



Bereaved Parents of the USA

Anne Arundel County Chapter

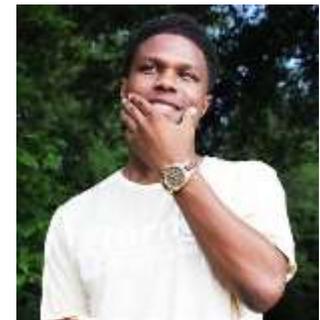
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Our Children Remembered

Some people come into our lives and quickly go.
Some stay for a while and leave footprints on our hearts
And we are never the same.



John T. "Tommy" McCormick
March 5 1981 - August 9, 2016
*"We love and miss our boy
more than words could ever express"*
Tom and Elvira



Aaron Gene Marshall
May 25, 1996 – April 11, 2016
"Aaron, we will always love you and you'll always be in our hearts."
Mom, Grandma, Grandpa and Uncle Brian



Wendy Jean Bolly
April 6, 1977 - October 11, 2002
"Our wonderful girl--so many happy memories!"
Love, Mom & Dad

Joey Belcher, Jr.
April 21, 1975 – December 17, 2012
*"Existence is timeless, uniform,
necessary, and unchanging."*
-- Parmenides
"Living for you and with you forever, Joey."
Papa, Mom, Mimi and Riley





Submitted by
Tom and Elvira McCormick,
in memory of Tommy.

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/mouringsoulencouragement/photos/a.281205015370648.1073741827.281191175372032/740275779463567/?type=3>

Aaron, We Miss You! – In Memory of Aaron (AG) Marshall

By Jacinta Marshall, Aaron’s Grandma
Anne Arundel County Chapter, MD, BPUSA

Our daughter, Alycia, lost her only child, Aaron (AG) to a single car accident in April of 2016. We all miss Aaron terribly, but we work at keeping his memory alive. Aaron was an awesome young man. He was a well known hip-hop artist in the DC, MD & VA area and was honored on what would have been his 20th birthday when his music was played on WPGC, 95.5. Aaron wrote the lyrics to his songs and left behind a legacy of over 500 songs. The messages in his music helped and continue to help people of all ages.

Aaron was loved and respected by not only his peers, but his teachers and all who knew him because of his focus and dedication to his craft from a very early age. Aaron had a big heart, that all of his friends said:

“Aaron is **my** best friend”.

Aaron was the light of our lives and the center of our world. Aaron was the greatest gift that God gave to our daughter Alycia. Aaron had a purpose and he completed that purpose here on earth. In his short life, he lived a lifetime and touched so many people. He was indeed an instrument of God’s love. We are grateful that God chose our daughter, Alycia, for his mother and us as his grandparents.

“Aaron, we will always love you and you’ll always be in our hearts.”

Mom, Grandma, Grandpa and Uncle Brian



Reflections on March

by Dayton Robinson, Tuscaloosa, AL

Source: www.bpusachicagoland.org/Newsletters/JanFebMar2014



March is a month of renewal. The dormant trees begin to stir, the birds optimistically sing of spring; the winds, sometimes violent, wake us up; perhaps we need a “shake” out of our winter lethargy; an awakening.

There is that urge to plant, to nourish, to grow a tree or a flower. There is the primordial urge to feel your hand digging in the warming earth. Perhaps we plant because we know that someone will see the results, as we have enjoyed the results of others’ work. It could be called a debt of renewal, a repayment for that which we have enjoyed. As we nourish small seedlings, we visualize the end results. That tree may die, as our children did. That tree may flourish beautifully, or it may meet ultimate disaster, but if that tree does well, it could be a source of great pleasure and of beauty for many coming years. We can believe that a seedling will be a glorious tree enjoyed by many. It’s a nice dream.

“To all things there is a season” and as life goes by, we simply cannot afford to miss the season, the renewals, the chances for new growth. Regardless of our grief and regrets, life goes on, and we must try not to miss a season. Life simply will be, whether we participate or not. Someone will benefit from constructive growth, if we can find the energy to make the effort.

Severe grief, for a time, reduces our interest and our ability to participate fully in life. With a low energy level and little initiative and with our hopes for the future severely damaged, it requires great effort for the bereaved to learn to again enjoy the small things that make up most of our lives. Our hopes for the future are so damaged that there is little incentive to work today for the future. The things that exist today comprise the basics of our future. We run a risk and a danger of missing the good things that are to be, because we do not have the wish to participate in the things that are today.

