



Bereaved Parents of the USA
 Anne Arundel County Chapter
Offering Support, Care and Compassion

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"All the art of living lies in a fine mingling of letting go and holding on."
 ~ Havelock Ellis

Tyler Luke Martin

December 17, 1992 - May 27, 2022



Oh my precious son, I miss you so very much my heart hurts so bad. You made me a mother and I'm grateful for the many wonderful times and quality memories we had but you should still be here. I would have given my life for you to still be here. I promise to say your name everyday and to continue honoring you, helping others, and keeping your beautiful spirit and memory alive.

I love you Tyler 
 Mommas baby boy always and forever
 Kelly Bostic

Tyler Martin's Mom 

Cathryn Christiana Martha-Marie Tsu
May 27, 1997 - January 18, 2017

"Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access [by faith] to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we even boast of our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

"Don't Look Back, Daddy!"



Jason "Tyler" Crawford
June 11, 1999 - December 15, 2022

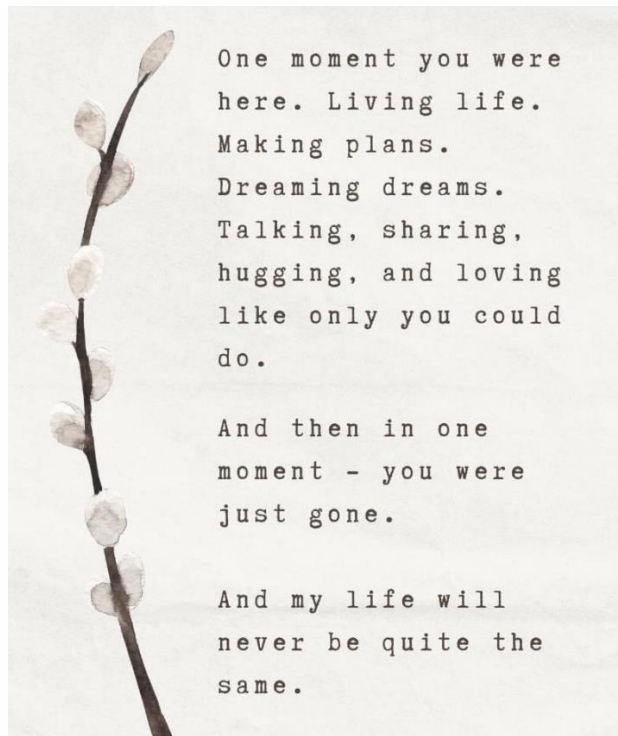


On this special day of yours, I want to wish you a very Happy Birthday in Heaven, Buddha! Forever 23.

The thought of yet another birthday without you Tyler brings tears to my eyes, but also a smile to my heart knowing that you are safe in Heaven above. I hope you have a wonderful birthday celebration with all your heavenly family and friends filled with all the things that you love. You are missed more than my words could ever say. I will always hold onto the 23 years of memories of our time together to bring me peace and comfort until we meet again someday.

If losing you has taught me anything, it's to make the most of every day, cherish every second, and to never take for granted the time we have with those we hold dear. Enjoy every sunrise and sunset because no one is promised tomorrow...or even the rest of today.

Love you Bud.
Love, Mom.



May 2, 2024 **NO in-person gathering**

There will be **NO In-Person gathering** in May.
Due to a shortage of volunteers to conduct the meeting.

A **ZOOM virtual gathering WILL** be held at 7:00 PM May 2.
Plan to join this meeting using the link sent in email.

Sharing Groups will always be part of our gatherings, both in-person and virtual.
We offer sharing groups for those attending for the First Time, the Newly Bereaved, those Further Along, Siblings, and Infant Loss.

For more general information on our monthly gatherings and using ZOOM, [see page 21](#) or contact our Chapter Leader Bob Burash, 410-551-5774, aabereavedparents@gmail.com

May 2, 2024, Virtual Monthly Gathering will focus on remembering our children on Mother’s Day.

Other important dates:

July 9, 2024, Core Group Meeting via ZOOM. [See page 21](#) for more information.

July 26 – 28, 2024, BPUSA National Gathering

October 5, 2024, Annual Memory Walk at Quiet Waters Park, Annapolis.

December 8, 2024: Annual Service of Remembrance, St Martins in-the-field Episcopal Church, Benfield Blvd, Severna Park

IN THIS ISSUE: Honoring; finding and giving support; volunteering; defining purpose:

A Mother’s fight against fentanyl poisoning and the drug epidemic. [See page 4 and page 24](#)

The Value of a support group and volunteering. [See pages 5 and 23](#)

Giving and receiving in our Chapter. [See page 7](#)

Finding Purpose after Grief. [See page 8.](#)

National Gathering: Our Chapter will refund the \$75 registration fee. [See page 26](#)

Two years ... and Fighting the Drug Epidemic

By Kelly Bostic, Tyler Martin's Mom

Two years ago on Friday, May 27, 2022 my life forever changed. I received a phone call that made my heart stop beating and took me to my knees into my youngest son David's arms.

My precious, loving, amazing and selfless son Tyler was no longer alive.

Since my son was poisoned to his death, I've been dedicating my time to spreading awareness about the drug poisoning crisis our country is now facing. I am focusing on protecting and preventing the youth from becoming victims. I know my son would expect and want me to do everything I can to save lives especially children's.

- Anne Arundel County Board of Education has agreed to partner with me to get a consistent program into our schools.
- I'm also working with the Maryland Opioid Overdose Response Team, and Corporal Brookman at the Anne Arundel County Police Dept to start another program as well..
- The petition I started to have Maryland implement the Drug Induce Homicide Law will be sponsored by Senator Dawn Gile and after meeting with Delegate Chris Tomlinson he would also like to sponsor. This will take place during the next session.
- I also have a petition to get Maryland to mandate appropriate and specific drug poisoning awareness into all schools.
- I am now an ambassador for Facing Fentanyl Now and the Drug Epidemic Memorial Wall. We continue to fight to save lives and share the importance of education and prevention.

As I fight to save lives in honor of my son I do everything I can to keep his beautiful and precious memory and spirit alive.

Finding this group has been a blessing to me. The first group I attended was the first time I probably laughed in over a year. I am grateful for all of you.

