



Tampa Bay Chapter

P.O. Box 3226
Tampa, Florida
33601-3226
www.bpusatampabay.com

MEETING INFORMATION

Regular Monthly SUNDAY Meeting

(held the second Sunday of the month)

Mother's Day, Sunday, May 10, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

St. Joseph's Hospital

Medical Arts Building, Auditorium

3001 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Call Beverley Hurley at 813-832-3175

for directions or information.

Regular Monthly DAYTIME Meeting

Riverview/Gibson/Brandon areas

(held the second Friday each month)

Friday, May 8, 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 Meeting

(held the fourth Thursday each month)

Thursday, May 28, 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.

Upcoming Events:

Note: Millie Nohren, author of *Hope Sandwich* will be a guest speaker at our monthly support meeting in May (next month) Sunday Night at St. Joseph Hospital, MAB. Try not to miss this opportunity to learn more about finding Hope!



<http://www.hopesandwich.com/index.html>

*A special gift will be given
to each Mom and
Grandmother
at our May meetings in honor
of
Mother's Day!*

Angel of Hope monthly planning meeting

First Monday of every month!

Please call Beverley Hurley 813-832-3175 for info!

Engraved Memorial Bricks

The deadline to order your engraved memorial bricks so they will be ready and included for our dedication ceremony has been extended to May 31, 2009! Visit our website and click on "Order Memorial Bricks" then you can click on the link and print out your form. It can take time to decide about the wording so that it will fit on the lines, so the sooner you do this the better.

May 2009

*This month's newsletter lovingly sponsored by
the families of:
Joseph Martinez
Taylor Pike*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
MAY 2009						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31			MAY 2009			

Please Let Me Mourn

by Author Unknown

PLEASE LET ME MOURN

I've never lost a child before, and I don't understand all these emotions I am feeling. Will you try to understand and help me?

PLEASE LET ME MOURN

I may act and appear together, but I am not. Often it hurts so much I can hardly bear it.

PLEASE LET ME MOURN

Don't expect too much from me. I will try to help you know what I can and cannot handle. Sometimes I am not always sure.

PLEASE LET ME MOURN

Let me talk about my child. I need to talk, it's part of the healing. Don't pretend nothing has happened, it hurts terribly when you do. I love my child very much, and my memories are all I have now. They are very precious to me.

PLEASE LET ME MOURN

Sometimes I cry and act differently, but it's all part of grieving. My tears are necessary and needed and should not be held back. It even helps when you cry with me.

PLEASE LET ME MOURN

What I need most is your friendship, your sympathy, your prayers, your support, and your understanding love. I am not the same person I was before my child died and I never will be again.

Hopefully we can all grow from this tragedy.

PLEASE LET ME MOURN

God gives me the strength to face each day and the hope that I will survive with His help and yours. Time will heal some of the pain, but there will always be an empty place in my heart.

PLEASE LET ME MOURN

And Thank You for helping me through the most difficult time of my life.

Chapter News



ANGEL OF HOPE UPDATE

www.angelofhopetampabay.com

Angel of Hope monthly meeting

Please call Beverley Hurley 813-832-3175 for info! Next meeting May 4 and June 1.

Angel of Hope Annual Spring Tea

Saturday, May 25, 2009!

This year, our Fifth Annual Spring Tea helped us to finally reach the amount needed for our financial goal! The day was filled with beautiful decorations which turned our room into a beautiful garden. The table themes created by our hostesses were outstanding. More than 100 raffles items were superb with gift certificates, angel and butterfly items. Our extravagant silent auction offered something for everyone's budget from fancy purses and home décor to portrait sessions from Cason's Studio.



Lissette Campos, from WFTS Channel 11, was an excellent celebrity MC. We had the talented and beautiful voice of Talesha Hogan, and a young lady named Brittany Lajoyce. Millie Nohren was an inspiring speaker and gave a wonderful recipe to build a "Hope Sandwich" in any circumstance that comes in our direction. The McGinley Academy of Irish dancers had all of the little girls and the attendees in awe of the performances.

We are grateful for Millie Nohren in donating the profits earned from her books sold the day of the tea to the Angel of Hope.

