteen when her sister Linda made her swear not to tell anyone about the pain Linda had in her side, because she thought it would spoil an upcoming family vacation. Linda died four months later from a rare form of cancer called rhabdomyosarcoma. White and her family never talked about the loss until decades later when memories began to haunt her. **Sibling Grief** is White's validation of the emotional significance of sibling loss. She draws on clinical experience, research, and wisdom from hundreds of bereaved siblings to explain the five healing tasks specific to sibling grief.

White identifies the effects of this profound loss on daily actions and emotions and describes the dream patterns of bereaved siblings, showing how healing is reflected in the dream state. Throughout, she illustrates the long-lasting connection between siblings—a connection that death itself cannot sever.

Sincerely,
P. Gill White, PhD , Director, The Sibling Connection

Sibling Grief is available at Amazon.com
Please see page 3 regarding the advantage of accessing
Amazon.com through our website

OUR CHILDREN REMEMBERED

Please remember the following families this month.

William P. Anthony Jr.
Son of Bill and Linda Anthony
June 1, 1965 - January 2, 1999

Merwede Baker
Son of Anna Baker and Paul Reid
January 15, 1978 - June 24, 2004

Michael Allen Barker
Son of Diane and Seth Barker
January 18, 1990 - February 10, 1999

Lisa Marie Bishop
Daughter of Diane and Michael Eye
January 29, 1966 - July 20, 2004

Emily Ann Blazejewski
Daughter of Lee Ann and Doug Blazejewski
January 27, 1997 - January 2, 2004

David A. Boss
Son of Ron and Sally Boss
January 6, 1968 - November 5, 2000

Paul John Burash
Son of Robert and Sandra Burash
January 18, 1972 - August 8, 1992

David Ronnie Cain III
Son of Ginny and Donald Bussink
March 17, 1983 - January 31, 2003

Scott Eric Caplan
Son of Nancy Caplan
September 20, 1986 - January 6, 2006

David Michael Copeland
Son of Jay and Lois Copeland
March 27, 1978 - January 30, 2000

Mark Allen Craft
Son of Marika Bates
January 24, 1961 - January 20, 2004

Kevin Crawford
Son of Loretta Crawford
January 21, 1959 - March 10, 2004

Kevin Michael Crine
Son of John and Jean Crine
January 30, 1974 - February 8, 2006

David Michael Cutter
Son of Jim and Anne Marie Cutter
September 16, 2002 - January 2, 2003

Jason T. Easter
Son of Janice and Chris Kunkel
January 30, 1973 - September 9, 1999

Sherri Leigh Fant
Daughter of Vern Pierce
January 24, 1958 - April 1, 2003

Theresa Karen Gardner
Daughter of Joan F. Gardner
July 28, 1962 - January 7, 1994

Steven Joseph Garvey
Son of Mark and Cheryl Sylce
January 21, 1985 - February 1, 1985

Sara Elizabeth Hohne
Daughter of Donald and Karen Hohne
January 2, 1980 - June 13, 2003

Alison Marie Hylan
Daughter of Jan and Leo Hylan
April 24, 1986 - January 9, 2005

Sandrine J. Ingulia
Daughter of Michele Ingulia
January 17, 1965 - February 14, 2003

Eric Scott Johnson
Son of Ed and Joanne Johnson
June 13, 1983 - January 16, 2003

Mark Edward Keefe
Son of Debra and Mark Keefe
September 13, 1974 - January 8, 1991

Kevin Murray Kerr
Son of Debra and Richard Kerr
January 19, 1980 - September 4, 2001

Stephen William Kilian
Son of Bill and Aimée Killian
Grandson of Jay and Debbie Kilian
Grandson of Andre and Anne Denault
January 15, 2004 - March 18, 2006

Andrea Jean Loatman
Daughter of Janet and John Hewitt
January 12, 1980 - October 5, 1999

Alexis Michelle LoPinto
Daughter of Denise LoPinto
July 19, 2004 - January 14, 2005

Ethan Matthew MacPherson
Son of Kim and Scott MacPherson
January 22, 1994 - February 13, 1995