Although we need a time of some withdrawal, some time to ponder the unanswered questions, some time to heal, we also need to be aware of the lives that are passing. Regardless of our grief, life simply goes on, and there is much good that we risk losing if we stay too long in a state of suspense of the present and a sad review of the past.

A part of learning to “accept the unacceptable” is to learn to make the effort to sort out the good memories and take them with us into a future that will be happy again.

There comes a time when the harsh winter of our damaging grief will give way to some awakening, a time when we, like nature, can shake off some of the lethargy and see and feel the renewals life offers. Our choice is to remember that we could not control the advent of disaster. We can only control our response. Our choice is now only in the way in which we respond to the necessity to pick up the threads of our life and go on.

We owe it to ourselves to make a positive effort. We can hope that those buffeting winds of March can help us awaken to the renewals of spring and put the “winter of our disaster” in its place, now a part of our ongoing lives.

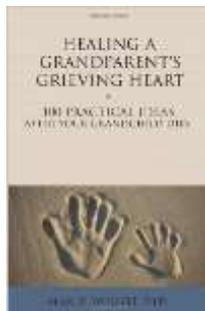
Book Reviews



Healing a Grandparent's Grieving Heart

100 Practical Ideas After Your Grandchild Dies

by Alan Wolfelt, Ph.D.



This heartfelt manual is an indispensable and easily referenced resource for grieving grandparents, offering them a way forward after the death of a grandchild.

Whether they were close to their grandchild and keenly feeling his or her absence, or even if they were not close to the child and are mourning the loss of a relationship they'll never have, this book offers grandparents compassionate comfort and practical ideas for their journey through grief, addressing as well the unique pain of watching their children mourn the loss of their child.

The ideas offered in the book clarify the basic principles of grief and mourning, and offer immediate suggestions for things grandparents can do to embrace their grief, honor and remember their grandchild, and begin to heal.



The Shack

The Shack is coming to movie theaters in March 2017

by William P. Young

The Shack is a book that seeks to provide answers to the always timely question "Where is God in a world so filled with unspeakable pain?" It's a tale that revolves around Mack (Mackenzie) Philips. Four years before the story begins, Mack's young daughter, Missy, was abducted during a family vacation, and evidence that she may have been brutally murdered is found in an abandoned shack deep in the Oregon wilderness. Four years later, in the midst of his great sadness, Mack receives a suspicious note, apparently from God, inviting him back to that shack for a weekend. Against his better judgement he arrives at the shack one wintry afternoon and walks back into his darkest nightmare. What he finds there will change his life forever.

My comment: I read this book years ago and I can remember being pulled into the emotions and actions of this bereaved father.... understanding his devastating grief And in the end wondering at the possibility of God's involvement in our lives. --- Carol Tomaszewski

HEEDING THE CALL OF LIFE

Submitted by Irene Belcher, Joey's Mom

There is tremendous wisdom that is accumulated in one's encounter with grief, and it needs to be shared. Healing takes place when we turn our pain into a positive experience and we realize that helping others is the key to helping ourselves. When that happens, our problems don't look so big. We expand on newfound strengths and we discover that as one door closed, many others have opened. The road to recovery from grief, therefore, is to take time to do things which will enable us to give new meaning to our lives.

That's when our journey through grief becomes a journey of discovering ourselves, our potential, and our resources in the encounter with life. That's when we become BETTER people, rather than BITTER people. In grief, no one can take away our pain because no one can take away our love.

That call to life is to learn to love...again.

Father Arnaldo Pangrazzi

TCF Muskegon, MI



I will be

by Rob Anderson, Brendon's Dad



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 who 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,