We also want to thank Talesha Hogan, Greg Clifton, and Gary Bosko, for heading up a campaign single music C.D. that supports the Angel of Hope! The cost is only \$5 and the songs are soothing and uplifting to the soul. All proceeds benefit our Angel of Hope garden. C.D.'s are available at BP/USA meetings.

We thank all of you who came, and we encourage those who did not, to plan on attending next year on the last Saturday in April 2010!

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
Sue Bowditch (Adult Child)	(813) 661-9334
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 or Tommy Dietrich (Death of an Only Child)	(813) 234-4705
Serena Graves (Sibling Contact)	(813) 810-7169
Violeta "Cookie" Fernandez (Se Habla Espano)	(813) 996-4281
CRISIS CENTER	211

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

Love Gifts

Nancy Schlechty
 In loving memory of her son

Michael Schlechty
 2/5/1959-12/4/2001

Rebeckah Mitchell
 In loving memory of her daughter
Brendolyn Joyce "Butterfly" Baker
 1/1/1948-11/9/1990

James Roy and Elaine M. Rogers
 In loving memory of their son
Jason Rogers
 1/08/1978-03/21/1990

Love Gifts-A Thoughtful Way to Remember

Love Gifts are a beautiful and loving 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!

Chapter Library Books

If you have finished reading a BP/USA Library book, please, **please** return it to our library. The longer you borrow a book, the less opportunities other bereaved parents have to read it. We also gladly accept book donations.

Contact Tommy or Barbara Dietrich at (813) 234-4705 or visit one of our three monthly sharing meetings to return a book, arrange a donation or inquire about an available title.

Sponsor A Newsletter Page

Anyone can sponsor a page in this newsletter in memory of their child. The price for a full page is \$60 which includes one black and white scan of one photograph and your tribute to your child, which can include poems, stories or whatever you like. Your contribution supports the chapter and helps pay for the printing of the newsletter.

To sponsor a newsletter page, contact Beverley Hurley at (813) 832-3175 (email bee.hurley@gte.net). Please note that sponsorship pages are **due by the 15th of the month BEFORE the publication month.**

Electronic Newsletter

The Newsletter is available electronically. To receive it by Email, send your name and email address to: bee.hurley@gte.net and indicate your desire to switch from regular "snail" mail to email. Email recipients will also receive additional news and information, while helping our chapter save costs. We very much appreciate your cooperation by helping us out this way!



Our Children . . . Remembered

So long as we live, they too shall live ... For they are a part of us as we remember them.

May Birthdays

Boyd, Anastasia "Nicole" 5/4/1998 - 7/8/2004 P-Anita Boyd & Jerry Webb	Keithly, DeAnne 5/24/1976 - 5/12/1993 P-John & Peggy Keithly S-Dawn & Karen	Pfister, Megan Lynn 5/2/1990 - 3/3/1999 P - Frank & Stephanie Pfister	Thompson, Kimberly Karlin 5/5/1976 - 12/6/1999 P - Sam & Ingrid Thompson
Bracewell, Madisyn Nevaeh 5/8/2002 - 5/8/2002 P-Jessica & Joshua Bracewell GP-Mark & Pamela Leonhard	B-Dustin & Kevin GP-Clark & Frances Keithly and Alice Pugh	Photos,LaDanyce 5/2/2009-6/9/2008 P-Trent Photos & Lisa Ramirez	Thompson, Phillip John "P.J." 5/26/1966 - 2/7/1993 M-Mary Thompson
Collum, Brian H. 5/11/1965 - 3/7/2005 M-Diana Reams B-Reid Collum	Makowski, Anthony 5/20/1983 - 4/24/2005 M-Cathy Makowski	Rademacher, Rhonda Marie 5/19/1977 - 1/26/1999 P - Doris & John Rademacher B - Ronald & Jeremy Rademacher S - Cherry & Carrie Rademacher	Turner, Devon 5/2/1986 - 7/28/2005 M-Marie Lawson
Delp, Jeff 5/15/1972 - 5/30/2001 M - Karen Kornman	McKaughan, Michael 5/19/1989-11/3/2000 P-Darlene & Michael Lack B-Andrew McKaughan S-Lauren Lack GM-Virginia Dusy	Roberts, J. Michael 5/31/1963 - 9/25/2002 M-Ann Roberts Mitchel GP Merle H. Brunson	Waller, Albert Marcus 5/2/1994 - 6/16/2000 P - Marc & Charlotte Waller
Engel, Drew 5/7/2005-4/22/2008 P-Mike & Lindsey Engel GM-Vicki Engel	Metallo, Armando 5/3/1984 - 9/15/2005 P-Angelo & Luisa Metallo S-Ana, Angelo, Luisa, & Joe Metallo GP-Armando & Ana Metallo and Graciela & Dorotheo Martinez	Robinson, Ashley Lauren 05/20/94 - 01/16/96 P - Sara & Tim Robinson S - Morgan Ashley Robinson	Wells, Aaron 05/11/81 - 02/11/87 P-Paul & Carol Wells B-Steven Wells S-Teresa Amundrud & Jessica Minnick
Holton, John William 05/20/52 - 08/10/94 M - Ann Holton	Morrow, Mark 5/19/1978-12/7/2005 P-John & Joan Morrow	Shye, John David 05/27/1964 - 08/07/1994 P - Betty Jean & Charles Shye S - Lydia and Mary Shye B - Chuck Shye Father of J.D. and Justin Shye	Williams, Alec Michael 5/17/1996 - 7/27/1996 P - Kathy & Michael Williams B - Chad & Chase G - Frank & Robbie Edwards G - Dwight & Melvalene Williams



