



Bereaved Parents of the USA

*We, as bereaved parents,
help grieving parents and families
rebuild their lives
following the death of a child.*

"A Journey Together"

TAMPA Bay Chapter P.O. Box 3226, Tampa Florida 33601-3226

November/ December Newsletter

MEETING INFORMATION

Regular Monthly SUNDAY Meeting
(Held the second Sunday of the month)*
November 13, 2011 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Candle Light ceremony is
December 11, 2011 at 7:00 pm

St Joseph's Hospital
Medical Arts Building, Auditorium
3001 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

(We will separate breakout sessions for men and women)
Call Linda Delk at 813-661-0680

Regular Monthly DAYTIME Meeting

Riverview/Gibson/Brandon areas
(held the second Friday each month)
Friday, November 11 & December 9, 10:00 a.m. to Noon
The Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce
330 Pauls Drive, Brandon, Florida 33511
Please call Linda Delk at 813-661-0680
For directions or information

Regular Monthly PLANT CITY

(held the fourth Monday each month)
Monday Nov. 28 & Dec. 26, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
South Florida Baptist Hospital
301 N. Alexander Street, Plant City
in the Community Conference Room
Call Janice Falcon at 813-779-9353
for directions or information

*This Month's newsletter is sponsored by
the family of Michael David Holmberg*

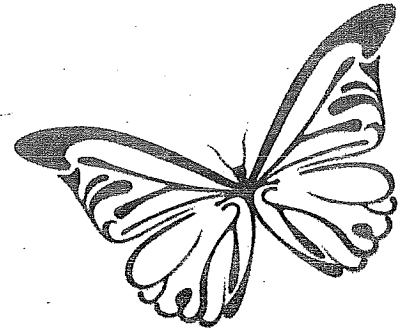
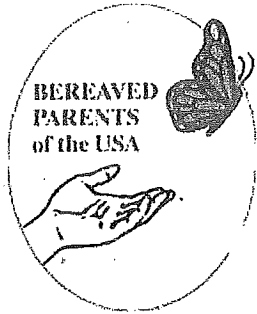
Love Gifts~

Donated by Debbie Nemitz in loving memory of Beverley Hurley

Donated by Mary Ellen Holmberg in loving memory of Beverley Hurley

Donated by Julie Woofler in loving memory of Beverley Hurley

Please bear with us at this time. There is a lot of changes taking place we hope to have these matters resolved by January. If you are able and willing to help in any way we would greatly appreciate it. Thank you for understanding and patience.



Love Gifts

Love Gifts – A thoughtful Way to Remember

Love Gifts are a beautiful way to remember a loved one. Through Love Gifts, we are able to reach out to others with our brochures and newsletters as well as obtain books and other information for our library. We truly appreciate every Love Gift, donation and sponsorship. Our Chapter work is done by volunteers and these donations help us reach out in many ways, including the preparation and mailing of the newsletter.

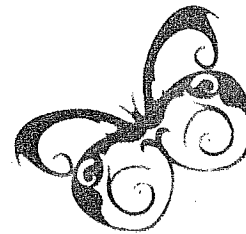
Refreshments

Some of us like to remember our child’s birthday or the anniversary of his or her death by bringing a cake or cookies to the meeting that month. We would appreciate having you bring a special treat to any meeting. You may also want to bring and share a picture of your child. Thank you!

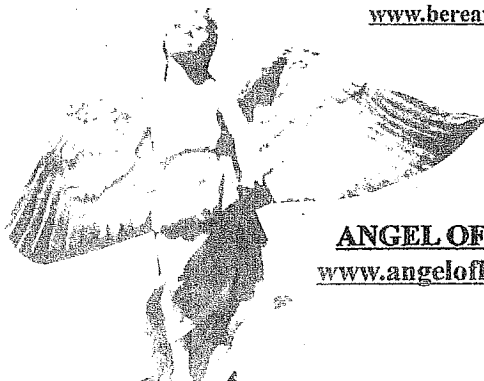
Telephone Friends

Need to talk? Having a bad day? Call one of our Telephone Friends. They’re here to lend a knowing ear because they’ve been there. Don’t hesitate to call, we understand.