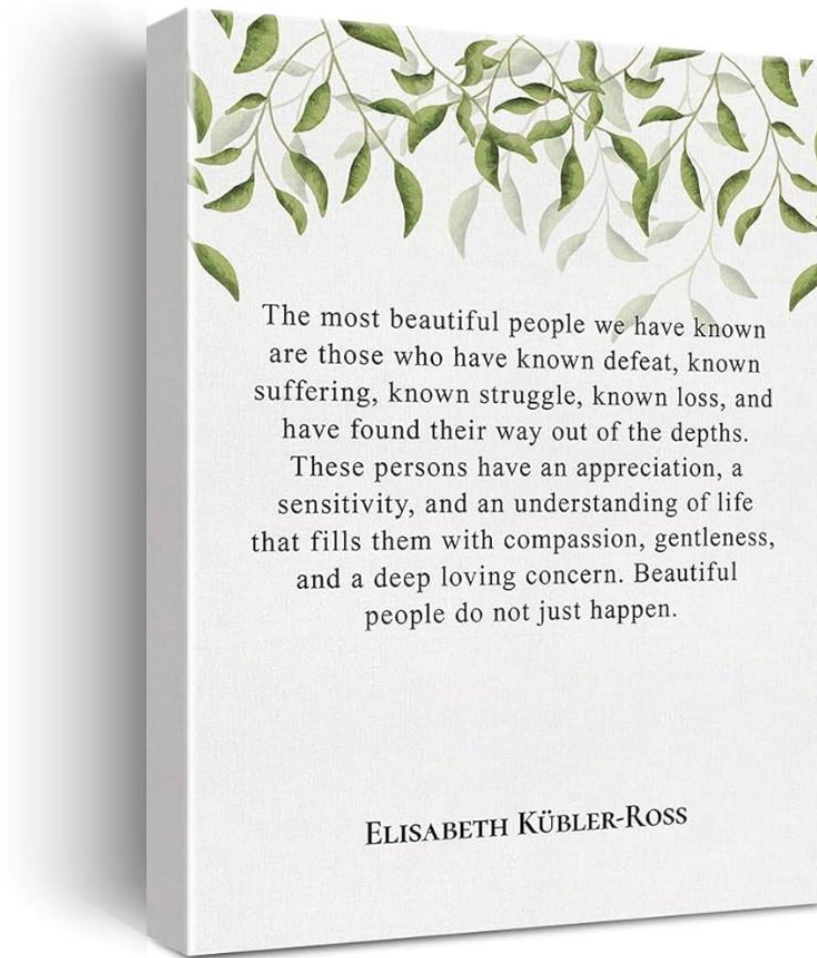
At one point I thought missing my son was literally going to be the death of me, but because of the strength I receive from my son and his angel friends , I will never stop fighting to save lives as long as I'm alive.

“Tyler, my precious son, May 27, 2024 will be two years since you've been gone. You are not here physically but I am so grateful for your presence. I feel you with me every single day and I love all the beautiful and silly messages you send to me. We will be together again so be ready for me son because once I get to heaven with you, I'm going to wrap my arms around you and never let go. I love you Tyler and like I always told you... no matter how old you were, or wherever you were you were always mama's baby boy and you still are. I'm so proud to be your mom!

I love and miss you so very much. You should still be here.”

Love,
Mom xoxo

Links to the two petitions, and contact information, see [page 24](#)



NEW SUPPORT:

“We’ve Found Some Kindred Spirits”

“Those who have suffered understand suffering and therefore extend their hand.”

- Patti Smith

“Being with others who are grieving has been important for us. We’ve found some kindred spirits” Patti said. *“At first I didn’t want to go, but I’m glad I did,”* Bob chimed in. *“Most meetings I don’t say much, I can’t. But being there matters. I’m somehow better afterwards.”*

Patty and Bob’s son Josh was their pride and joy. Their only child, he was lavished with all the love, energy, and attention they could muster. Josh did well, went to college, landed a good job, and got married. They were so proud.

Late one night driving home from a business trip, Josh fell asleep at the wheel. The resulting one-car accident claimed his life. Josh was 29.

“It’s an unthinkable nightmare. Honestly, if it wasn’t for our support group, we might not be functioning,” Patty shared, while Bob nodded in the background.

FINDING OTHERS WHO KNOW GRIEF IS IMPORTANT

Finding others who know loss can be affirming and comforting. If they've experienced the death of a child, we can look in their eyes and know "they get it." Grief connections like this can be positive and healing. When a child dies, we're thrown in a forbidding wilderness that seems virtually unpopulated. We're stunned, shattered, and feel very much alone.

The people start coming forward, or we happen to trip across them here and there. They too have lost a child. We can see grief we understand in their eyes and on their shoulders. Yes, they are in the same club.

Many attempt to hide their grief. They see loss and pain as a private thing. They steel themselves to endure this alone. They don't want to trouble anyone, or perhaps they simply don't trust that anyone will care enough to take them seriously.

Yet we don't have to endure this alone, and we weren't meant to. There are others with similar holes in their hearts, slogging along, stumbling forward. No one can ever fully understand how we feel. But there are those who can do more than sympathize. They can empathize.

Knowing support groups might be a good idea is one thing, but taking the step to call and get info is another. Getting in the car and actually showing up can be, well, terrifying. It seems like we're going to a scary place, back to the darkness of our loss, and we wonder if we can make it through without losing it.

This is a natural concern that can keep us isolated in our grief, and even intensify the process. Those who muster the courage to take the risk and go are usually glad they did. The benefits can be extraordinary.

Saying we know we're not alone is good. Actually discovering and experiencing fellow travelers along the up-and-down grief road can be relieving and comforting.

If you've tried a support group and it wasn't that helpful for you, please don't give up on future opportunities. Support groups can be like buying a new pair of shoes. You may have to try one or two before you find one that fits.

*If you're already attending a support group,
consider asking how you might be more involved or serve in the group somehow.*

From: *SHATTERED Surviving the Loss of a Child*
By Gary Roe

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Possibilities to serve our Chapter. See page 23.

If you go out and make some things happen, you will fill the world with hope.
Barack Obama

I'm a Giver and a Receiver. Are you?

By Carol Tomaszewski, Dave's Mom

“

"All of us, at some time or other, need help. Whether we're giving or receiving help, each one of us has something valuable to bring to this world. That's one of the things that connects us as neighbors--in our own way, each one of us is a giver and a receiver."

~ FRED ROGERS

Sometimes I wonder how I got to where I am in my life. I often look back over the years and realize that I didn't plan much in my life. It seems like it just happened... my jobs, my marriage, my children, the ups and downs along the way...weren't really planned. I certainly didn't plan to be a member of the Bereaved Parents "Club".

But thank goodness the Anne Arundel County Chapter members were there when I needed them. Losing my son turned my world upside down and inside out... you understand. I started going to Chapter meetings about nine months after Dave died. For the first months, I said little, was mostly in a fog, but knew that I had found a

group of people who could, and would, support me. So for several years I went to meetings and participated in sharing groups. I let others take care of me and help me deal with my grief. I knew I had found a safe haven that I would continue to attend for a very long time.

Then I was asked if I would coordinate the refreshments for the meetings, an easy task but one that I could do and lighten up someone else's load. After a while, I started attending Core Group Meetings, and began to understand the administration of the Chapter and the volunteer requirements. I'm not sure when I made the transition to being a life-long volunteer, in many different roles. Like I said, I didn't plan this... it just happened... along my grief journey, with the help of many others.

