



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)

Sunday, October 11, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

St. Joseph's Hospital
Medical Arts Building, Auditorium

3001 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

(We will have separate break out sessions for men and women)

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, October 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 Meeting

(held the fourth Thursday each month)

Thursday, October 22, 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

FACILITATOR TRAINING

Thursday, October 15, 7:00 pm

Please attend our facilitator training. You may not want to be a facilitator but this is wonderful information about how to help the newly bereaved at meetings or on the phone. Learn what to say and what not to say! Remember—you are helping yourself when helping others! Please call Beverley Hurley 813-832-3175 for information and location!

CANDLE LIGHT PLANNING MEETING

Thursday, October 15, 7:00

Please call Beverley Hurley at 813-832-3175 for information!

NOVEMBER MTG - GIFT NIGHT

Share a special Christmas story or memory about your child and if you can handle it, purchase a gift that you would have bought for your child. All gifts will be donated to charity. This is strictly voluntary—please do not wrap gift).



BP/USA TAMPA BAY CHAPTER CANDLE LIGHT PROGRAM AND CEREMONY

Mark your Calendar for Sunday, December 13, 7:00 p.m.

St. Joseph Hospital Medical Arts Bldg. Auditorium for the Annual Children's Worldwide Candle Lighting. Mark your calendar and invite family and friends to attend our annual candlelight remembrance ceremony at St. Joseph's Hospital. If you want to volunteer to help with this service or donate items for the boutique in memory of your child, please call Beverley Hurley at 813-832-3175!

October 2009

This month's newsletter lovingly sponsored by
the family of:

Janna Marie Snyder

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	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
OCTOBER 2009						

October 15th is the National Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day Why have an Awareness Month?

*Because each baby, no matter how small, is special;
Because parents want to remember;
Because this increases awareness of infant loss in
our community;
Because society needs to be reminded that each
baby, even the tiniest life;
...was wanted,
...was real,
...is loved.*

"We plot, we plan, we assume things are going to go a certain way and then they don't, and we find ourselves in a new place, a place we haven't been before, a place we never would have imagined on our own.

And so it was difficult and unexpected and maybe even tragic and yet, it opened us up and freed us to see things in a whole new way.

Suffering does that – it hurts, but also it creates.

How many of the most significant moments in your life came not because it all went right, but because it all fell apart?"

Rob Bell lives with his family in Grand Rapids, Mich., where he's the founding pastor of Mars Hill Bible Church

How to Survive

By Elizabeth Edwards

Excerpts Lifted from Reader's Digest,
August 2009 Issue

This is what life is—feel it all.

"Right after Wade died, I said to a friend, 'At least I had him for 16 years.' And immediately I thought, What a stupid thing to say. It will never be enough, not for him, not for me. But the truth is, I had him for 16 years. And the day I (can't see) the value in having 16 years with that boy is the day I cut off the edges of my life and narrow it down to a non-feeling middle. And I don't want to live there."

Take comfort where you find it.

"A man we knew who had lost his brother gave us a good piece of advice. He said, 'People will say the wrong thing. You just have to remember that they meant to say the right thing.' It allows you to be so much more gracious."

Chapter News



ANGEL OF HOPE NEWS www.angelofhopetampabay.com

Angel of Hope Memorial Garden
Annual Candle Lighting
Sunday, December 6, 7:00 p.m.

The Christmas Box Angel Statue was introduced to the world in the book *The Christmas Box*, a worldwide bestseller and hit television movie by author Richard Paul Evans. In the book, a woman mourns the loss of her child at the base of an angel monument. Though the story is mostly fiction, the angel monument once existed but is speculated to have been destroyed.

The new angel statue was commissioned by Richard Paul Evans, in response to reports that grieving parents were seeking out the angel as a place to grieve and heal. The monument was dedicated on December 6, 1994—corresponding with the date of the child's death in *The Christmas Box*.

Flowers, adorn the base of the monument year round, accompanying notes left by parents for their "little angels." On December 6th of each year a candlelight healing ceremony is held at the base of each Christmas Box Angel monument.