- Linda Delk (General Information) (813) 661-0680
- Theresa Farmer (Homicide) (813) 994-0707
- Traci Cooley (Drowning) (813) 464-4525
- Ron Ellington (Suicide/Grandparent) (727) 410-2308
- Charles L’Homme (Accidental Death) (813) 335-7628
- Debbie Nemitz (Long Term Illness) (813) 907-1441
- Barbara /Tom Dietrich (Death of Only child) (813) 234-4705
- Serena Graves (Sibling Contact) (813) 810-7169
- Violeta “Cookie” Fernandez (813) 996-4281
- (Se Habla Espano)
- Crisis Center 211**



Bereaved Parents/ USA National Office
Post Office Box 95, Park Forest, IL 60466
Phone/Fax: (708) 748-7866
www.bereavedparentsusa.org



ANGEL OF HOPE UPDATE
www.angellofhopetampabay.com

Love
Hope
Peace

The Door Ahead

By Marta Felber of Bella Vista, Ark

There is a door ahead that I must open and go through.
I try to ignore it but it is always there.
There is no other way to go forward except through that door.
The walls are closing in.
I have tried going back, but I crash into a solid wall.
My Loved One is dead.

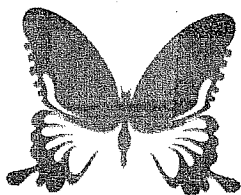
I cannot accept what going through that door really means.
I close my eyes, but when I open them, the door is still there.
At night, when I do sleep, my dreams and waking moments
are haunted with the reality not faced.
So I stand here, looking at the corridor, with sides closing in,
the door beyond.
I stand here, frozen.

A hand touches mine, and I look into the face of a new friend.
She lost her Loved One at the same time I lost mine.
"I also need to go through that door and I cannot.
Let's hold hands and, when the time is right,
we can take the steps together."

I feel someone take my other hand.
"I've walked this corridor, and I've gone through the door.
I know what is on the other side.
Look at me and know it can be done."

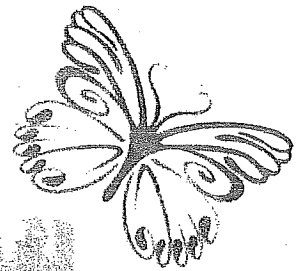
Do I imagine it? A hand is placed gently on my head
and a voice whispers in my ear.
"Remember I too had to go this way,
and I am always with you."

Our bodies touching, slowly we start walking, step by step.
A miracle! With each step the walls begin to move back on
either side and the door moves closer.
It opens for us to go through.

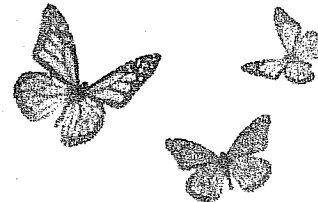


*Friendship is born at that
moment when one person
says to another:
"What! You too? I thought I
was the only one."*