And now it's been 20 years of volunteering with the purpose of helping others. That's what I initially thought I was doing, but it turns out that I was also helping myself. The meetings, the activities, the volunteering, the friendships, these all have helped me to deal with my own grief. Each time I do something for the Chapter, I remember Dave and he enters my thoughts and calms my heart. Right now, as I write this, he is standing beside me. I can feel his hand on my shoulder and his love in my heart.

That's my story. So far, anyway. I will be stepping down as Newsletter Editor in January 2025, after 5 years. And I expect another opportunity will come my way.

What will your story be? Will you volunteer with our Chapter too? I hope so, because you will be helping yourself much more than you can imagine.

I hope our Chapter has brought you the compassion and comfort you seek.

I hope you will continue to attend and open your heart to volunteering, knowing that you will be helping others and at the same time helping yourself.

Reach out to Bob Burash, our Chapter Leader, or me, Carol Tomaszewski, Newsletter Editor, to talk about our volunteer needs.

Help us keep our Chapter strong and able to continue to support newly bereaved parents... and yourself.

Finding Purpose within Your Grief

From our Chapter Leader, Bob Burash

What do I do with My Grief Pain?

When we learn that our child has died, the pain of grief is so overwhelming that we do not know how we are going to survive the next moment. Over the course of months, we learn that not only will we survive, but we seek ways to use our pain to help others - the newly bereaved.

Parents ask, how can I memorialize my child? We plant trees, design butterfly gardens, build memorial walls, craft memorial pillows, author articles, start a scholarship fund, seek legislation to protect our children – the list is unending.

Are you creative? Do you enjoy the challenge of putting pieces together and creating a finished product that is a pleasure to see? Do you want to offer help and hope to others? Are you someone who would like to volunteer to help the chapter, but you do not want to be in front of the group?

There is an opportunity for you - newsletter editor.

Carol has been our editor since 2020 – this is the second time for her (2004 – 2008). Between these times, she was our chapter leader (2014 – 2018), she planned our annual one-day conferences, she is our Service of Remembrance Coordinator and program designer, she is our angel gown project coordinator, she is a sharing group facilitator and much more. She needs to step down as editor by the end of 2024.

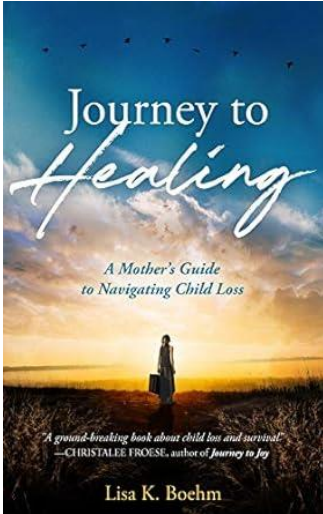
Carol will collaborate with you for the rest of the year, sharing with you the mechanics of putting together a newsletter, and will be available afterwards to guide you through your first newsletters. If you are interested in learning more about the position of newsletter editor, Carol can be reached at ctomaszewski74@gmail.com and she will be happy to chat with you.

Consider your grief-pain and what you can do to turn it into purpose.

This newsletter has mentioned several opportunities for you to support our Chapter, but there are many other ways to help us too. **See page 23** Please contact Bob Burash, aabereavedparents@gmail.com, 410-551-5774, for information on the possibilities of turning some of your grief pain into a purpose.

Journey to HEALING: A Mother's Guide to Navigating Child Loss

by [Lisa K. Boehm](#)



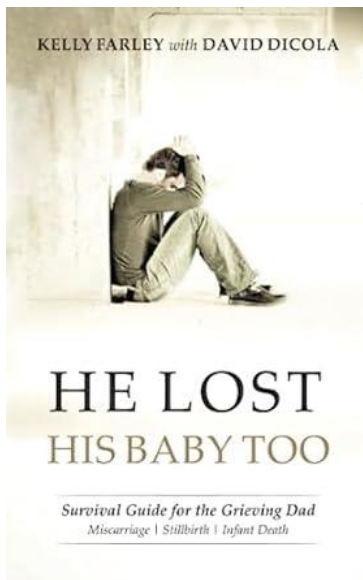
Discover hope and HEALING after child loss.

Do you feel lost and alone since your child died? Are you unsure how to move forward? Journey to HEALING answers the fears and doubts experienced by bereaved mothers who want to learn to live again and offers honest, heartfelt advice.

Author Lisa K Boehm shows you how to:

- Cope with your heartache
- Overcome self-limiting beliefs about HEALING
- Determine helpful strategies that work best for you
- Find peace and happiness
- Feel hope and comfort, knowing you are not alone

The personal experiences of thirty-two mothers shared in this book will leave you feeling connected and hopeful so you can bravely carry on and turn your hurt into HEALING, starting now.



He Lost His Baby Too

Survival Guide for the Grieving Dad

By Kelly Farley <https://www.grievingdads.com/>

This book was written specifically for fathers grappling with the unbearable aftermath of losing a baby. It is all too easy for a bereaved father to succumb to a haunting sense of isolation after such a loss. However, within these pages lies a lifeline—a survival guide infused with wisdom, providing a roadmap through the complicated path of grief.

In the wake of a tragic loss—whether it be a miscarriage, a stillbirth, or the untimely passing of an infant—this invaluable resource unravels the layers of anguish that overwhelm grieving fathers. Written by a grieving dad, this book offers unflinching honesty and poignant insight, it also delves into the raw pain


that accompanies such a profound loss, assuring these men that their emotions, however overwhelming, are both valid and shared by others who have walked a similar path.

Quote by Jessica Rios
Mothers Grieving the Loss of
their Child



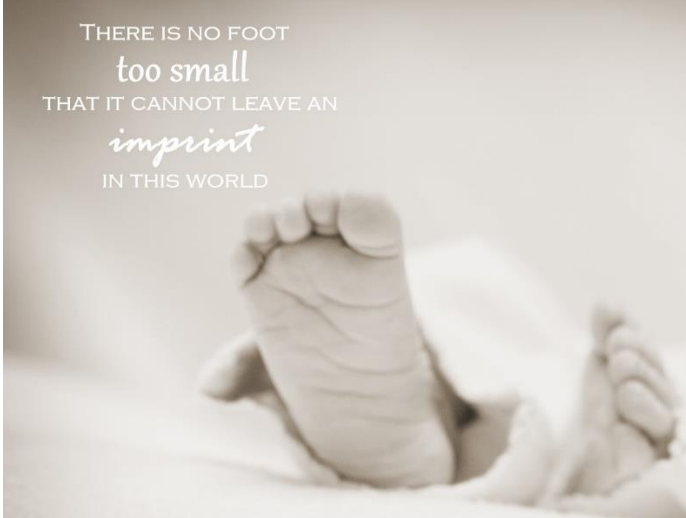
*“The love between a Mother
and her child is forever. No
matter the distance or time
that has passed between
them”*

“
**There is no expiration
date on the love between
a father and his child.**



JENNIFER WILLIAMSON

THERE IS NO FOOT
too small
THAT IT CANNOT LEAVE AN
imprint
IN THIS WORLD



MEMORIAL
★ ★ ★ **DAY** ★ ★ ★
REMEMBER AND HONOR



June is the griefiest month

What's Your Grief wyg@whatsyourgrief.com

Okay, maybe not for you, but it is for me. You probably have your own griefiest month(s). Because grief is like that. And seasons are like that. Years and decades can pass and yet our bodies somehow still 'know'. The grief, that grief that always remains a part of us but sometimes lies well below the surface, can suddenly start bubbling. The sights and sounds of a new season, the days passing on the calendar, they can cycle the grief through us. For me, no matter how long it has been, no matter how many other losses I've lived through, June is still the month when I feel my grief.