Please call Jackie Loadholtz
to RSVP 813-625-1468
(Weather permitting)

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

Bill and Georgia Schneider
In loving memory of their son
Adam Schneider
01/29/71 - 10/23/75

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 June also want to bring and share a picture of your child. Thank you!

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!

Address Change

If you have an address change, the Postal Service will NOT forward! They return to us—FOR A FEE, SO **PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE A NEW ADDRESS.**

HOPE

Hope is a rare gift that, if we are lucky, comes to us with the power to heal our lives. I've come to know that the deepest sense of hope often springs from the hardest lessons in life. It is in the darkest skies that stars are best seen . . . perhaps it is divine irony that within the darkest moments we are capable of revealing the greatest light, demonstrating what is best with humanity.

Richard Paul Evans



Our Children . . . Remembered

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

October Birthdays

Baez, Roberto G. 10/30/1985 - 10/3/2005 M-Jeannette Carrasco Baez	Knight, Arleen Diane 10/16/1947 - 5/4/2004 P-Arthur & Ethel Fernandez S-Elaine Rogers Daughters-Trina Fuller, Amy Diaz, Katie Tuclula	Short, Kimberley 10/21/1969 - 2/11/1993 P - Terrance & Sue Short	Thomas, Destiny Jean 10/1/1990 - 4/24/1998 F-Craig Thomas B-Braxton and tin GP-Augie & Betty Thatcher and Marty & Carol Thomas
Baker-Dixon, Lori Kathleen 10/29/1975 - 4/12/2001 Child - Ryan Spouse - Rusty P - Donna & Ron Budd and Marie & Bill Baker S - Tracy Goodson & Phylcia Baker B - Jamey Baker	Mercer, Bret 10/5/1988 - 6/25/1992 P - Eddie & Darlene Mercer S - Lindy, Crystal & Kaley GP-Loren & Christine Mercer GP-Beverly Jaudon Quincannon	Sluder, Kathryn 10/14/61 - 11/17/2008 P-Tom & Judy Sluder S-Theresa N/N-Israel, Brandon & Brandy, Keith II and Miranda	Thompson, Timothy A. 10/27/70 - 01/07/93 P- Bettie & Richard Thompson
Burger, Teresa 10/26/58 - 07/10/87 M - Cecelia Burger B - Hal & Curt Burger	Miller, Tyler Lee 10/16/2003 - 10/16/2003 P-Perry and Barbara Miller	Smith, Clay Daniel 10/24/1967 - 9/30/1996 P-Francia & Chuck Smith B - Jed & Kyle	Wallowicz, Michael (Mikey) Kevin 10/23/1981 - 4/28/1990 P - Jim & Judy Wallowicz B - Jimi Wallowicz GM-Josie Varselona
Cason, Todd 10/28/1968 - 4/12/2003 P-Earl and Kay Cason Child- Spouse-	Nichols, Shannon Jr. 10/5/1979 - 3/29/2004 M-Terrena Nichols F-Shannon Nichols S-Brandy& Melissa Nichols	Snyder, Janna Marie 10/21/1978 - 11/11/1995 GP Marian & Paul Bullard P - Dana & Connie Snyder B - Jeff Snyder	Welch, Kimberly Michelle 10/24/1971 - 8/28/2003 M-Nancy Welch Child-
Chilson, Candice 10/24/83 - 11/10/01 M - Wendy Chilson	Peters, Chalama 10/29/1988 - 10/4/2005 P-Veronica and Thaddeus Francis	Therriault, George L. 10/13/1951 - 6/1/1996 P - Mae Therriault	Wynne, Adam Charles 10/13/1971 - 4/24/1993 P-Chuck & Gloria Judson S-Lori Wynne Father to Morgan Wynne
Fitzpatrick, Brad R. 10/8/1972 - 10/27/2000 M - Barbara Fitzpatrick	Pippin, Shawn 10/16/1984 - 9/16/2002 M-Anita Pippin		
Glim, Melissa 10/15/1995 GM-JoAnn Glimm	Quincannon, Mark Milton 10/5/1981 - 2/17/1996 P - Alana & Joe Quincannon S - Emi l y & Shannon GP - Walter Milton GM - Margaret Quincannon		
Hester, Debbie 10/14/61 - 07/25/98 P - Buddy & Sue Butler			