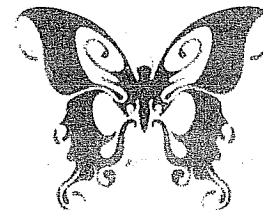
C. S. Lewis

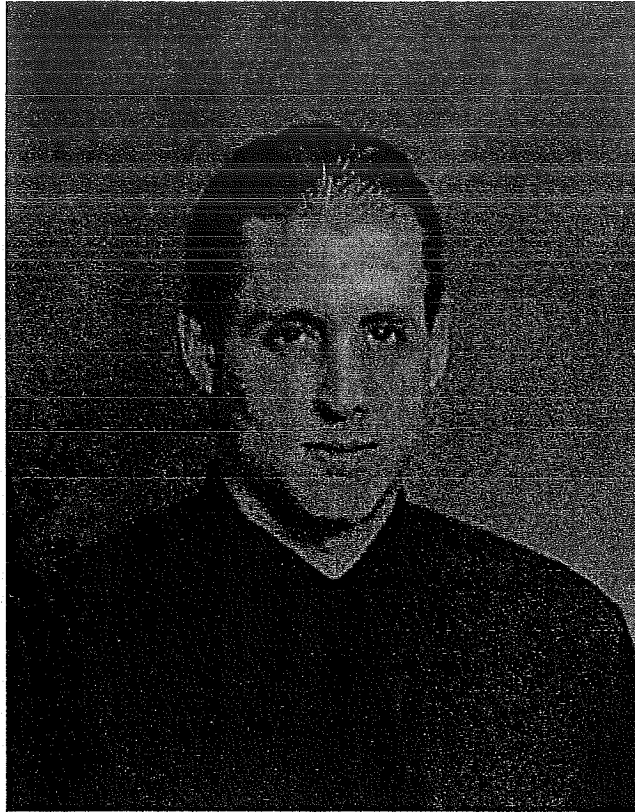


In Memory of Beverley Hurley



As some of you know we lost someone very dear to us. Beverley went to be with her daughter Debbie on October 8, 2011. She had a wonderful spirit and always gave support to others. We will always be grateful to her. She helped many people walk through their grief after the death of their child. She had so much compassion for others throughout her many years being involved in Bereaved Parents of the USA. She was also the force behind The Angel of Hope memorial garden, Tampa Bay. She touched so many lives. Beverley will be dearly missed by all that knew her.....





MICHAEL DAVID HOLMBERG
May 15, 1976 – March 2, 2011

IN MEMORIUM

Yet, oh stricken soul, remember, oh remember,
How of human days he lived the better part.
April came to him and never chill December
Breathed its killing chills upon his head or heart.

Doomed to know not winter, only spring,
A being trod the flowery April for a while,
Took his fill of music, joy of thought and seeing,
Came and stayed and went, nor ever ceased to smile.

Came and stayed and went, and now, when all is finished,
You alone have crossed the melancholy stream.
Yours the pangs, but his, oh his, the undiminished
Undecaying gladness, undeparted dream.

All that life contains of torture, toil and treason,
Shame, dishonor, death, to him were but a name.
Here, a boy, he dwelt through all the singing seasons
And ere the day of sorrow, departed as he came.

--Robert Louis Stevenson

2011 Candlelight Ceremony (December 11) Participation Form
(Please return by November 30 to have your child's name/picture appear in the Program)

To: BP/USA, c/o 309 West Genesee Street, Tampa, FL 33603

I (family) will be attending the service on December 11, and will light a candle in remembrance of my child/children

Number of people attending _____

I have enclosed a picture for the Presentation OR Please use the picture from last year's Presentation.

I have enclosed \$3 for a picture button

I have enclosed add'l \$1.00 to add child's 1st name: _____

I will be unable to attend the service but would like to have a candle lit in memory of my child/children. NOTE: Due to time restraints, only picture for parents ATTENDING the Ceremony will be shown. Thank you for understanding.

Child's name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Death Date: _____

Type of Death: _____

Son or Daughter of: _____

Sister or Brother of: _____

Grandson or Granddaughter of: _____

I would like to furnish _____ for the reception.

NOTE: Please try to furnish food (sandwiches, salads, deviled eggs, etc.) since we seem to have an abundance of desserts.

I am enclosing a donation in the amount of \$ _____ in honor of my child/children.

Your Name: _____

Address/Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

December 11, 2011 Candle Lighting Remembrance Ceremony

Bereaved Parents of the USA, Tampa Bay Chapter, will hold its annual Candlelight Remembrance Ceremony at 7p.m. on Sunday December 11, 2011. The ceremony will be held in The Medical Arts Building (MAB) Auditorium at St. Joseph's Hospital in Tampa. This day is also the **Children's Worldwide Candle Lighting** event (created and shared by TCF) where candles will be lit around the world in memory of all children that have died in every time zone starting at 7:00 p.m. Please join us in this beautiful tribute to our children. Any bereaved parent or family member and friends are invited to participate. For those of you who are newly bereaved, we encourage you to attend. This service can make handling the holiday season a little easier.

KEEPSAKE VOTIVE - Each family who attends will light a candle in honor of their child and take the candle home to light throughout the holidays.

RECEPTION – We will have a reception following the ceremony and we invite you to bring if possible, your child's favorite food (i.e. vegetables, chips, snacks, sandwiches, etc.) to share with others. We normally have an abundance of desserts.

PICTURE PRESENTATION – A Special Slide Picture Presentation of our beautiful Children! If you are planning to attend our Candle Light Ceremony, mail a picture of your child, and include their full name as you want it displayed on the slide presentation and also the birth and death dates, to: Barbara Dietrich 309 West Genesee Street, Tampa, FL 33603, the pictures and information regarding your child/children will be forwarded to David Hurley.

