

VOLUME 11 #3
Fall/Winter 2011



*A Center for Grieving
Children and Families*

**6 Poquonock Avenue
Windsor, Connecticut 06095**

**860-688-9621
www.marysplacect.org**

MARY'S PLACE
6 Poquonock Avenue
Windsor, CT 06095-2507



From the Director

Over a period of several days, those of us in Connecticut had our power restored after enduring Storm Alfred, the Nor'easter that wreaked havoc throughout most of the state.

In a few weeks, this freak October storm will only be a memory. We will have lights at night, a warm house and hot water, and cold milk in the fridge. Other than the tales we will share for some time, our lives will pretty much be as they were prior to the storm.

This is not so for the families of Mary's Place, who have experienced a tragedy; a death of a husband, father, sister or brother. Life for them will never be as it was prior to the death. As they integrate their loss into their lives they search for what is now a "new normal." Time is now defined as life before the death or after the death. And so, as many in Connecticut went to shelters during the storm, we hope that those who find their way to our center find safety, hope and healing here during their storm.

I thank all of you who support us and thereby allow us to provide this place of comfort. Anything and everything you do makes a difference. Our Ray of Hope Celebration in September was a great success. Thank you to everyone who helped make it a wonderful evening and to all who took part.

I would also like to thank two long-standing and devoted board members who will be rotating off our Board of Directors at the end of the year. We are most grateful to David Newell and Robin Roncari for their years of service. David has served as secretary for many years and Robin as co chair of our Gala. We also say goodbye and thank Ken Prescott for his contributions to the board these past two years. They, like so many of you, have made a difference in the lives of the many children and families who come here.

As we approach the holiday season all of us at Mary's Place ...the staff, board of directors, volunteers, children and families...wish that each of you may find peace in your heart, joy in your families and hope in your future.



Warmly,
Lisa Peluso
Executive Director



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In Honor Of:

"All the volunteers"

Denise Adessa
John Carmon
Lousie Colletti
Mary Keane
Ted LeBlanc's 59th Birthday
Jen and Roger Nolte
Jessica Maso Rioux
Barbara Selig

Mary's Place is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization.
Any donations made are deductible according to IRS regulations.
If your name has been omitted, or there is an error, we apologize
and ask that you notify us at 688-9621 or e-mail: marysplace@aol.com.
No fees are charged to participating families
and Mary's Place depends upon individual and community support.

If you would like your name removed from our mailing list, please return the enclosed envelope to us with a note to that effect. Otherwise, we will be happy to continue to send our newsletter three times a year.





July, August, September and October 2011 Continued

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Let's go fly a Kite...

One of the many ways the children at Mary's Place express their grief is through memory projects.

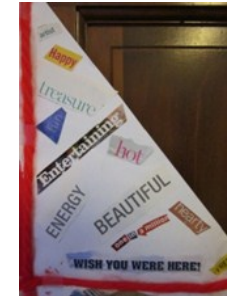
By remembering their loved one who died they are able to continue to hold them in their heart and share their memory with others.

One such project for our Big Kids Group was our Kite Project. Given a kite template each child was asked to divide the kite into 4 areas.

One area was to be filled with a symbol that



Another was for words that described their



Another for things their loved on liked.



And finally an area represented a



When finished the children shared their kites with each other. As grief is unique for each person, so were the memories and kites.





2011 Ray of Hope Celebration



Over 200 guests attended our Ray of Hope Celebration at the Atrium of the Goodwin Hotel. The Celebration noted the 15 years in which Mary's Place has offered hope and healing. Our thanks to all who supported us and helped make the fun evening a great success.

The Carmon Family was presented with the Ray of Hope Award for their outstanding and ongoing support of Mary's Place.



Co Chairs Deb and Robin Roncari with John Carmon



Guests enjoying good food and good company



Board and Auction Chair Marsha Mason



Gifts are often given to Mary's Place in memory of a beloved family member or friend; also, to honor birthdays, anniversaries and special occasions. We are grateful for each gift and thank you sincerely for your support.