Christopher "Chris" Logan McFeely
Son of Samantha and Darell Sistek
Brother of Taylor Sistek
June 27, 1987 - January 15, 2005



OUR CHILDREN REMEMBERED (continued)

James Allen McGrady
Son of David and Shirley McGrady
January 15, 1968 - August 10, 1987

Michele Noble McKinley
Daughter of Louisa and Sheldon Noble
August 25, 1956 - January 29, 2005

William A. Miller
Son of Mary J. Miller
Brother of Marlene Miller
September 1, 1964 - January 18, 2004

Craig Steven Nelson
Son of Karen Coulson
April 2, 1974 - January 31, 1995

Nicholas Grant Poe
Son of Karen and Michael Willey
Son of Nelson and Shirley Poe
November 9, 1982 - January 23, 2002

Kevin Eric Reichardt
Son of Carol and Karl Reichardt
January 20, 1975 - January 26, 1995

Joseph William Remines
Son of Bobbi and Jim Remines
November 16, 1980 - January 3, 1994

Charles "Charlie" Hubner Rice
Son of Doug and Stephanie Rice
January 12, 2002 - January 11, 2002

Phillip "PJ" Bernard Riek Jr.
Son of Pamela and Tracy Peterson
December 29, 1989 - January 17, 2000

Daniel Maurice Rothman
Son of Juliet and Leonard Rothman
January 20, 1971 - September 17, 1992

Thomas Jeffrey Schall
Son of Tom and Joyce Schall
January 16, 1963 - January 7, 2002

Emily Ann Schindler
Daughter of Charles and Jane Schindler
July 27, 1985 - January 27, 2004

Kelly Ann Schultz
Daughter of Jim and Pat Schultz
July 19, 1964 - January 1, 1996

Jonathan Miles Schuppe
Son of Martha and Jim Schuppe
January 18, 1982 - January 3, 2005

Misty Dawn Smith
Daughter of Anne and DeWitt Wilcox
March 15, 1976 - January 12, 1997

Frank Spencer Spurr
Brother of Terri Tuono
January 27, 1966 - February 1, 2002

Reece Nelson Tolbert
Son of Jamie Tolbert
January 7, 2005 - November 6, 2005

Justin James Watts
Son of Jan and Jim Watts
February 15, 1985 - January 14, 2006

Michael Shane Wheeler
Son of Lita L. Volcjak
June 22, 1976 - January 11, 1997

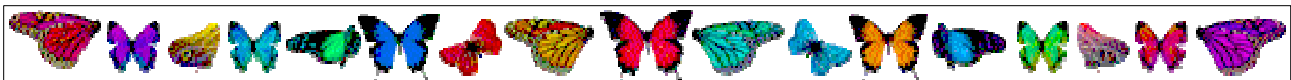
Daniel "Danny" A.S. Whitby
Son of Rita and Albert Whitby Sr.
January 10, 1959 - August 15, 1974

Carole Anne Wilford
Sister of Aljuana Saunders
January 7, 1944 - May 4, 1998

Faith Jordan Williams
Daughter of Nicole Hawkins
September 26, 1998 - January 11, 1999

Roy James "Jay" Wyrick
Son of Patricia Wyrick
August 8, 1962 - January 10, 2002

Note: If your child's name appears in the printed version of our newsletter but does not appear in this online version, it is because we have not received explicit permission from you to list it online. If you would like your child's name to also appear in future online editions of the newsletter, please send an email to dralex@sdalex.com



Compassion

Compassion is an angel
Who always gives her all,
She's there for every creature
Whether great or whether small.



At any time of day or night
Or any kind of storm,
She'll wrap her arms around your soul
To keep you safe and warm

Compassion swells within a heart
When someone is in pain,
It softly bears a rhythm
So gentle and humane.

No matter if it's man or beast,
Or what their tale of woe,
Compassion with her wings outstretched
Will help the healing grow.

Compassion has a kindness
Seen in every tender act.
So when you're kind to someone else
I tell you it's a fact...

Sometime she'll be around again
For all the angels say,
Compassion shown to others
Will be shown to you someday.