Quick sidenote reassurance, for whoever needs it: hard grief days, even years later, aren't a sign that you're failing at grief. It isn't some big red flag that your grief isn't "recovered" (because **grief isn't something meant to be "recovered" from**). It's a sign that you're human and that you're doing exactly what you're supposed to do - loving someone, missing someone, allowing yourself to feel your feelings when they come up.

And OF COURSE they'll come up. I love the words of Katja Faber Argena, whose son Alex was tragically murdered. Of her grief she says, "it is as vast, catastrophic, and life-changing as it was the first day I had to continue living without my child. Yet, somehow, I've learned to live with the loss and to grow from it. What's helped is a newly grown, invisible-to-others grief muscle. It's this that has made the difference between lying in bed incapacitated and living again -- it's what helps me carry my grief".

But just like at the gym, our muscles cooperate some days more than others. Sometimes they are weary from the weight they've been carrying. Some days, some months, the world around us heaps new weight onto us, and that grief muscle shakes and buckles. This is no failure. This is reality. This is also how the muscle continues to grow.

Okay, back to June. My griefiest month.

Father's Day and my dad's deathiversary happen a week apart, each and every June. So it only seems appropriate that I be the one to write the Father's Day edition of the WYG newsletter. But don't worry, even if you aren't a father who has had a child die or a child who has lost a father die, no need to close your email just yet. We're talking about all sorts of things this week . . . Father's Day. Deathiversaries. The abiding universality of human suffering. Ya know, the usual.

This week last year I was at my college reunion. revisiting the place where I lived at 18 when my dad died, the place where I spent the next 3 years of my life & grief. From the trip came a wave of memories that I hadn't thought of in some time, but have thought of many times in the months since.

The summer of my first year of college I committed to working for one of my professors that coming summer, helping with an International Summer Program on the Holocaust. It would be on my campus, with students and professors coming from the US, Germany, Poland, and Israel. I had no idea that by summer everything in my life would have changed so completely.

The program started just weeks after my dad's unexpected-expected death (we need a word for that, don't we?). Though I imagine someone tried to talk me out of it (I don't remember) I drove myself the two hours back to campus, moved into a closet I'd subleased in a house full of strangers, and started my summer job. What else was I going to do with myself?

On my 2nd day, after learning about my dad's death on day one (*surprise! Your 18-year-old summer employee is here, ready to work in the throes of acute grief!*), my professor gave me a book - **The Father by Sharon Olds**. It is a book Olds wrote about the illness and death of her father, a man with whom she had a complicated relationship (to put it mildly). She captures the complexity of life, death, and grief again and again, poem after poem. Love and hate, disbelief and poignancy, devastation and absurdity, and all the rest. It was my first real window into what it meant to give grief words.

The program got underway and I was surrounded by students who had traveled around the world to study in this Holocaust program, many because of deep connection to the Holocaust and their own intergenerational trauma. The older I get and the more time I spend with grief, the more I've come to understand how significant that short summer job was to my own grief and to my own life from there.

I always come back to one particular day. After dropping a van full of students off for a seminar at the Holocaust Museum in DC, I parked and decided to use my waiting time to walk through the museum. It wasn't my first visit - at 14 I had been deeply affected by a school field trip.

But walking through the museum in the wake of my father's death, it was like I was experiencing everything for the first time. I felt in places I hadn't known existed in myself at 14, before I'd known real loss. Maybe they hadn't existed back then. Perhaps they were places that had been carved into me by personal sorrow.



I remember walking into the room with the shoes, standing silently in front of them, weeping. If you have been to the Holocaust Museum, you know these shoes. The shoes are from the Majdanek camp. As the exhibit explains, it was the first major concentration camp to be encountered and liberated by Soviet forces. The shoes were among the first haunting evidence of Nazi crimes and lives lost.

I can remember, even now, feeling overwhelmed by how immense my personal grief felt and simultaneously dazed by how tiny and insignificant it felt. The weight of my dad's death somehow amplified the incomprehensible enormity of the deaths of 6 million Jews and the 60 million+ lives lost in World War 2. Self-absorbed as it sounds, my own grief became this lens that somehow brought these fathers, mothers, and children so clearly into focus.

You may be wondering if going off for this job just weeks after my dad's death was a good idea. In theory, no. But in practice it was one of the best bad decisions I've made. At 18, an age when you're still so much the center of your own universe, I was thrust out of it and into the shadow of things so much larger than myself. The part of me that had wanted to scream "why me?" for weeks was faced with an answer from the universe: "why not you?".

Unexpectedly, that answer became a buoy. In the losses I have gone through since, it has remained one of my lifelines. For each of us, our personal grief is simultaneously the greatest of tragedies - an entire universe of despair - and a single drop in the ocean of human anguish. Even now, as a fully formed adult, it feels hard to reconcile and yet strangely comforting.

For many years, I assumed it was odd to find comfort in this paradox. Then in 2014 I attended the national Compassionate Friends conference, the peer support program for every family experiencing the death of a son or a daughter, a brother or a sister, or a grandchild. I attended the session of a bereaved mother speaking about the death of her three-year-old daughter. She described an unfathomable aftermath of court proceedings, the dissolution of her marriage, her feelings of isolation, and crisis of purpose.

She then shared a moment when things pivoted in her own grief. While reading something completely unrelated to grief or her loss, she stumbled on a statistic: "the child mortality rate in the United States, for children under the age of five, was 462.9 deaths per thousand births in 1800. This means that for every thousand babies born in 1800, over 46 percent did not make it to their fifth birthday". This led her to start researching infant and child mortality, stunned as she tried to absorb the reality that until her great-grandmothers generation and for all of human history before that, you were significantly more likely to be a bereaved parent than not.

With hesitation, she described the comfort she found in this realization. She crunched numbers, considering what it must have felt like for women to take such an unimaginable gamble with each pregnancy. I could see in her face the worry that no one in this seminar of other bereaved parents would understand her. She shared that staring at these numbers recontextualized everything for her, connecting her loss to the broader history of loss, finding solace in knowing she was simply a grain of sand on the beach of human suffering. I can't say if others understood her, but I know that I did.

