

Fall 2014



caring & sharing news  
*Helping rebuild lives following the death of a child*

*That Their Light  
May Always Shine . . .*

*The Bereaved Parents of the USA  
Northern Virginia Chapter*

*Invites you to the  
2014*

*Annual Service of Remembrance  
Saturday, December 6, 2014  
7 p.m.*

*Prince of Peace United Methodist Church  
6299 Token Forest Drive  
Manassas, VA*



*Please RSVP by  
Saturday, November 29  
703-656-6999*

**Caring and Sharing  
Support Meetings**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday**

3 p.m.

Good Shepherd UMC  
14999 Birchdale Avenue  
Dale City, VA 22193

**2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday**

Pot Luck Social Event  
7 p.m.

Larson Home  
6900 Cole Timothy Court  
Manassas, VA 20112  
703-791-6537

[rlarson900@verizon.com](mailto:rlarson900@verizon.com)

For more information  
contact:

Jodi Norman, Chapter  
Leader

703-910-6277 (home)

703-656-6999 (cell)

[bpusa.nova@yahoo.com](mailto:bpusa.nova@yahoo.com)

***The Annual Service of Remembrance provides an opportunity for parents, grandparents, siblings, relatives and friends to remember our precious children.***



***Please join us in celebration of our children's lives as we enter this Holiday Season with Love, Compassion and Hope for all.***



***Slide Presentation*** ~ During the program, we will be presenting a slide presentation of our children. To have your child(ren) included, please provide a photo of your child to Jodi Norman, 2816 Noble Fir Court, Woodbridge, VA 22192. Photos can be mailed, sent on a disc or e-mailed to [bpusa.nova@yahoo.com](mailto:bpusa.nova@yahoo.com). If you are sending an original photo to be scanned, it will be returned to you. Also, provide the child's name, date of birth and date of death.

***Deadline to submit photos is Saturday, November 29, 2014. Photos will not be accepted after this date.*** Any questions, contact Jodi at 703-656-6999.

***Fellowship and Pot Luck Dinner to follow the service.*** Please bring a main dish, salad or side dish to share. Cake and beverages will be provided.

***Please bring a framed photo of your child*** (no larger than 8x10) identified with your child's name and age. A table will be set up for you to display your child's picture.

***Poinsettias*** will be used to decorate for our Service. If you would like to sponsor a poinsettia in memory of your child, we are asking for a \$15 donation. You may take the poinsettia home with you at the end of the evening.

In order to ensure your child's name is included in the printed program please provide the information requested by returning the RSVP by mail or e-mail [bpusa.nova@yahoo.com](mailto:bpusa.nova@yahoo.com) no later than ***Saturday, November 29, 2014.***

We encourage people to participate in the program. If you would like to participate please let Jodi know by November 29th, so you can be included in the program.

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. with the service starting promptly at 7:00 p.m.

Please bring an unwrapped gift to be given to Charity this Christmas. If you would like, bring a gift that you would've bought for your child, sibling or grandchild.

Any questions, please contact Jodi Norman at 703-656-6999 or e-mail: [bleachermom2000@aol.com](mailto:bleachermom2000@aol.com)