May Anniversaries

Bracewell, Madisyn Nevaeh 5/8/2002 - 5/8/2002 P-Jessica & Joshua Bracewell GP-Mark & Pamela Leonhard	Finchum, Tommy 07/10/75 - 05/06/94 P - Pete & Joyce Finchum B - John Finchum	Knight, Arleen Diane 10/16/1947 - 5/4/2004 P-Arthur & Ethel Fernandez S-Elaine Rogers Daughters-Trina Fuller, Amy Diaz, Katie Tuclula Partner-Darryl Fiorilla
Brown, Joshua Aaron 2/3/1982-5/8/2008 M-Tami Porter	Goldman, Ariel Nicole Rothschild 8/30/1989 - 5/15/2001 P - Steve and Lynn Goldman	Odom, Randell 12/14/62 - 5/27/00 M - Barbara Hendrix
Buchanan, Sierra Lan 03/07/96 - 05/25/96 P - Klm & Bryan Buchanan S - May Linh Buchanan	Harless, Jessica Nicole 11/15/1988 - 5/10/2000 M - Heather Harless	Pike, Taylor 11/8/1985-5/14/2007 M-Connie Pike
Caldwell-Faught, Thomas E. 2/9/1997 - 5/24/2003 M-Shannon Caldwell	Hassler, Andy 1/16/1981-5/14/2008 F-Denny Hassler	Shelton, Emma Victoria 7/8/2003 - 5/8/2005 M-John & Jennifer Shelton Sibs-Jacob & Hannah GP-Peg & Jim Bishop, Tom Mulsolin, Art & Sam White, Rober & Judy
Cloer, Terry "T.C." Jr. 03/28/74 - 05/24/91 P - Nadine & Terry Cloer, Sr. S - Judy Cloer	Holdren, Steven "Scott" Jr. 4/10/1986-5/31/2007 P-Bill & Donna Henry and Steven Scott Holdren, Sr. GP-Jos & Catherine Washington, Geo Wayne and Mary Jo Holdren	Sluder, Keith 4/25/1964-5/11/2006 P-Tom & Judy Sluder Children-Keith II & Miranda GD-Kalie & Ella Mae B-Thomas Sluder S-Kathryn and Theresa Sluder N/N-Israel, Brandon & Brandy
Colla, Aaron Dante 11/15/01 - 05/24/02 P - Amanda Colla GP - Jana & Frank Colla A - Danielle	Howard, Christopher L. 3/27/1975 - 5/18/2000 M-Cay Pelaez	Stoeltzing, William (Bill) W. 01/02/57 - 05/09/02 P - Bill & Elvira Stoeltzing S - Cecille Parido Father to Eaton & Brent
Delp, Jeff 5/15/1972 - 5/30/2001 M - Karen Kornman	Hughes, Jessica Alexis 1/13/86 - 5/11/02 F - Michael Hughes	Thomson, Scott 2/18/1985-5/12/2005 M-Martha Thompson
Dixon, Austin Ryan 03/18/97 - 05/18/98 P - Carrie & Robert Dixon S-Sara Ryan Dixon	Husk, Stacy 03/10/70 - 05/02/90 F - Michael Husk	
Ellington, Timothy 03/06/62 - 05/25/91 F - Ron Ellington	Keithly, DeAnne 5/24/1976 - 5/12/1993 P-John & Peggy Keithly S-Dawn & Karen B-Dustin & Kevin GP-Clark & Frances Keithly and Alice Pugh	