Viewing our personal losses within the history of human suffering does not make our personal grief any less painful. But it does change the stories we tell ourselves about our losses. In the years since that conference, I have realized just how many people have tapped into the odd consolation found in the universality of human suffering. Perhaps most popularly, bereaved mom and resiliency expert Lucy Hone in her viral TEDtalk "Three Secrets of Resilient People" (now viewed on YouTube more than 38 million times).

She describes something from the research that she experienced in her grief following her 12 year old daughter's death, "resilient people get that shit happens. They know that suffering is part of life. This doesn't mean they actually welcome it in, they're not actually delusional. Just that when the tough times come, they seem to know that suffering is part of every human existence. And knowing this stops you from feeling discriminated against when the tough times come. Never once did I find myself thinking, "Why me?" In fact, I remember thinking, "Why not me? Terrible things happen to you, just like they do everybody else. That's your life now, time to sink or swim." The real tragedy is that not enough of us seem to know this any longer".

June is my griefiest month. That means absolutely everything and also nothing at all.

Published with permission of What's Your Grief.

Our Children Remembered May 2024

Jordan Edward Ambrozewicz
Son of Steven and Beverly Ambrozewicz
May 27, 1993 - May 10, 1995

Jonathan David Aorilio
Son of Tracie Aorilio
May 18, 1996 - August 28, 2018

Dora Baldwin
Daughter of Aurelia Ferraro
December 11, 1964 - May 2, 2012

Donald Gordon Barrett
Son of Kathy and Don Barrett
May 14, 1976 - May 3, 2002

De'Andre Castro
Son of Dalia and Victor Vega
May 3, 1998 - March 9, 2022

Anthony Raymond Cesario
Son of Lisa Cesario
March 25, 1989 - May 1, 2017

Pamela Grace Clair
Daughter of Doris and Charles Clair
June 3, 1954 - May 11, 1984

Angela Rose Cook
Daughter of Nancy Cook
April 13, 1988 - May 22, 2022

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

Clay Edward Derderian
Son of Mary Bannon and James Derderian
December 14, 2005 - May 16, 2021

Michelle Marie Dyke
Daughter of Marie Dyke
May 19, 1975 - November 10, 1992

Jeffrey Arthur Elder, Jr.
Son of Kymn and Brendan Burns McFetridge
May 17, 1986 - March 22, 2018

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

John "El" Ferraro
Brother of Aurelia Ferraro
January 30, 1951 - May 10, 2022

Andrew Thomas "Drew" Gawthrop
Son of Brenda Gawthrop
May 25, 1990 - August 12, 2002

Ian David Guckes
Son of Stacey and Fred Guckes
May 18, 2000 - August 8, 2022

Matthew Gordon Haines
Son of Gordon and Peggy Haines
May 3, 1977 - July 4, 1996

Charles Lee Holmes. Sr
Son of Charlene Kvech
July 4, 1958 - May 22, 2019

Michael Warren "Mikey" Hugel, Jr.
Son of Theresa Sheehan
May 22, 1986 - May 18, 2016

Brian Keith Jones
Son of Leroy and Jeanne Jones
May 22, 1974 - May 22, 1974

Aaron Gene Marshall
Son of Alycia Marshall
May 26, 1996 - April 11, 2016

Tyler Luke Martin
Son of Kelly Bostic
December 17, 1992 - May 27, 2022

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

Daniel "Dan" Michael Milord
Son of Mike Milord
July 15, 1982 - May 5, 2004

Katherine Sarah Morris
Daughter of Marguerite Morris
March 11, 1990 - May 6, 2012

Shane Aaron Morris II
Son of Michelle and Shane Morris
June 16, 1992 - May 10, 2015

Tyler John Orsulak
Son of Richard and Sandra Orsulak
December 19, 1989 - May 14, 2021

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

Celeste Emelia Perry
Daughter of Erica Truske
November 13, 2017-May 2, 2023

Samantha Ann Rankin
Daughter of Vickie and Bart Rankin
November 19, 1988 - May 31, 2010

Wendy Dawn Saunders
Daughter of Ronald and Aljuana Saunders
May 20, 1972 - May 14, 1998

James Benjamin Scheff
Son of James and Gail Scheff
May 9, 1979 - June 1, 2012

Brandon Michael Sisler
Son of Laura Sisler
May 7, 1993 - October 15, 2011

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

Tori Danielle Stitely
Daughter of Tawny Stitely-Lopez
May 21, 1985 - November 26, 2012

Christopher Lewis Strader
Son of Lewis and Peggy Strader
May 27, 1979 - June 21, 1997

Cathryn Christiana Tsu
Daughter of Horace and Cynthia Tsu
May 27, 1997 - January 18, 2017

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

Matthew Tyler Williams
Son of Marta and Chuck Williams
May 8, 1986 - January 13, 2011



Our Children Remembered June 2024

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

Stokely Malcolm Andrews
Son of Mari and Malcolm Andrews
June 23, 2015 - June 13, 2017

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

Oscar William Atha-Nicholls
Son of Richard and Amy Atha-Nicholls
June 2, 2018 - June 2, 2018

Hope Marie Butler
Daughter of Wayne and Deanna Butler
June 12, 2021 - June 18, 2021

Pamela Grace Clair
Daughter of Doris and Charles Clair
June 3, 1954 - May 11, 1984

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

Jason Tyler Crawford
Son of Jennifer Michelle and Jason Crawford
June 11, 1999 - December 15, 2022

Jack Turner Dumont
Son of Jill and Dave Dumont
June 26, 2003 - June 26, 2003

Jonathan David Elkins
Son of Viki Foster
June 16, 1987 - June 5, 2017

Alice Engleman
Daughter of Elizabeth Engleman
November 20, 1997 - June 21, 2011

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

Rowan Genevieve Ethridge
Daughter of Kim and Jeff Ethridge
October 8, 1995 – June 8, 2023

Thomas James Geoghegan
Son of Maureen Geoghegan
November 13, 1969 - June 30, 2013

Emilio Juan Honesto
Son of Alexandra Honesto
June 29, 2010 - March 26, 2011

Scott Andrew Katsikas
Son of Linda Snead
June 9, 1980 - August 13, 2004

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

Charlotte Belinda Lauren
Daughter of Peter and Robin Lauren
June 19, 1987 - December 19, 2021

James Arthur Leese
Son of Judith and John Leese
July 27, 1960 - June 25, 2013

Deana Jean Marie Lenz
Daughter of Patricia and James Lenz
June 5, 2009 - June 6, 2009

Nicholas Paul Liberatore
Son of Larry and Pat Liberatore
September 27, 1980 - June 9, 1997

Brian Richard Melcher
Son of Norma and Donald Melcher
Brother of Cheryl Lewis
August 30, 1960 - June 14, 2002

Cody Thomas Moczulski
Son of Robin Moczulski
September 19, 1993 - June 13, 2010

Shane Aaron Morris II
Son of Michelle and Shane Morris
June 16, 1992 - May 10, 2015

Shannon Marie Nuth
Daughter of Patty and Joe Nuth
Sister of Bridget Rice
June 25, 1991 - June 20, 2016