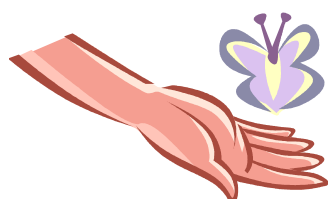
Our Apologies

*The following name was omitted from
September Birthday and Anniversary list:*

Bradley Robert Mendenhall
September 25, 1990
P-Robert & GayLee Mendenhall
B-Jacob Robert Mendenhall

October Anniversaries

Baez, Roberto G. 10/30/1985 - 10/3/2005 M-Jeannette Carrasco Baez	Griner, Ian 7/10/1985-10/27/2005 M-Barb Griner	Lovett, Sandra Sandy 12/3/1968 - 10/4/1997 M - Barbara Bryant	Peters, Chalama 10/29/1988 - 10/4/2005 P-Veronica and Thaddeus Francis
Baker, Jennifer 12/13/1973 - 10/15/1995 P-Terry & Susan Baker	Gugliotta, Dan & Nadine 3/26/1976 - 10/14/2003 P-Dan & Nadine Gugliotta Son-Jason	McDonald, Brooke 11/8/1990-10/4/2008 P-Mitch & Barbara McDonald	Rayburn, Geoffrey (Jeff) Ware 3/2/1970 - 10/15/1995 P-Robert and Sue Moos B-Bobby Moos S-Amy Rayburn GP-Richard & Jeannette Roberson and Josephine Rayburn
Ferrera, Alex 8/11/1977 - 10/4/1997 P - Nelson & Guisela Ferrera B - Paolo Ferrera GM - Magda Alvarez Aunt - Mirta Diaz Uncle - John Ferrera	Joseph, Martinez 4/23/1972 - 10/13/2007 M-Josie Martinez S-Patty Camunas	Milam, Perry 11/4/1974 - 10/01/1994 M - Nancy Milam	Schneider, Adam 01/29/71 - 10/23/75 P - Bill & Georgia Schneider
Fitzpatrick, Brad R. 10/8/1972 - 10/27/2000 M - Barbara Fitzpatrick	Knox, Patricia Lynn 7/27/1964 - 10/21/1997 M - Shelby Jean McClure	Milam, Perry Edward 11/4/1974 - 10/1/1994 M-Nancy Milam S-Suzanne Milam Clark	Simone, Benjamin Arthur 3/29/1975 - 10/10/1997 P - David & Kathy Simone S - Dawn Figueroa
Gardner, Gary Dwain Jr. 8/25/1995 - 10/4/2000 P - Gary & Janelle Gardner B - Jacob Gary Gardner	Kushner, Jonathan 09/13/62 - 10/28/73 P - Lorraine & Gil Kushner B-Andy & David	Miller, Tyler Lee 10/16/2003 - 10/16/2003 P-Perry and Barbara Miller	Will, Madison Kathleen "Madi" 9/2/1995 - 10/4/1995 P - Carl & Lisa Will S - Megan & Rachel Will B- Zachary & Seth Will
Glim, Melissa 10/15/1995 GM-JoAnn Glimm	Kelley, Emmanuel Maurice 2/27/1987-10/25/2006 C-Angel Kelley	O'Neil, Clark Dean 9/1/1962 - 10/24/2004 P-Larry and Jeanne O'Neil B-Kevin & wife Rene' S-Kitty & husband Joseph; Jennifer & husband Randy	
Gonzalez, Tarik C. 1/16/1976 - 10/12/2007 M-Susan Zapata GM-Jacqueline Rodriguez	Lingefelt, Fiona 12/20/1989 - 10/15/2000 P - Karen & Douglas Lingefelt B-Alexander & Andrew	Parrish, Tyler Stephen 8/6/1991 - 10/24/1991 P - June & Terry Parrish	



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

Grieving Through the Years: A Bereaved Mother's Story

By Coralease C. Ruff

We Need Not Walk Alone, Summer 2006

It all began ten years ago when a heart-wrenching telephone call plunged my family and me into the ranks of bereaved parents and siblings. Our 21-year-old daughter, Candice, had been in a horrible car accident, which took her life. She had decided to travel to the Dominican Republic to spend a year serving as a missionary. Less than three months following her arrival, her car was hit by some construction equipment driven by an unlicensed construction worker.