If we have omitted your child, misspelled your child's name, or listed incorrect dates, please accept our apologies and call

Beverly Hurley at (813) 832-3175 to correct the information. Call any of our telephone friends if you are having a hard time on these days. We truly understand your pain; for we, too, remember our own children.



Memorial Day

*For each grave
where a soldier lies at his rest
For each prayer that is
said today out of love
For each sigh of remembering
someone who died
Let us also give thought to
the mothers and fathers
the brothers and sisters
the friends
and the lovers whom
death left behind.*

Sasha

Godspeed

*Song By Talesha Hogan © 1998
In loving memory of Kristin Marie Hogan
See [Music CD Offer message](#)
www.taleshahogan.com*

I woke again last night without you in my arms
It don't seem right with no one here to see
As the tears slip down my face, it's just me

I woke again last night without you in my arms
It don't seem right I'm holding all your things
Then I put them back away, just memories
God speed

I hear you in the whispers of the angel's wings
In dreams, I watch you slumber in my arms
Until we meet, wait for me, Godspeed

I woke again last night without you in my arms
It don't seem right to wake up from this dream
Loving you, is bitter sweet

I know someday I'll sleep cradled in God's arms,
I'll wake with you in mine and all my sorrow is gone
In due time, I'll write this song
Godspeed

I feel you in the brush of angel's wings
In dreams, I see you on the other side
Remember me, remember me, Godspeed
Godspeed

I hear you in the whispers of the Angel's wings
In dreams, I watch you slumber in my arms
Until we meet, wait for me, Godspeed

Godspeed, I'm gonna hold you in my arms
Wait for me

As I turn out the light
We're taking flight, good night, Godspeed

Bereaved Parents of the USA 2009 National Gathering *Light My Way*

Friday through Sunday, July 10,11,12, 2009

At Crowne Plaza LaGuardia Airport Hotel
104-04 Ditmars Blvd., E. Elmhurst, New York

Hotel Reservations 1-888-233-9527 or
website www.cplaguardia.com
The Crowne Plaza LaGuardia Airport Hotel, New
York has given BP/USA a generously discounted
daily room rate of \$115, w/tax \$133.88 that will be
honored July 7-15, 2009, three days before and af-
ter the Gathering. Please make your own reserva-
tions directly with the hotel at 1-888-233-9527.

**Deadline to register at this discounted rate is
June 16 – don't miss out!**

Be sure to tell them you are attending the BP/USA
Gathering! The hotel provides a Complimentary
Shuttle to LaGuardia Airport, Queens Mall, and the
7 Train (minutes to Manhattan).

MUSIC C.D. OFFER

Please consider supporting the music C.D. campaign offered
by **Talesha Hogan, Greg Clifton, and Gary Bosko** and purchase
some for yourself and friends at only \$5 each. They make
great gifts and are a wonderful tool to help spread hope in the
lives of people you hold dear to your heart! You can purchase
C.D's at any of our BP/USA support meetings or call Julie
Leyde at (813) 784-6929 vleyde1@verizon.net.
All proceeds benefit the Angel of Hope Memorial Garden.
Thank you for your support!

HEAVEN'S CHILDREN

Do you suppose they meet like us
To lend support and love?
As we assemble, do they gather too,
Watching from above?

Do you suppose they ask our God
To care for parents here?
Just as we beseech Him
To hold our children dear?

Do you suppose, among themselves,
They comfort one another?
When they see deep grief consume
Their Father or their Mother?

Do you suppose, together,
They wipe away our tears?
Holding hands, as we do
To cleanse away our fears?

Do you suppose they listen
To the breaking hearts we share?
As we tell our stories
Our tragedies laid bare?

And, do you suppose they know the Truth,
These children whom we adore?
Knowing fully that God's Love
In abundance He will outpour?

And, do you suppose they understand
Far better than we mortals?
That peace and joy and soul's content
Await us at the Portals?