Kevin Alan O'Brien
Son of Lorrie and Keith O'Brien
December 24, 1986 - June 29, 2012

Sarah Elizabeth Patterson
Daughter of Cindy Patterson
June 28, 1987 - September 19, 2006

Krystal Brooke Pearce
Daughter of Douglas Pearce
June 1, 1995 - October 3, 2013

James Benjamin Scheff
Son of James and Gail Scheff
May 9, 1979 - June 1, 2012

David C. Schmier
Son of Gordon and Virginia Schmier
June 26, 1964 - February 10, 1992

Hailey Anne Shipe
Daughter of Kristen and Mike Dickenson
March 18, 2002 - June 25, 2022

Kelsey R Silva
Daughter of Kristen Silva
Daughter of Francisco Martins Silva
October 28, 1991 - June 16, 2011

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

Daniel John Sohovich II
Son of Vera Sohovich
January 26, 1988 - June 9, 2011

Christopher Lewis Strader
Son of Lewis and Peggy Strader
May 27, 1979 - June 21, 1997

Cindy Sue Walker
Daughter of Edward and Phyllis Frazier-James
June 22, 1959 - June 21, 2010

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



CREDO

OF THE ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY CHAPTER OF THE BEREAVED PARENTS OF THE USA

We are not alone.

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 are the aunts and uncles whose cherished nieces and nephews are gone.

We are here to support and care for each other.

We are united by the love we share for our children.

We have learned that children die at any age and from many causes.

Just as our children died at all ages, we too are all ages.

We share our pain, our lost dreams and our hopes for the future.

We are a diverse family.

We realize death does not discriminate against race, creed, color, income or social standing

We are at many stages of recovery, and sometimes fluctuate among them.

Some of us have a deep religious faith, some of us have lost our faith, while some of us are still adrift.

The emotions we share are anger, guilt and a deep abiding sadness.

But regardless of the emotions we bring to our meetings,

it is the sharing of grief and love for our children that helps us to

be better today than we were yesterday.

We reach for that inner peace as we touch each other's lives and place our handprint on each other's hearts.

Our hope for today is to survive the day;

Our dream for tomorrow is gentle memories and perhaps to smile.

We are not alone.

We walk together with hope in our hearts

DONATIONS may be made in memory of your child
to offset the costs of our local chapter's events and communications.
Your donations provide the core resource, actually the only resource, for our Chapter.
Without your donations, we could not continue to provide the support that is so important to
all of us as we travel along our grief journey.
Thank you for your thoughtful generosity.

Newsletter & Website Sponsor Donations

Barbara & Robert Bessling in memory of Rickie Bessling.
Michelle Crawford in memory of Jason "Tyler" Crawford.
Horace Tsu in memory of Catherine Tsu.

Digital Donations can now be make through ZELLE.

Send Money with Zelle®

Scan in your banking app to pay.

Bereaved Parents Of The Usa



Our Chapter can now accept donations through ZELLE. Scan this QR code, locate your bank and follow the directions to set up ZELLE with your bank.

If you already have ZELLE through your bank, add our contact information and use email aabereavedparents@gmail.com.

If you are new to ZELLE, you are welcome to try a very small donation to verify that this works for you. You should see the withdrawal in your account statement, and possibly get an email telling you the transfer was successful.

CHAPTER GATHERINGS and MEETINGS

CHAPTER GATHERING SUMMARY: In-person gatherings are scheduled for the first Thursday of each month at 7 PM in the parlor of Calvary United Methodist Church, 301 Rowe Blvd, Annapolis, MD 21401.

The ZOOM Virtual Gatherings are being scheduled at the same time, but during 2024, will be separate from the in-person gathering. We serve many folks out-of-state, out-of-area, those who are no longer able to or comfortable driving at night or live too far away and for many other reasons.

Contact Bob Burash, Chapter Leader, at aabereavedparents@gmail.com , 410-551-5774.

WHAT TO EXPECT AT OUR CHAPTER GATHERINGS: *Gatherings are open to anyone grieving the death of a child.* 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 are 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 along this grief journey.

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 2-3 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 GROUP INFORMATION: Sharing groups are facilitated by fellow Chapter members and are completely confidential. We may offer the following sharing groups, depending on the number of attendees, facilitators and discussion requirements.

First Time Attendees Sharing Group: Coming to a Chapter Meeting for the first time can be daunting but listening and/or sharing will be helpful. This group is usually a smaller group to allow for more discussion of issues pertaining to very early grief and may include those attending for the first three times. We ask that you come to three meetings to truly grasp the benefit of learning, sharing and support from others.

Newly Bereaved Sharing Group: During the early years of grief, the issues that may be discussed will focus on the issues facing participants today. This group may include anyone who is feeling newly bereaved, regardless of the time on their grief journey.

Sibling Sharing Group: Parents, invite and encourage your children to join our monthly gathering and participate in the Sibling sharing group. Amanda Hughes, Sibling Support Coordinator, Anne Arundel County Chapter, BPUSA, will facilitate a Sibling Sharing Group during our monthly gatherings. Grieving siblings are encouraged to join and share with Amanda.

For more information, please contact Amanda at alrhalbach@gmail.com .

Spanish Speaking Support: Contact Irene Belcher, 443-824-2638, Belcherirene@yahoo.com .

For more information on our Chapter Gatherings, and/or to participate via ZOOM, please contact our Chapter Leader, Bob Burash, 410-551-5774, aabereavedparents@gmail.com

Using ZOOM is easier than you may think. You can use your smart phone, iPad, or PC. You will receive an email with the link to the meeting, and when it’s time for the meeting just click on the link. You will be in a

“waiting room” and the host will let you “in”. **Our meetings are private so only those who receive the email with the link can participate.** Here’s a link for a tutorial on how to join a meeting:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-How-Do-I-Join-A-Meeting->

CORE GROUP MEETINGS: WHAT IS THE CORE GROUP: The Core Group consists of anyone who is interested in the ongoing administration of our Chapter. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend. We are always looking for new ideas and programs. A core group meeting typically meets from 7 pm until 9 pm, once a quarter. We discuss finances, upcoming activities, plan the annual walk, and service of remembrance, suggest programs for the monthly gatherings, and address any number of issues that may come before the group.

Please join us. We welcome new Core Group Members.

July 9, 2024 Core Group: Virtual ZOOM Meeting starting at 7:00 PM. Anyone interested in participating, contact Bob Burash at aabereavedparents@gmail.com to be included on the email invitation. ***Planning for 2024 monthly gatherings, finances, volunteer requirements, and special events will be primary topics.***

So please join us and help provide support to our grieving families..