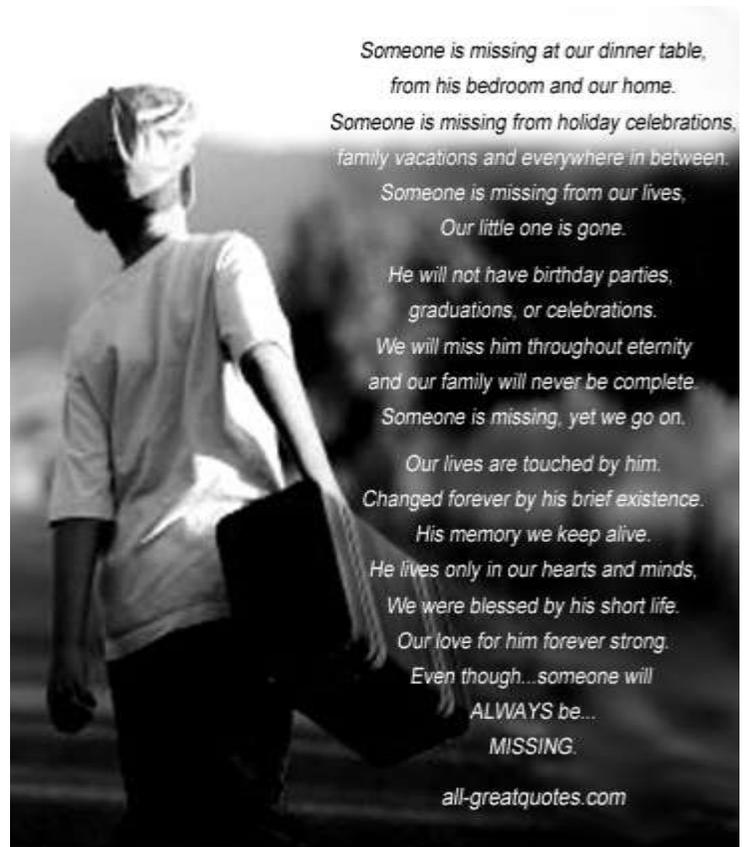
I will be.

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

Source: www.bpusachicagoland.org//Newsletters/JanFebMar2014

*There is a sacredness in tears.
They are not the mark of weakness, but of
power. They speak more eloquently than
ten thousand tongues. They are the
messengers of overwhelming grief,
of deep contrition, and of unspeakable love.*

—Washington Irving



OUR CHILDREN REMEMBERED

This is for all the caterpillars that never became butterflies. All the butterflies that never caught the wind in their wings. And all the hearts that had hopes and dreams of a wondrous flight together.

March

James William Aikin
Grandson of Elizabeth and Barry Aikin
June 5, 1982 - March 18, 2008

Melanie Suzanne Berkow
Daughter of Sandra Winans
January 2, 1956 - March 23, 2012

Richard Allen Bessling
Son of Robert and Barbara Bessling
March 18, 1982 - March 15, 1995

Taylor Brannon
Granddaughter of Larry and Linda Brannon
January 27, 1995 - March 29, 1995

Ryan Corr
Son of Pam Corr
March 2, 2003 - June 4, 2011

Robert "Bo" William DePaola
Son of Jill and John DePaola
March 22, 1995 - May 23, 2015

Michael J. Dickens Jr.
Son of Marla and Michael Dickens Sr.
July 7, 1968 - March 29, 1996

Zachary Lee Dukes
Son of Cindy Dukes
February 12, 1989 - March 31, 2010

Manuel Junior Esparza
Son of Dianna McKinnon
March 20, 1987 - February 14, 2012

Cynthia Lynn Ferguson
Daughter of Doris and Charles Clair
September 4, 1952 - March 28, 2010

Traci Jeanne Heincelman
Niece of Terre and John Belt
October 6, 1980 - March 10, 2002

Brian Michael Hendricks
Son of Jeannine Hendricks
March 4, 1991 - April 22, 2012

Kole William Hoffman
Son of Erin and Jim McKinney McDonald
December 23, 2007 - March 7, 2010

Andrew Scott Hoffman
Son of Donna and Bryan Hoffman
March 6, 1986 - October 27, 2013

Bryan Adam Krouse
Son of James and Judy Krouse
March 11, 1965 - June 29, 2007

Jerry Mason Jr.
Son of Mary and Jerry Mason
May 6, 1968 - March 23, 2005

John T McCormick
Son of Elvira and Tom McCormick
March 5, 1981 - August 9, 2016

Edwin Brandon Molina Jr.
Son of Carole and Edwin Molina
July 6, 2005 - March 3, 2007

David M Murnane
Son of Jennifer Murnane
March 7, 1987 - December 9, 2008

Michael Dwayne Nokes
Son of Ellen Foxwell
November 9, 1963 - March 15, 1988

Brian James Para
Son of Joan Para
February 19, 1970 - March 19, 1991

Sydney Elaine Patronik
Daughter of Holly and Michael Patronik
March 26, 2002 - May 11, 2002

Thomas H Redmiles
Son of Mary and Joe Redmiles
February 22, 1985 - March 14, 2011

Zachary Daniel Robertson
Son of Mary Ellen and Jim Young
March 3, 1978 - October 26, 2006