And, do you suppose until the day
They see us face to face
They're tugging on God's heartstrings
To keep us in His Grace?

by Sue Smith

Gathering Registration—On Line Registra-
tion is available.

Workshop and Speaker's Bios are posted as
well. Check it out!

**For more information, please see
BP/USA National Website at
www.bereavedparentsusa.org**



My Mom Is A Survivor

My Mom is a survivor,
or so I've heard it said.
But I can hear her crying at night
when all others are in bed.

I watch her lay awake at night
and go to hold her hand.
She doesn't know I'm with her
to help her understand.

But like the sands on the beach
that never wash away...
I watch over my surviving mom,
who thinks of me each day.

She wears a smile for others...
a smile of disguise!
But through Heaven's door I see
tears flowing from her eyes.

My mom tries to cope with death
to keep my memory alive.
But anyone who knows her knows
it is her way to survive.

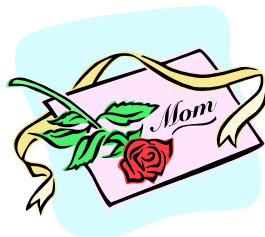
As I watch over my surviving mom
through Heaven's open door...
I try to tell her that angels
protect me forevermore.

I know that doesn't help her...
or ease the burden she bears.
So if you get a chance, go visit her...
and show her that you care.

For no matter what she says...
no matter what she feels.
My surviving mom has a broken heart
that time won't ever heal.

(By [Kaye Des'Ormeaux](#)
October 15, 1998

*Dedicated to the mothers who have
lost a child & have somehow survived.)*



Mother's Day Bouquet

I think that up in Heaven
There's a Mother's Day bouquet
Hand-picked by garden angels
In a colorful array
Our family and friends
Each represent a flower
That may be plucked from earthly fields
At any given hour
Some picked as tiny buds
While some are in full bloom
We need not worry who's picked first
We'll all be gathered soon
And as each flower's chosen
God plants a few more seeds
It's up to us to help them grow
And let them not be weeds

Talesha Hogan © 1998

www.taleshahogan.com

To All Parents

by **Guest, Edgar**

I'll lend you for a little time
A child of Mine, He said,
For you to love the while he lives
And mourn when he is dead.

It may be six or seven years,
Or twenty-two or three,
But will you, till I call him back,
Take care of him for Me?

He'll bring his charms to gladden you
And should his stay be brief,
You'll have his lovely memories
As solace for your grief.

I cannot promise he will stay
Since all from earth return,
But there are lessons taught down there
I want this child to learn.

I've looked the wide world over
In My search for teachers true,
And from the throngs that crowd life's lanes
I have selected you.

Now will you give him all your love
Nor think the labor vain,
Nor hate Me when I come to call
To take him back again?

I fancied that I heard them say
Dear Lord, Thy will be done.
For all the joy Thy child shall bring
The risk of grief we'll run.

We'll shelter him with tenderness,
We'll love him while we may,
And for the happiness we've known
Forever grateful stay.

But should the angels call for him
Much sooner than we'd planned,
We'll brave the bitter grief that comes
And try to understand.



Mother's Love



A mother's love is like a circle,
it has no beginning and no ending.
It keeps going around and around ever expanding,
touching everyone who comes in contact with it.
Engulfing them like the morning's mist,
warming them like the noontime sun,
and covering them like a blanket of evening stars.
A mother's love is like a circle,
it has no beginning and no ending.
Happy Mother's Day Mom,
With lots of love!

Joseph D. Martinez

May 23, 1972 to October 13, 2007



*Since you've been gone, there is not a day that goes by
that we are not reminded of you.*

*You would have been thirty-seven years old this year,
way too young to have left us.*

*We miss your smile and your laugh and the way you were always
there for us anytime we needed someone to help out.*

*We could feel the way you loved us even if you could not always tell
us.*

We miss the fun times we had together, so short and not often enough.

Our lives are just not the same anymore without you.

*We will never get over you not being here anymore,
but we also know that you are in a better place now.*

We know that one day we will be together again.

That's what keeps us going in this world.

*We also know that you are near us in spirit and loving us,
helping us just as you always did.*

Our love for you is always and forever.

*One day we will leave this world and we know that you will
be there waiting with open arms to see us.*

We don't know when that will be, but we do know it will happen.