I experienced so many feelings and experiences in the early days of acute grief. Not only was it unreal, but the excruciating pain was like nothing I'd ever felt. My thoughts about her and our life together brought buckets of tears. I thought it was never going to stop hurting. I could not remember anything, including the name of the street leading to my house. I was so disorganized—starting one task after another and never completing anything. Concentration was nonexistent. I would read and reread every line and still could not remember what I had read one sentence later. I also had many fears about everything and everybody. I was especially afraid for our surviving son; he might die also. I didn't want to let him out of my sight. He pleaded with me to stop worrying so much. O yes, the death-wish was also real in the early days. I did not want live without Kandy. It was only through the realization of the additional pain my death would cause our son that I decided to try to live. For a while I was angry with my daughter for dying. How could she just go off and leave us—didn't she know we would be devastated? I was also angry at the world for continuing to move on. Didn't the world know my daughter had died?

I have learned to cope with our daughter's death by working very hard at it. Initially, I read every book I could find about grief and loss—especially those written by bereaved parents. And I joined a support group—The Compassionate Friends. After approximately two years of support from the group, I became more active and began to reach out to other bereaved parents. Three years later I established a local chapter of TCF in the District of Columbia.

In my personal life, my focus has been to keep Kandy's memory alive. One of the first ways we accomplished that was to establish a scholarship in her memory. This has been tremendously therapeutic for my husband and me. We now have eight Candice M Ruff scholars who are all recipients of the scholarship. Annually, we share the wonderful memories of our daughter with these young people.

I continue to grieve the death of my daughter years later, but it is not the acute grief I experience those first years. It is now more like a constant dull ache that is always there, no matter how hard I try to ignore it. Some days I can almost forget about it, but not for long. Her absence is always there.

Have I healed, found closure, and resolved her death? I like to think that I am in the process of healing. I refer to it as "retrospective healing" because it has been very subtle. It is only in retrospect that I can see the tremendous amount of healing that has indeed occurred. It is also active healing, where I have had to take active steps to initiate and maintain the healing process. I have found that time alone does not promote healing.

Yes, I continue to think of my child, all the time. I never think, "Oh, I am still grieving." I do notice how much it still hurts. Sometimes when I laugh it is almost an effort to do more than pay lip service to being happy. Grief is always there hovering in the shadows, waiting to rear its ugly head. For instance, I attended a wedding of a dear friend's daughter. I survived the ceremony but grief set in and I cried the entire reception. One author has referred to this kind of grief experience as shadow grief and another calls it a grief attack. Although I am never without missing my daughter, ten years later, I have found peace. I am not the same person I was prior to Kandy's death; I have changed in so many ways. I cry at different things—like weddings, or a song that reminds me of our daughter.

And now I find that I get impatient when hearing adults talk about petty events. I have found satisfaction in keeping her memory alive. I talk about her whenever I have the opportunity. In addition to the annual scholarship, I periodically hold a memorial birthday party. I write about my grief journey, and have arranged to have a memory quilt made that depicts her life in her T-shirts and photos. Finally, I planned and implemented a grief and loss seminar for nursing students at Howard University. In one year the seminar has grown from 5 to 22 students. It has now been offered for three years and 152 students have completed the course. My students give numerous testimonials of how beneficial the course has been to them personally. These activities have not only been therapeutic for me but also beneficial to others.

For now my life's work focuses on providing support and education during bereavement. I have accepted the fact that I am a different, but not necessarily better person now. The "new me" is continuing to evolve. I know that I am getting better because I don't hurt as badly or for as long a time. My crying episodes, when they occur, are short-lived. I don't believe I have completely healed nor do I feel I will ever completely heal.

"Closure" and "resolution" are not terms I use in relation to grief in my daughter's death. I will never have closure. I will always miss her physical presence. I have reached a point, though, where life is good again. Reaching out to other bereaved families, especially those grieving the loss of a child, has been a big part of that.