NOTE: Due to time restraints, only pictures of children whose parents are attending the Ceremony will be shown. Thank you for your understanding.

Picture should be of your deceased child only. If your child's picture was included in previous year's candle lights, any of the National Gathering closing ceremonies, or Chapter Newsletters and you want to use the same photo, just let Barbara Dietrich know and she will notify David Hurley. Pictures mailed in will be returned to you at the Candle Light Service – **please pick them up at the registration desk**. You can scan the picture yourself and email to david.hurley@gte.net and to bdietric@tampabay.rr.com but please be sure it is at least 600 dpi. Any questions please call Barbara Dietrich 813-234-4705.

BUTTONS - We have the equipment to make picture buttons. Bring a picture no smaller than 3" x 5" and picture will be cut and become the button. Buttons are round and measure approximately 2.25" in diameter. Cost per button is only \$3.00.

BOUTIQUE – There will be an Angel/Butterfly Boutique to purchase holiday items or gifts. All items are donated and all proceeds benefit your local BP/USA Chapter. To donate items, please call Janice Falcon at 813-779-9353.

PARTICIPATION FORM – For planning purposes, or to ensure your child's name appears in our candle lighting program, or if you wish to have a candle lit for your child in your absence, please complete and submit the form attached and send it in before November 30 to: BP/USA Tampa Bay Chapter, c/o 309 West Genesee Street, Tampa, FL 33603. Thank you!

THANKSGIVING

No doubt some of us, especially the recently bereaved are thinking at this time, "What can I be thankful for??" May the following reflections encourage you to add your own personal and particular thoughts of gratitude.

The life our child had, no matter how brief.
His/her existence touched our lives.
Thank you.

The love our child showed us and the love we experienced through them.
Thank you.

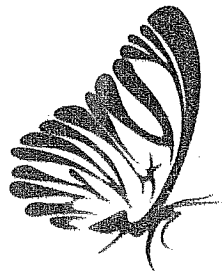
The hope their existence brought into our hearts.
Thank You.

The beauty of nature, the sun, moon, stars, flowers, and bird's songs.
Thank You

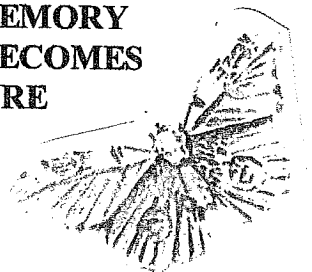
The signs of friendships, smiles, hugs, kisses, notes, phone calls and all the doing
for us.
Thank You.

As our child's life was a gift,
So our lives are a gift.
Thank You.

—*Author Unknown*



**WHEN SOMEONE YOU LOVE
BECOMES A MEMORY
THE MEMORY BECOMES
A TREASURE**



A Mother's Christmas Wish

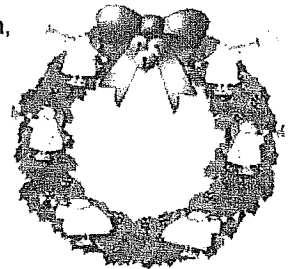
I guess if I could make just one Christmas wish,
I would wish I could see you.
To hold, to snuggle, to just kiss,
This is something I'd really like to do.

My arms ache for my baby boy,
Who will always remain just that.
To never grow and experience joy,
I wish I knew where you were at.

Why is it God thought he needed you more than I,
And why is it wishes can't come true?
I am just an aching heart who can only ask why,
And a mother who can't let go of you.

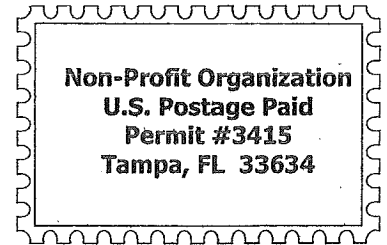
Please God grant me this one Christmas wish,
If just for a minute, an hour or a day.
He is someone I really need & miss,
What more must I say?

Written By: Beckie/HeavensAngel





The Bereaved Parents of the USA
3805 San Juan Street
Tampa, FL 33629



November/December 2011

POSTMASTER - Dated Material

Please do not delay.

Candlelight program Dec.11 @7pm

Address Correction Requested