# *We Remember Our Children*

*Who have birthdays and angelversary dates  
in August, September, and October*

<b>Kirsten Lynn Adler</b>	2/21/94 ~ <b>10/24/10</b>	<b>Cody Darrin Johnson</b>	9/11/02 ~ 3/06/09
<b>Scott R. Barley</b>	12/7/81 ~ <b>9/29/11</b>	<b>Jayden William Lee</b>	<b>10/23/10</b>
<b>Kimberly Ann Barrett</b>	<b>9/08/86</b> ~ 5/04/02	<b>Tiffany Michelle Lewis</b>	1/26/80 ~ <b>10/11/96</b>
<b>Demitrios Bedoya</b>	<b>10/27/76</b> ~ 2/10/03	<b>Robert Loiseau</b>	<b>8/22/72</b> ~ 5/27/93
<b>Trevor Austin Blake</b>	<b>10/30/01</b> ~ 8/11/13	<b>Kyle Ludeman</b>	4/12/93 ~ <b>8/27/13</b>
<b>Parker Evan Boyd</b>	<b>9/15/98</b> – 6/04/08	<b>Anthony “Tony” Mason</b>	2/28/73 ~ <b>9/22/07</b>
<b>Baron Braswell II</b>	<b>9/29/89</b> ~ 01/20/06	<b>Ronald McCorn</b>	<b>8/14/75</b> ~ 12/09/04
<b>Clayton Breeding</b>	<b>10/23/77</b> ~ 12/12/01	<b>Emily “Tabor” McMullen</b>	1/26/84 ~ <b>8/31/12</b>
<b>Kenny Brooks Jr.</b>	<b>8/13/82</b> ~ 01/13/06	<b>John Earl Medley</b>	2/21/59 ~ <b>9/09/08</b>
<b>Brandon Bundy</b>	5/19/84 ~ <b>8/24/08</b>	<b>Derek Meffert</b>	4/21/95 ~ <b>8/15/10</b>
<b>David John Butts</b>	<b>10/18/80</b> ~ 12/16/05	<b>Michael Sean O’Berry</b>	<b>9/13/94</b> ~ 12/15/97
<b>Christopher Chapman</b>	<b>8/01/88</b> ~ 1/13/07	<b>Zane J Pitzvada</b>	<b>8/22/92</b> ~ <b>9/13/11</b>
<b>Lisa Marie Champlin</b>	<b>10/16</b> ~ <b>9/2</b>	<b>Kylene Marie Privett</b>	12/14/83 ~ <b>8/13/07</b>
<b>Eduardo “Eddy” Chavez</b>	2/07/06 ~ <b>9/20/10</b>	<b>Matthew Allan Ruane</b>	<b>9/07/83</b> ~ 4/29/02
<b>Jason A. Clover</b>	7/30/84 ~ <b>9/28/03</b>	<b>Vernon Santmyer, Jr.</b>	<b>8/24/79</b> ~ 5/17/11
<b>Todd Coder</b>	7/23/84 ~ <b>9/24/10</b>	<b>Gene “Tony” Sergeant</b>	<b>8/10/87</b> ~ <b>9/14/07</b>
<b>Jason Michael Colson</b>	3/09/84 ~ <b>10/01/08</b>	<b>Tyler Smith</b>	<b>9/20/92</b> ~ <b>8/01/06</b>
<b>K.J. Edwards</b>	12/03/85 ~ <b>10/31/03</b>	<b>Graham Stevenson</b>	3/30/85 ~ <b>9/22/07</b>
<b>Brian Patrick Elero</b>	12/30/80 ~ <b>10/29/01</b>	<b>Jerry Damon Taybron</b>	11/21/75 ~ <b>8/18/07</b>
<b>Bruce Lee Foxworthy</b>	<b>8/29/75</b> ~ 2/11/12	<b>Dana Thrall</b>	<b>8/02/75</b> ~ 01/02/01
<b>Erin Gaston</b>	<b>9/27/80</b> ~ <b>10/31/08</b>	<b>Austin Trenum</b>	3/26/93 ~ <b>9/27/10</b>
<b>Olivia Jean Howard</b>	12/31/91 ~ <b>9/03/09</b>	<b>Mindy Weakley</b>	12/20/83 ~ <b>9/02/09</b>
<b>Rasheem Jenkins</b>	5/04/82 ~ <b>9/09/09</b>	<b>Josh Weaver</b>	6/17/82 ~ <b>9/09/09</b>

We apologize if there are any mistakes in the “We Remember Our Children” section. If we spelled any names incorrectly, have any dates wrong, or your child’s name is not listed and have a birthday or angelversary date during the months of August, September, or October please provide us with your child’s information so they can be included correctly in future newsletters.

## **My thoughts for today by LeeAnn Hutson**

### **August 21, 2014**

I wrote this from the mind and heart as it flowed, may not mean anything or make sense, I am still trying to wrap my head around what I really want to say. This all comes from me personally. I think that as our bereaved friends and family read this, I know they will "Get It".

I heard my husband talking on the phone with a mother who is in the process of planning her 11-year old son's memorial service for this weekend. This woman knew Daryl from him buying gas at her employer and Daryl who "knows everyone" talked to her every day. In conversations she learned about Greg and how Greg had decided to end his life. She talked to Daryl about her son and some of his struggles. After her son, at age 11 decided to end his life, all she knew to do was to reach out to the man she talked to everyday while he paid for his fuel, she knew he would understand what she was going through. Through a friend they tracked him down.

Now this boy and my Greg were no Robin Williams. These two boys were our boys. We don't know if they were going to be the next Robin Williams, the next President or the person who would invent a cure for ALS or any other deadly disease. One of these boys could have been the scientist who found the cure for depression. We don't know. Nobody saw our son's names on TV when they died. From the rich and famous to the local kids here around us, it happens. It happens for reasons or for no reasons known. People need to remember that. A person does not have to show any signs to die by suicide. Also, a person can show many signs, but no matter what you do, they will find a way. It happens and then what do we do.