From the book "Believe"
By John W. Sisson

Bereaved parents are like ducks:
Above the surface.....
Looking composed and unruffled;
Below the surface.....
Paddling like crazy!



I Will Be

If you think of me as gone forever,
I will be.

If you think of me as sadness and tears,
I will be.

If you think of me as your broken heart,
I will be.

That's not what I want to be, but I will be.

If you think of me as memories to cherish,
I will be.

If you think of me as laughter and joy,
I will be.

If you think of me as your healing heart,
I will be.

That's what I want to be, please, let me be.



--The Compassionate Friends magazine,
Author unknown



And if I go, while you're still here... know that I live on, vibrating to a different measure, behind a thin veil you cannot see through.

You will not see me, so you must have faith, I wait for the time when we soar together again, both aware of each other.

Until then, live your life to its fullest and, when you need me, just whisper my name in your heart, I will be there.



By Emily Dickinson



Kindly patronize these businesses who donated their fine products to the Memory Walk:

Tim Hamilton and Homestead Gardens 743 W. Central Ave., Davidsonville	Snow Valley Water 16200 Branch Ct., Upper Marlboro	Graul's Markets 607 Taylor Ave., Annapolis
Mars Super Market 6721 Chesapeake Cntr. Dr., Glen Burnie	Crystal and Krispy Kreme Donuts 6604 Ritchie Hwy., Glen Burnie	Starbucks Coffee 2500 Solomons Island Rd., Annapolis
Dunkin Donuts 604 Ritchie Hwy., Severna Park	Subway Sandwiches Marley Station Mall location, Glen Burnie	Chick-Fil-A Marley Station Mall location, Glen Burnie

New Year Goals

The holidays are over and I bet you're glad about that. You did make it through though, and by now maybe some of the stress of that powerful time has left you. Next year you will find you learned from this year, no matter how many years it has been and I hope it will be easier for you, too, in the years ahead.

If you made New Year's resolutions, I hope they included:

To try to take it one day at a time.
To forgive yourself for whatever it is you feel you did wrong.
To figure out ways to resolve your anger so you can let go of it.
To concentrate on and value what you have let go as much as what you have lost.
To let those you value know how important they are to you.

These are important steps forward. Try to be good to yourself in the New Year...
Mary Cleckley, TCF, Atlanta GA

Wintersong

*Season of lights, season of love and peace
Season of shadow, season of memories
Season of warmth & joy, season of secret tears;
Give us the courage to laugh again
Give us the vision to hope again
Give us the power to love again
For all our new seasons
And all our new years*

By Sascha Wagner, from her book "Wintersun"

Dear Abbey:

My only child passed away recently at a very young age.
Amid all the pain, this one question nags at me. Am I still a mother?

WONDERING

Of course you are, Once a mother, always a mother. You are the mother of a little angel.

(From the "Dear Abbey" column by Abigail Van Buren)

No Words to Describe....

What do you call a woman whose husband dies?
...a widow

What do you call a man whose wife died?
...a widower

What do you call a child whose parents die?
..an orphan

What do you call a parent whose child dies?
There is no word to describe it!

---by Joe Gilliam, grandfather of Hayden Gilliam



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL



Bereaved Parents of the USA CREDO

We are the parents whose children have died. We are the grandparents who have buried grandchildren. We are the siblings whose brothers and sisters no longer walk with us through life. We come together as Bereaved Parents of the USA to provide a haven where all bereaved families can meet and share our long and arduous grief journeys. We attend monthly gatherings whenever we can and for as long as we believe necessary. We share our fears, confusion, anger, guilt, frustrations, emptiness and feelings of hopelessness so that hope can be found anew. As we accept, support, comfort, and encourage each other, we demonstrate to each other that survival is possible. Together we celebrate the lives of our children, share the joys and triumphs as well as the love that will never fade. Together we learn how little it matters where we live, what our color or our affluence is or what faith we uphold as we confront the tragedies of our children's deaths. Together, strengthened by the bonds we forge at our gatherings, we offer what we have learned to each other and to every more recently bereaved family. We are the Bereaved Parents of the USA.

We welcome you.