Newsletter and Website Information

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES:

Encourage you to become a contributor. Writing, blogging, journaling has a way of cleansing your soul and helping you heal. Or when you come across a graphic, proverb or saying, that touches your heart, please forward them to me. Let me know what topics you would like to see addressed in our newsletter. *This newsletter is published for you, so I ask you to make it your own. Whatever you are feeling or thinking will be useful to someone else.* Please consider submitting an article, letter, poem or graphic for inclusion in the newsletter. *Words that are meaningful to you will also be meaningful to others.*

Provide this to Carol at ctomaszewski74@gmail.com by **June 15 for the July / August newsletter**

SPONSORSHIP of newsletter and website: *This is a wonderful way to honor your child’s memory and share them with all of us, and at the same time contribute to our Chapter. The donation for sponsoring the newsletter is \$75.00 and the website is \$25.00. Either sign up at a meeting or contact Mary Redmiles, Sponsorship Coordinator, at 301-704-8086 or mary.redmiles@gmail.com*

- For the newsletter, submit a photograph and a short memorial to ctomaszewski74@gmail.com to be included at the beginning of the newsletter, by **June 15 for the July / August newsletter**
- For the website, a sponsor’s link will be put on the home page that will open your child’s photo from the Our Children section of the website, if you have given permission to include a photo on our website. If no photo is available, your child’s name will still be included on the website home page.
- **Make check payable to Anne Arundel County Chapter, BPUA.**
And mail to PO Box 6280, Annapolis MD 21401.
Or use ZELLE through your bank to aabereavedparents@gmail.com

COPYRIGHT: We reserve the right to limit distribution of the newsletter and/or specific articles. Distribution to family and friends is permitted and encouraged. Please contact our Editor, Carol at ctomaszewski74@gmail.com or Chapter Leader, Bob at aabereavedparents@gmail.com before widely distributing the newsletter or using any content in any manner.

PRIVACY POLICY: Our Chapter is cognizant of privacy concerns related to our children. We ask that each family provide written consent to include your child's name, photo, birth date and death date in our newsletter, on our website and other published listings of Our Children, such as for the Service of Remembrance. If you don't see your child's name included in our publications, and would like them to be included, please contact **Bob Burash, 410-551-5774, aabereavedparents@gmail.com**, use subject: Privacy

ACCURACY: We make every effort to ensure the accurate spelling of your child's name and his/her date of birth and date of death. If any of this information is incorrect or your child's name does not appear in the newsletter, let us know.

CHAPTER CONTACTS:

Chapter leader: Bob Burash, 410-551-5774, aabereavedparents@gmail.com

Treasurer: Joe Belcher

Refreshments: Sandi Burash, 410-551-5774

Librarian: Beth Mucciariaro

Programs/Sponsorships: Mary Redmiles 301-704-8086, mary.redmiles@gmail.com

Newsletter: Carol and Rick Tomaszewski, 410-519-8448, ctomaszewski74@gmail.com

Sibling Coordinator: Amanda Halbach Hughes, 443-994-3855, alrhalbach@gmail.com

Facebook Administrators: June Erickson juneerickson@aol.com,

Tawny Lopez torismom444@gmail.com

Spanish Speaking Support: Irene Belcher, 443-824-2638, Belcherirene@yahoo.com .

Special Greeting Cards: Linda Khadem, lindakhadem@icloud.com

Our Anne Arundel County Chapter, Bereaved Parents USA, is always here for you.
Do not hesitate to call one of our phone friends, email someone, or go on Facebook.

Phone friends to call if you need to talk:

Barbara Bessling (410) 761-9017, bebessling@aol.com,

Mary Redmiles (301) 704-8086

Noel Castiglia (410) 974 1626

Ann Castiglia (410) 757-5129

Paul Balasic (443) 566 0193

Email: aabereavedparents@gmail.com

On **Facebook:** search for "Anne Arundel County Chapter of the Bereaved Parents of the USA"

CHAPTER RESOURCES:

OUR WEBSITE: <http://www.aacounty-md-bereavedparents.org/HTML/Home.htm>

Visit our website for information about our Chapter, Our Children, the Newsletter, upcoming events, and many other resources. ***We need a Web Master, someone to update the website monthly.***

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

RESOURCE INFORMATION: Any and all resource information provided in our Newsletter, Website or Emails, is for your information and reference. Our Chapter does not necessarily endorse the views, recommendations, guidance, or advertising associated with these resources.

Anne Arundel County Chapter, BPUSA resources:

<http://www.aacounty-md-bereavedparents.org/HTML/Resources.htm>

<http://www.aacounty-md-bereavedparents.org/HTML/OtherChapters/OtherChapterMap.htm>

<http://www.aacounty-md-bereavedparents.org/PDFPages/BPUSACHAPTERBROCHURE.pdf>

National **BPUSA** also provides a list of resources on their website: <https://www.bereavedparentsusa.org/>

LIBRARY: Our Chapter library is once again available during the in-person meetings. This is a wonderful resource with many titles available for you to borrow as long as you want.

Also, **BOOK DONATIONS** are a wonderful way to support other bereaved parents and can be made in memory of your child. A book that was helpful to you will be helpful to another bereaved parent. Contact Sandi and Bob at aabereavedparents@gmail.com to return books or to arrange to donate a book.

WELCOME to our NEW LIBRARIAN:

Beth Mucciariaro is a Nurse Case Manager/Certified Grief Counselor at the Department of Aging and Disabilities for Anne Arundel County.

OTHER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

In-Person Meetings: Greeter, Reader, Opening, Presenter, Facilitator, Refreshments

ZOOM Meetings: Technical support, Presenter, Facilitator

Newsletter and Website Sponsorship Coordinator

Newsletter Editor

Website Master

Annual Memory Walk volunteers

Service of Remembrance volunteers

Core Group Member

Contact Bob Burash 410-551-5774, aabereavedparents@gmail.com for more information