*We will then be together again and in the presence of God,
giving praise and glory throughout eternity.*

We miss you and love you.

Your loving family,

Mom, Patty, Mike, Brittany,

Michael & Allison

Taylor Keith Pike—We celebrate your life on earth

November 9, 1985 — May 14, 2007

Our dear son, we don't understand why you had to go so soon. We miss your daily presence in our lives and it is so strange, this new normal. As we watch your friends graduating from college, getting engaged, finding jobs, traveling...we can't help but wonder where you would be today.

We certainly feel your presence often. I know you are with us in spirit and that love never dies. We try very hard to cherish the memories of our 21 years with you and not focus on your death and absence. There are times of sadness, but also room for joy in those memories. We can be thankful for all the fun we had and the experiences we shared. Fly free my son, until we meet again. We're taking good care of Kitty. We love you, Mom, Dad and Megan



Portraits from Ashes by Raven

Our 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 tears, 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, our color, our affluence, 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.

Sue Bowditch has been a beacon of hope to so many. She is always willing to help in any way necessary because she has a heart of gold. I am sorry for the reason that we got to know each other, but, I thank God for bringing her into my life.

Sue will be moving from our area and therefore will have to give up her position with the BP/USA Tampa Bay Chapter. Sue has been on our Steering Committee, meeting facilitator for the Day-time Group and also the Plant City Group. She has also been an active member on our Angel of Hope committee. She gladly helped whenever asked and she played a big part in planning our annual Candlelight ceremony and boutique.

Sue always went above and beyond to help others and this chapter. I respect her input and advice and she has been my dearest support and sounding board. I know I speak for all those folks that had the privilege to meet Sue or work with her. Sue, you will be sorely missed but we wish you and Ben our very best in this new *season* in your lives.

God bless you both!

MY JOURNEY WITH THE TAMPA BAY CHAPTER OF BP/USA

Ben and I look forward to another new journey in our life. Most people move from Maine to Florida but we have to be different. I am going to move to Maine and drive slowly.....just kidding.

Gosh where to begin.....almost nine years ago, I began my journey of grief after our 33 year old daughter, Karron died. I shudder to think where I would have been if not for this wonderful organization. I had no idea where this journey would take me or what would happen to me as I traveled down this road.

I have learned so much, met so many wonderful people and have been blessed with being able to share my grief, my knowledge and my love. People who never knew Karron, now know about her, and the children I had never met in real life, I have now gotten to know. What a privilege for me that has been.

I want to thank the people who were there for me when I was first "newly" bereaved and those that held my hand and stood by my side and cried with me.

I want to thank those who have allowed me to hold their hands and walk by them. It has been such a wonderful journey for me. You think, wonderful journey, well yes it has been. I have seen myself and others transformed from someone who had no idea if they could survive all this pain into someone who not only has survived, but have gone on to help each other in the process. Not many people get a front row seat to that. I was up close and personal with all of this. It's like watching a garden grow and watching the flower buds unfold and start a new beginning.

Keep these groups going because unfortunately there will always be someone who needs you to reach out and help them. Don't lose the ability to remember what you were like when you were "newly" bereaved. If you lose that, you will lose your compassion and they need to know you truly understand.

To everyone who I have laughed with, talked with and cried with, I will miss you more than you can imagine. Some of you have become like family to me and so it's hard to move on and not want to take you with me. You will always be in my heart.

Thank you for allowing me to share some of your darkest days and deepest pain. I hope that my being there gave you hope, strength, and the ability to know that you can get through this and see the light again. You all have honored me as no one else has. Thank you for the love you have shared with me and given to me. I am the most blessed person in the world.

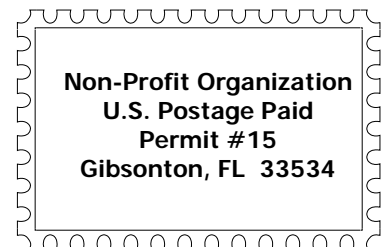
We hope to be back in the next year or so and build on our property so you aren't rid of me yet.

My love and best wishes to you all,

Sue



The Bereaved Parents of the USA
P.O. Box 156
Gibsonton, FL 33534



May 2009
POSTMASTER - Dated Material
Please do not delay.