I have spent my last 8 years with Bereaved Parents of the USA. BP/USA's mission statement sums up exactly what we do. "We, as bereaved parents help grieving parents and families rebuild their lives following the death of a child." What else could we do? We offer them resources and if we don't have the resource they need we try to direct them where they can find help. What else can we do? 8 years I have spent trying to help families understand that no matter how much they hate the thought of it, the earth will continue to spin and the sun will come up tomorrow, and to deal with that we give them HOPE by using our experience and our journey to show them they will survive.

I sit here and write this and many of my friends come to my mind, so many have had to plan memorials for their children who have died because they decided to end their lives. This is what I am familiar with, suicide, grief and the sadness. Suicide, why does this happen? Will we ever really know? The why's can ruin your life, if you let it. Grief - our families lives with this every day and we will for the rest of our lives. Sadness - the sadness that these victims of suicide didn't see any other way out. Sadness - the deep down darkness we will feel forever.

Robin Williams was 63, Greg was 13 and Dalton was 11. All died by suicide. What can we do? Bring suicide awareness to everyone/everywhere, educate the people around us and/or donate to help in the research of suicide, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, AFSP, or donate to a BP/USA chapter or the National organization to help fund resources for families who are grieving, you could help buy that one book or help in the purchase of printing that one newsletter that could be the lifesaver to a grieving mother, father, sister or brother.

Of course this got me thinking even more, educating the ones around us.

This week I heard a grown-up say "That is the way we have always done it". I sit for a moment and thought, where would we be if things never changed. It is up to us, who know firsthand, to educate.

(Here is where I really step up on the soap box.)

A friend posted on FB, a memory of his son. A person responded “at least they are in a better place”. You know what “F\*&^ that.” No bereaved parent wants to hear that. The best place for our children is right beside us. Especially since not everyone believes in the same religious beliefs.

Also, don't tell someone that “God only takes the very best”. Really? I hope that God does not take children, because if that is the case, I don't want any part of that God. (Here is a story about Daryl and myself. After Greg died, Daryl and I was having our coffee one morning watching the Today Show, when Willard Scott , come on with his Smuckers List of old people. I listened and then calmly looked at Daryl and said “What did those people do to piss God off? Because all anyone wants to say to me is “How God only takes the best.”)

DO NOT let kids hear you say that someone is in a better place after dying. Especially kids who do not understand or been around religious beliefs on after death (heaven). If a kid is struggling with something, having a horrible time and feeling like they just can't deal with it anymore, you just told them that dying takes you to a better place.

Don't tell them “I know how you feel” unless you can follow that with “my child died, also.” And then what is even better is if you can add “we will get through this together.”

Say, “I'm sorry”, “I want to listen”, “Talk to me” or “I don't understand, but I am here for you”. You don't even have to speak, be a great listener. We need someone to listen to us, sincerely.

Okay so a summary of my rambling: Suicide can happen to anyone, any family, anytime and anywhere. It does not matter who you are or how old you are. Don't say stupid S^&^ to people and oh yeah the most important thing:

I beg and encourage everyone to reach out and help. Give a hug and DO NOT be afraid to ask someone if they are okay, and if they say fine, DO NOT settle with that. Say “No really, how are you and what can I do to help?”

Then think about donating to AFSP, an organization who does research on preventing suicide or our BP/USA chapter, an organization who reaches out to families who are struggling with their child's death.

When I am done here I am sending a check to AFSP and to BP/USA. It is just one of the things I can do. And I will do it in memory of Robin, Greg, Dalton and all the ones who have left us to soon.





## *If Only*

*If only dreams could come true,  
I would still be with you,  
We would never count the days,  
Because you would not have passed away.*

*Each morning when I rise,  
There would be no thought that you died,  
Every day I would awake with joy,  
Happy with life and my wonderful boy.*

*Sometimes dreams come to an end,  
I'll not see my son in this life again,  
He's the last thought when  
I go to bed at night,  
And my first thought with the morning light.*

*If only you were not really dead,  
And would be coming home instead,  
I'd like to pretend you've  
just been away for awhile,  
Separated by nothing more than miles.*

*Time moves differently now  
that you are gone,  
It's so hard to keep moving on,  
You are remembered and loved  
more than I can say,  
And I miss you every single day.*

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<http://amotherstears.blogspot.com/>

Our dear friend and fellow Bereaved Parent, Clayton Finch passed away on July 27, 2014. Clay and Louise have been members of the NOVA Chapter since the beginning of our chapter, after the death of their son, Robert, who was murdered on January 2, 2001 at the age of 30. Clay went to be with his son on Robert's 44<sup>th</sup> Birthday! Clay, you will be missed! Rest in Peace, good friend!