Erin Michelle Shannon
Daughter of Karen Shannon
November 21, 1979 - March 18, 2009

Michael Elliott Simms
Son of Molly Simms
November 12, 1996 - March 29, 2016

Vejay Singh
Son of Jessica and Hardeep Singh
October 12, 1992 - March 21, 2014

Abigail Helen "Abbey" Skuletich
Daughter of John and Glenda Skuletich
March 9, 1984 - May 12, 1992

Mark Edward Smeltzer
Son of Peggy Smeltzer
December 11, 1969 - March 15, 1997

Christopher John Smith
Son of Debi Wilson-Smith
March 27, 1981 - June 30, 2000

Joseph Claude Smith
Son of Gary and Desirae Smith
March 19, 2005 - July 11, 2006

Christopher Thomas Trachy
Son of Tom and Chrys Trachy
September 3, 1986 - March 3, 2016

Shardeh Danielle Callis Watkins
Daughter of Lori Norris
April 30, 1989 - March 2, 2013



OUR CHILDREN REMEMBERED

APRIL

Bethany Anne Balasic
Daughter of Paul and Claudia Balasic
February 13, 1981 - April 5, 1996

Jeff Baldwin
Son of Aurelia Ferraro
April 27, 1967 - April 26, 1991

Stephanie Noell Banchemo
Daughter of Bill Banchemo
December 16, 1985 - April 9, 2012

Joey E Belcher
Son of Joseph and Irene Belcher
April 21, 1975 - December 17, 2012

Wendy Jean Bolly
Daughter of Judith and Louie Bolly
April 6, 1977 - October 11, 2002

Paul Shane Brough
Son of Theresa and Steve Bleemke
May 18, 1982 - April 4, 2003

Faith Campbell
Daughter of John and Cathi Campbell
April 5, 1994 - April 5, 1994

William Frederick Carter Jr.
Son of Dot Carter
Brother of Janet Tyler
Brother of Lisa Beall
April 24, 1959 - August 16, 1992

Jasmin Aliyah Corria
Daughter of Diran and Mila Corria
April 14, 2015 - April 16, 2015

Joseph Fredrick Errichiello Jr.
Son of Susan and Joe Errichiello
April 6, 1979 - May 29, 2004

Joseph A. Esterling Jr.
Son of Joe and Michelle Esterling
June 7, 1967 - April 27, 1990

Galen Andrew Harig-Blaine
Son of Clare and Stephen Blaine
November 14, 1989 - April 22, 2007

Brian Michael Hendricks
Son of Jeannine Hendricks
March 4, 1991 - April 22, 2012

William Mirza Khadem
Son of Yoosef and Linda Khadem
October 24, 1984 - April 6, 2012

David A Lombardo
Son of David D. and Maryann Lombardo
April 11, 1976 - April 9, 2011

Aaron Gene Marshall
Son of Alycia Marshall
Grandson of Jacinta & Stan Marshall
May 25, 1996 - April 11, 2016

Walter H. Maynard IV
Son of Rose Marie Carnes & Walter Maynard III
January 2, 1965 - April 14, 2006

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

Jessica Price Parsons
Daughter of Patricia and James Price
Daughter-in-law of Mary Parsons
November 24, 1984 - April 8, 2016

Lynda Jo Quigley
Daughter of Betty Quigley
April 2, 1967 - December 13, 2011

Dennis Richard Rohrback
Son of Dennis and Joan Rohrback
April 8, 1964 - July 3, 1988

André Marc Sanders
Son of Karen Sanders
April 8, 1968 - November 27, 2002

Zachary B. Schwartz
Son of Margie Schwartz
April 16, 1987 - September 1, 2015

Shardeh Danielle Callis Watkins
Daughter of Lori Norris
April 30, 1989 - March 2, 2013

Albert Wallace Whitby, Jr.
Son of Rita and Albert Whitby Sr.
Brother of Susan Lovett
April 25, 1951 - June 2, 1981

Alisa Joy Withers
Daughter of Jan Withers
July 7, 1976 - April 16, 1992



HOW MANY CHILDREN DO YOU HAVE?

A simple, innocent question, but one a bereaved parent struggles with.

If we don't include our children who died when we answer the question, we feel as if we are denying their existence. One mother told me that she cried for hours because she told someone she had no children (her two children had been killed earlier that year). If we do include our deceased children when we answer, somehow we fear the response or discomfort that is felt by the person hearing the news.