Theresa Elaine Sluder
10-14-1961 ~ 11-17-2008

*She laughs out loud and in full voice sings with joy, delight and glee,
then turns to dance and twirl with graceful step, her soul set free;
our lovely carousel girl, reaching for the golden ring
as round it went, hers now, the gift of God in love.*



When Theresa was in the 11th grade at Plant City High School she was one of the young ladies selected to participate in the Strawberry Festival Queen contest. She was and the process was carried out over several weeks leading to the judges final decisions on Saturday night of the first weekend of the Festival in 1979. In those days there were several categories the judges reviewed, including: business interview dress suit, evening gown, bathing suit, and talent. The night Theresa sang in the stadium, before a large crowd in attendance, it was clear that she won the talent portion outright. Her presentation, poise, confidence, beauty and full voice expressed her vitality and creative gifts. Theresa was chosen to be a member of the Queen's Court of 1979. She is shown above on a carousel in one of her Festival gowns.

17

"To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven..." Ecclesiastes 3:1

"Love is patient, love is kind...
Love never fails..." I Corinthians 13:4,8

Love,
Theresa's Family

It Begins With Halloween ...

The holidays can be nightmares in the making for parents who have buried their baby. After all, most holidays are geared toward children, children who are no longer here with us. We may not have other living children to carry on the celebration with, or we may be unable to emotionally do so if there are other children.

The period most dreaded begins with Halloween and runs through the New Year. I remember wishing that I could go to sleep on October 30th and not wake up until January 3rd or 4th.

Realistically, we all know that this is not a possibility. So, what can a hurting parent do to survive these days that can bring us so much pain?

To begin with, be gentle with yourself, your spouse or significant other and any surviving children. Talk to each other. Find out what each is feeling before making any decisions as to what you will or will not do.

If surviving children are too young to really know what's going on, then they probably will not miss out if you decide to not put up a tree.

Even older children may need to downplay the first holidays after losing a baby sister or brother, and are uncomfortable telling their already hurting parents. Once you and your immediate family decide what is right, you then tell the extended family what has been decided. Do not allow others to pressure you into doing something that is not comfortable.

I know from experience and from speaking with many other hurting moms and dads that often our anticipation of the holiday is worse than the actual day itself. This is especially true if you have given the days ahead a lot of thought and have decided on a plan of what you would like to try to do. There are many ways to include your baby into your holiday plans. Some ideas I have used and heard of are:

- Buying and decorating a balled Christmas tree. That tree can later be planted in honor of your baby.



- Ordering special flowers to place in a special spot in your house or to carry with you to other houses as you go.
- Decorating your baby's grave and visiting the grave before or after the day's activity.
- Dedicating the altar flowers at your place of worship in your baby's name.
- Donating gifts that you would have bought for your child to a needy child. (Many parents have found a special peace by being able to go out and actually buy the special things for their children that they had been planning on all along, then pass them on to another child whose Christmas may not have been as special otherwise.)
- Lighting a candle or placing an ornament on a tree to honor your baby.
- Attending a special service dedicated to the honor of our children such as our chapter's Candlelight Ceremony.

The ideas are endless and very personal. It is important to look into your own heart and do what brings you and yours the peace you need. If you are not sure if something is right, try it out and, if it is not what you expected, then next year try something else.

I know if I look hard enough in my heart, I usually will find what I need to do for my boys, Jonathan and Jacob.

I will light a candle this year as I do every year in honor and celebration of all our children. I will say a special prayer for you and as always my wish for you is peace, hope and love in the days ahead.

With hugs and more hugs,
Kim Brundt

*Lovingly lifted from BP/USA
Central Savannah River Area Chapter*

In loving memory of
JANNA MARIE SNYDER

October 21, 1978 to November 11, 1995

What a joyful day it was when you were born 31 years ago and we knew that we had been truly blessed. Never in our wildest thoughts would we ever have believed you would be taken away from us at the tender age of 17, but you were, and devastation took the place of our happiness. Time has eased the pain somewhat but has not diminished our love which continues to grow or the longing we feel to have you back again. We cherish the wonderful memories you gave us and will keep them in our hearts forever.