BITS AND PIECES OF INFORMATION

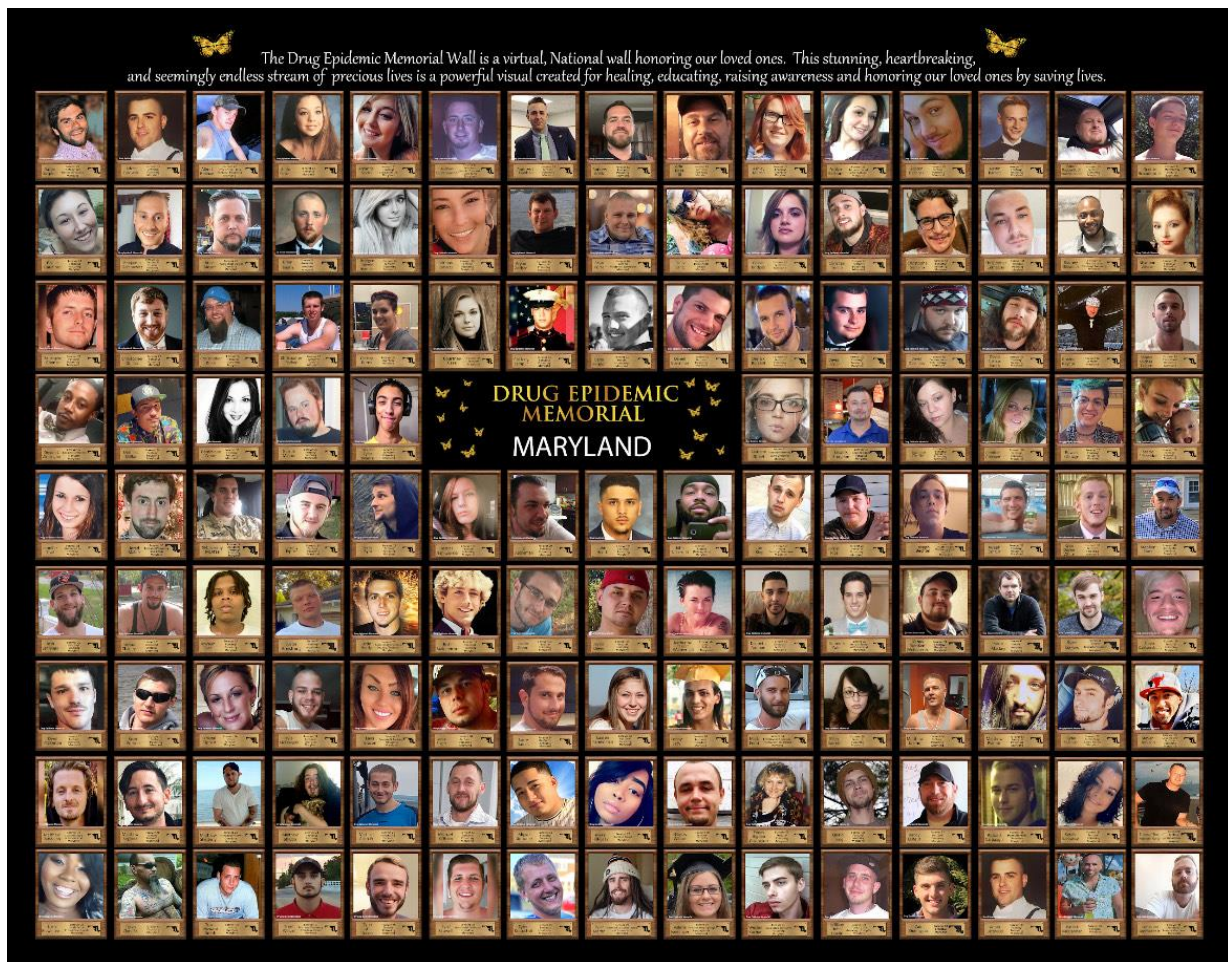
Fighting the Drug Epidemic – Kelly Bostic

Here are the **links to the petitions** if you want to read what they are about. Anyone is welcome to write letters or emails to the decision makers listed in the petitions.

https://www.change.org/Make_Maryland_Safer

https://www.change.org/Help_Protect_Our_Youth

I'm an **Ambassador now for The Drug Epidemic Memorial Wall and Facing Fentanyl Now**, and we have banners we make for each state. I have our MD banner on my porch. Order from www.48hourprint.com



Feel free to reach out to me. 443-994-1286 kellybostic75@gmail.com

Kelly Bostic

Tyler's mom  

Ambassador for Facing Fentanyl and the Drug Epidemic Memorial Wall

Chesapeake Life Center

<https://www.hospicechesapeake.org/family-support/about-chesapeake-life-center/>

Chesapeake Life Center's grief support is available to anyone in our community who is grieving the loss of a loved one, regardless of their relationship to hospice or the type of loss. While grief is a universal experience, the experience of loss is unique for each person. Even when two people are grieving for the same person, the way they feel and act out their grief can be very different. Although sometimes folks feel like they are "going crazy" when they are grieving, most are grieving quite normally and just need some support and a listening ear to reassure them that they are going to be okay. Click on [family resources](#) to find books and websites with helpful information to assist in coping.

Bereavement Camps

Join us for a full weekend overnight camp experience for **children and teens ages 6 to 18** who have experienced the death of a loved one. With a full team of counselors and trained volunteers, campers will participate in activities focused on memorializing their loved ones, learning coping skills in small groups, and using integrative arts to help kids express their grief. Of course, this also will include fun camp activities, like swimming, field games, ropes course and more.

August 9-11, 2024

Cost: \$100 (Scholarships Available)

**Arlington Echo Outdoor Education Center
975 Indian Landing Rd
Millersville, MD 21108**

Registration is required. Please fill out the Camper Interest Form linked below to start the registration process.

We are also in need of volunteers to help make Camp Nabi a success! If you're interested, please fill out the Volunteer Interest Form linked below or reach out to us with questions.

Questions? Please contact us at 888-501-7077 or griefinfo@chesapeakelifecenter.org.



Bereaved Parents of the USA

NATIONAL GATHERING CONFERENCE

July 26 – July 28

HERNDON, VIRGINIA

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

 BECKY RUSSELL Weepyseeds	 ROGER MORONEY Alive Alone
 MICHELE BENYO Good Grief Parenting	 MANDY EATON Adrienne's Fund

Bereaved Parents of the USA

<https://www.bereavedparentsusa.org/annual-conference/annual-gathering-conference/>

Find information on registering online. Early bird registration closes June 1. Our Chapter will reimburse the \$75 early registration fee, just let Bob Burash know you are attending. There is also a link for Hotel accommodations at the Hilton Washington Dulles Airport at a rate of \$94 per night.

The National Gathering is a wonderful opportunity to come together with our extended community of bereaved parents. There will be keynote speakers and many workshops to choose from each day. The Gathering provides a forum for you to connect with other bereaved parents, attend workshops that are of interest to you, and hear keynote speakers who will touch your heart.

Join Us: <http://grasp-help.org/grasp-conference-2024/>

When: September 12-14, 2024*

Where: Sheraton Albuquerque Uptown – New Mexico



GRASP Healing Hearts, Changing Paths

Passing) Conference provides a supportive platform for individuals navigating the complex terrain of grief following the loss of a loved one due to substance use. With a dual focus on addressing personal grief and advocating for drug policy reform, the conference offers support for those navigating grief and a

desire to work towards change in drug policies. Attendees engage in discussions, workshops, and networking opportunities aimed at fostering understanding, support, and resilience in the face of loss. Emphasizing harm reduction and compassion, the conference serves as a vital forum for promoting drug policies that prioritize human welfare and dignity.

Registration

- Early Bird Registration Closes June 15, 2024
 - Conference Registration Closes August 12, 2024
- Registration fees do not include lodging or travel expenses.

<https://www.compassionatefriends.org/event/47th-tcf-national-conference/>

47th TCF National Conference

July 12 @ 8:00 am - July 14 @ 1:00 pm



This year’s conference will be held at the New Orleans Marriott. Reservations can now be made online at TCF’s dedicated reservation link. Our discounted room rate with the Marriott is \$144 per night plus applicable taxes and fees. Please note that each attendee can reserve a maximum of two rooms.