A note from Louise:

Dear Bereaved Parents,  
The flowers were beautiful, they made me feel like you were all with me, Jen and Jeanine. It was definitely great to have that feeling. We all need support. Clay is happy. Thank you so much.  
Love, Louise and family

## I Will Love You, My Child

Author Unknown

As long as I can dream, as long as I can think, as long as I have a memory...

**I will love you.**

As long as I have eyes to see and ears to hear and lips to speak...

**I will love you.**

And as long as I have a heart to feel, a soul stirring within me, an imagination to hold you...

**I will love you.**

And as long as I have a breath to speak your name...

**I will love you.**

The Picnic,  
Balloon Release,  
and Memory Walk  
that was originally  
scheduled for Sunday,  
October 5, 2014  
Has been postponed until  
May 31, 2015.



Find us on:  
**facebook**®

A facebook page has been set up for our chapter. Members can join our group at <http://www.facebook.com/Bereaved Parents of the USA/Northern VA Chapter> This is a closed group for privacy purposes, so nothing posted here will go into your regular News Feed for your regular FB friends to see. Request to join the group and approval will be sent to you.

### When making Amazon.com Purchases Think BP/USA

Did you know that BP/USA is an affiliated member of Amazon.com?

This means that if you visit BP/USA before making an Amazon.com purchase, and click on the Amazon link on the page, that BP/USA will receive a percentage of all sales. The use of this link does not increase the cost of your purchase. Four to 13% of the sales price comes back to BP/USA.

Go to [bereavedparentsusa.com](http://bereavedparentsusa.com).



Bereaved Parents of the USA  
**2015 NATIONAL GATHERING**  
HARTFORD, CT • JULY 24 - 26

### Support Group for Parents with No Surviving Children

**Reston Chapter**  
Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month at 2:00 pm

This group is only for Parents with no surviving children.

North County Government Bldg  
Reston Police Station Bldg.  
12000 Bowman Towne Drive  
Reston, VA

For more info contact:  
Nancy Vollmer - (703) 860-8587

### Upcoming Events

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday**  
**Sept. 28 & Oct. 26**  
**3:00 p.m.**

Caring and Sharing Meeting  
Good Shepherd UMC  
14999 Birchdale Avenue  
Dale City, VA 22193

**2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday**  
**Oct. 9 & Nov. 13**  
**7 p.m.**

Pot Luck Social Event  
Larson Home  
6900 Cole Timothy Court  
Manassas, VA 20112

**Saturday, December 6**  
**7 p.m.**

Annual Service of Remembrance  
Prince of Peace UMC  
Manassas, VA

### Sponsor the Newsletter

If you would like to sponsor the newsletter in memory of your child, we are requesting a donation of \$40 for a full page and \$20 for a half page. Please provide pictures, stories, poems, letters to your child, or anything you would like to put in the newsletter.

Please contact Jodi Norman if you have any questions. Submissions can be emailed to [bpusa.nova@yahoo.com](mailto:bpusa.nova@yahoo.com). Please send check to BP/USA NOVA Chapter to P.O. Box 7675, Woodbridge, VA 22195.

### Website

We are going to be updating our website and we would like to include biographies and photos of the children of our chapter. Please email photos and written information about your child to [bpusa.nova@yahoo.com](mailto:bpusa.nova@yahoo.com).

## Bereaved Parents of the USA 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 journey. We attend month gatherings whenever we can and for as long as we believe necessary. We share our fears, 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 the triumphs as well as the love that will never fade. Together we learn how little it matters where we live, what our color or our affluence is 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 from each other to every more recently bereaved family.

*We are the Bereaved Parents of the USA.  
We welcome you.*

### Chapter Contact Information

Jodi Norman, Leader  
P.O. Box 7675  
Woodbridge, VA 22195  
Phone: 703-910-6277  
[bpusa.nova@yahoo.com](mailto:bpusa.nova@yahoo.com)



Bereaved Parents of the USA  
P.O. Box 622, St Peters, MO 6337  
[www.bereavedparentsusa.org](http://www.bereavedparentsusa.org)

### Someone Cares About You

If you are receiving this newsletter and have never attended one of our meetings, it is because someone who cares about you feels that our newsletter may help you on your journey through grief. We're sorry for the reason you are receiving this newsletter but invite you to attend our monthly meetings. We cannot take away your pain but we can offer friendship and support.



Attention: If you do not wish to continue to receive this newsletter or be on our mailing list, please let us know by mailing back the address label from this newsletter, by emailing [bpusa.nova@yahoo.com](mailto:bpusa.nova@yahoo.com) or calling Jodi at 703-910-6277.

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