Happy Birthday
from your loving family:

Mother and Dad - Connie and Dana Snyder
Brother - Jeffrey Snyder
Grandparents - Marian and "Pete" Bullard
Aunts, Uncles and Cousins

2009 Candlelight Ceremony (December 13) Participation Form

(Please return by November 20 to have your child's name/picture appear in the Program)

To: BP/USA, c/o 3805 W. San Juan Street, Tampa, FL 33629

- I (family) will be attending the service on December 13, and will light a candle in remembrance of my child/children

Number of people attending _____

- I have enclosed a picture for the Presentation. Please use the picture from last year 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 your 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 13, 2009 Candle Lighting Remembrance Ceremony

Bereaved Parents of the USA, Tampa Bay Chapter, will hold its annual Candlelight Remembrance Ceremony at 7 p.m. on Sunday, December 13. 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, snack, sandwiches, etc.) to share with others.

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: David Hurley, 3805 W. San Juan Street, Tampa, FL 33629

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 years candle lights, any of the National Gathering closing ceremonies, or Chapter Newsletters and you want to use the same photo, just let David know that. 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. Any questions please call David Hurley 813-831-2588.

BUTTONS - We have the equipment to make picture buttons. We can make a preordered picture button and have it ready for you when you arrive at the candle light. It will be made from a copy of the picture you submit for the picture presentation. Or 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. You can also have their first name to appear on the button preordered for \$1.00 charge. See above order.

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 Beverly Hurley at 813-831-2588.

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 above and send it in before **November 20** to: BP/USA Tampa Bay Chapter, c/o 3805 W. San Juan Street, Tampa, FL 33629. Thank you!



My Cover-Up Mask

I wake in the morning with tears in my eyes. I have to face another day without my child. I prepare to go to work and put on my "cover-up" mask as I go out to face the world.

I get my work done and even chat and sometimes smile at my co-workers. And they say, "My, how well she seems to be handling her loss." If they only knew what I am suffering under my mask. My work day is over, and I go home and remove my "cover-up" mask, and the tears come again.

I go to bed, and as the darkness of night envelops me and sleep eludes me, the tears come again. I have gotten through another day without my child. I have learned I must take one day at a time for the rest of my life, since it will never be the same again.

By Joan Watson, Salisbury, MD

NOVEMBER MTG. GIFT NIGHT

Share a special Christmas story or memory about your child and if you can handle it, purchase a gift that you would have bought for your child - please purchase gifts fitting for ages from infant to 15 years old.

All gifts will be donated and delivered to charity by Steering Committee Member, Charles L'Homme!
(This is strictly voluntary-do not wrap gifts!)



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

October 2009

POSTMASTER - Dated Material

Please do not delay.



If you no longer wish to receive a newsletter or have a new address, please let us know!

Please Say Their Names

No longer are we asked how are we doing. Never are the names of our children mentioned to us. A curtain descends. The moment has passed. Lives slip from frequent recall. There are exceptions: close and compassionate friends, sensitive and loving family. Still look. Still ask. Still listen. Thank God for them. For most, the drama is over. The spotlight is off. Applause is silent. But for us the play will never end. The effects on us are timeless. What can be said, you ask? Please say "their names" to us. Love does not die. Their names are written on our lives. The sound of their voices replay within our minds. You may feel they are dead. We feel they are of the dead and still they live. Their ghost-walk our souls, beckoning in future welcome. You say "they were our children", we say " they are". Please say "their names" again. It hurts to bury their memory in silence. What they are in spirit stirs within us always. They were of our past but they are part of our now. They are our hope for the future. Please understand we cannot forget. We would not if we could. We know that you cannot know, yesterday we were like you. Understand that we dwell in both flesh and spirit. We do not ask you to walk this road. The ascent is steep and the burden heavy. We walk it not by choice. We would rather walk it with them in the flesh, looking not to spirit worlds beyond. We are what we have to be. What we have lost, you cannot feel. What we have gained, you may not see. Please say "their names" for they are alive. We will meet them again, although in many ways we've never parted. Their spirits play light songs, appear in sunrises and sunsets. They are real and shadow, they were and they are. Please say "their names" to us and say "their names" again. They are our children and we love them as we always did. More each day.

PLEASE, SAY THEIR NAMES

Justin W. Higgs