For the bereaved parent, there is really no "right" way to answer this question. We must respond the way our heart and the situation dictate. We should not fear how the person we are talking to feels about the truth. We should only be concerned with how we feel at the moment we are telling it. We need to be considerate of our own feelings and, if the situation is such that we do not include our children who have died in the answer, that's okay too ... because we may be at a point in our grief that doing so may be too painful.

We are the only ones who need to be pleased with our response!!

- Pat Loder, Lakes Area TCF Chapter, Commerce Twp., Michigan

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our Chapter needs a volunteer, or two, to be our **Newsletter Publisher**.

Please seriously consider taking on this invaluable effort.

The Newsletter is a very important resource to all our Chapter families, as it provides a forum for honoring our children, finding learning and solace in poems and articles, and providing Chapter information.

When you are coming to a meeting, consider coming at 6:30 to help with **Set-Up**.

Our Angel Gown Project could use help **Sewing**. We are now providing gowns to three hospitals. This is really a healing effort for us as bereaved parents to offer a sentiment of love and hope to the newly bereaved as they mourn the loss of their infant. If you don't sew, but would like to be involved, we can find **Something Else** for you to do.

In the future, we will have opportunities to volunteer to help with Community Outreach, our Memory Walk, and annual Service of Remembrance.

Giving of yourself is always healing, and being instrumental in providing resources to other Bereaved Parents can only be a positive step in your journey as you extend a helping hand to so many others.

Contact me if you have questions or will volunteer in any capacity. Thank you.

Carol Tomaszewski, [410-519-8448](tel:410-519-8448), chapterleaderaacountynd@gmail.com

2017 National Gathering



Join us in Washington DC August 4th-6th for the 2017 Bereaved Parents of the USA National Gathering.

Bereaved Parents of the USA sponsors an annual national gathering for bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents. The gathering features workshops, sharing sessions, speakers, a bookstore, butterfly boutique and, most important, an opportunity to meet other parents and families facing life after the death of a child. More so than at a chapter meeting, here a parent is likely to meet another parent who has experienced the same – perhaps unusual – death circumstance as him or herself. For those who don't attend chapter meetings, an annual gathering is a golden resource.

Hilton Washington Dulles Airport
13869 Park Center Road, Herndon, VA 20171
(703) 478-2900 | <http://www.dulleshilton.com>

Meeting Summary: Calvary United Methodist Church • 301 Rowe Boulevard • Annapolis, MD 21401. Sharing groups, a key part of each Chapter meeting, will be held as desired for first-time attendees, and the newly and non-newly bereaved. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month beginning at 7:30 p.m. (Doors open at 7:15) and are open to anyone grieving the death of a child. Come around to the back of the church -- there is parking and an entrance directly into our meeting room. Doors open at 7:15 p.m.

We are a **self-help support organization** dedicated to assisting parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and siblings toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child. We provide information and education to extended family and friends. Our greatest strength as bereaved families is the unity we find in shared experiences which can lead us out of isolation, give us a place to “belong,” and offer us hope that together – we can make it.

Next Meetings: March 2nd, April 6th, May 4th at 7:30 p.m.

* MARCH Monthly Meeting: Linus Blanket Project. During our meeting we will be making fleece tied blankets to donate to The Linus Project. There will be fleece material available for you, or you can bring some. Each blanket requires two 1 ½ yard pieces of coordinating fleece material.



* APRIL Monthly Meeting: TBD

* MAY Monthly Meeting: TBD

WHAT TO EXPECT AT OUR CHAPTER MEETINGS: Our Chapter gathers one evening a month to address topics and offer support to those who are mourning the death of a child. Our meetings last for approximately 2 hours. Sometimes we schedule a 30-minute presentation at the beginning of our meeting. When the speaker or panel has concluded the presentation, we introduce ourselves and say our child’s name. We then take a short break before dividing into sharing groups. Sharing groups are facilitated by fellow Chapter members and are completely confidential. During this time, the issues that are discussed—particularly for the newly bereaved—focus on the issues facing participants today.

OUR WEBSITE: www.aacounty-md-bereavedparents.org Visit our website for information about our Chapter, Our Children, the Newsletter, upcoming events, and many other resources.

FACEBOOK: Join our private, members only, Chapter forum. In Facebook, search for “Anne Arundel County Chapter of the Bereaved Parents of the USA”. Our moderator will respond to requests to be included as a friend.