July, August, September and October 2011

Gifts in Memory of:

Michael Albrizio, David M. Barry, Thomas Barry, Mary Berarducci, Marjorie Bixler, Roy Bixler, Cpl. Stephen Bixler, Luciana Fiona Campbell, Kenneth Chase, Monique Colletti, Mom Mom & Pop Pop's Cramer and Freck, Henry and Mary Crosson, Joseph D'Amico, Robert DeGray, DeVito Family, Edward W. Dooley Jr., Everett Dowe, Ron and Ruth Forrest, Melissa Galka, Rebecca Ganci, John Healy, Pat Hine, Hughes Family, Anna James, Anne Keen, Jackie Keen, Kimball Family, Spencer King, Frank Lowry, Mary MacLeod, Mary Miller, Nancy Morris, Newton Family, Janice Nolan, Lucinda Alves Nunes, Joseph and Irma Perrotta, Larry Provost, Adrian J. Rivera, Lawrence Ridel Jr., Lawrence Ridel Sr.

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OUR THANKS TO BROWN'S HARVEST FOR SUCH A SPECIAL DAY



Our Wish List

Fisher Price "Loving Family" - doll house furniture and figures
First class postage stamps
Bottled water
Adult Rocking Chair (1)

Gift Cards for:

Toys R Us
Michael's
Target
Wal-Mart
Amazon.com
Stop and Shop



Give the Gift of Hope for the Holidays!

Looking for a truly meaningful gift for someone special on your holiday list? Consider honoring them with a holiday donation to Mary's Place in their name. With each holiday gift donation you will receive a Holiday Card to present to the honoree stating that a donation has been made in their name to Mary's Place to provide hope and healing for a grieving child. For more information on this special holiday program please contact Mary's Place.

RAY OF HOPE ~Anonymous Donor "In Honor of the Staff and Volunteers of Mary's Place"

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**Steven Kolodziej, Guest Participant, shared his personal reflections at our
Ray of Hope Celebration**

It was as if I had been standing beside a gently flowing stream.
In an instant, it was a raging river.
We, my little girl and I, had to get to safety.
Of that much I was certain.
The other side.
We had to cross to the other side.
How?
A bridge.
A bridge to safety.
We needed a bridge.

I was numb the day I phoned Mary's Place.
I was still numb the day I arrived.
There, I would meet men and women like me.
Their words told me their stories.
Their eyes told me their stories.
Where they sat in the room told me how long it had been.
But I was safe.
Soon to be numb no longer.

Almost immediately my little girl realized she was not like the other kids.
She chose not to talk about it.
She arrived at Mary's Place burdened with what she would call "her secret."
There she would meet little boys and girls like her.
There, she would share crayons and stickers.
There, she would share stories, memories, joys, songs, loves.
And my little girl was safe.
And her "secret" would soon be so secret no more.
My little girl would begin to freely share about Mommy at Mary's Place.
And today freely shares about Mommy most anywhere.
Which is only fitting.
Lisa, after all, was everything beautiful.
Lisa's memory, after all, is everything beautiful.

We, my little girl and I,
needed a bridge.
We found one.



In closing, I will use better words than my own to describe
Mary's Place:

An old man, going a lone highway,
Came, at the evening, cold and gray,
To a chasm, vast, and deep, and wide,
Through which was flowing a sullen tide.
The old man crossed in the twilight dim;
The sullen stream had no fears for him;
But he turned, when safe on the other side,
And built a bridge to span the tide.
"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim, near,
"You are wasting strength with building here;
Your journey will end with the ending day;
You never again must pass this way;
You have crossed the chasm, deep and wide—
Why build you the bridge at the eventide?"

The builder lifted his old gray head:
"Good friend, in the path that I have come," he said,
"There followeth after me today
A youth whose feet must pass this way.
This chasm, that has been naught to me,
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be.
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;
Good friend, I am building the bridge for *him*."

—The Bridge Builder, *Will Allen Dromgoole*

