

Mission Statement

Our Mission is to bring light in a time of sorrow. To provide a bear as a reminder of your little angel and that you are not alone, but accompanied by the thoughts and prayers of everyone who has shared in this emotion.

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Member of the Jenison - Grandville Chamber of Commerce, Michigan Non Profit, 501-c-3 federal non profit.

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Several times a year Jim and I head up north to Traverse City Michigan. The beauty of Lake Michigan, the vineyards and the quaint shops are amazing. Our favorite places to go in the Traverse City area is Lake Leelanau, Old Mission Point and Suttons Bay. This area is considered wine country. So yes, we stop and sample wines and enjoy the beauty of Lake Michigan.

The middle of January we decided to go north for a few days. We stopped at a winery we hadn't been to before, got a glass of wine and sat in the big comfy chairs by the fireplace.

Another couple came into the winery about the same time we did. They too got a glass of wine and joined us at the fireplace.

We started chatting and sharing information. They shared that they recently retired and that they live in the Detroit area. During our sharing, they stated they didn't have any children.

He noticed Jim's veteran license plate and as they talked, they found out they both served over in Viet Nam, a few years apart. This gave the guys had a lot to talk about and share. He was a military police officer in Nam and Jim was in the jungle. So yes, they were in different areas of service but the two departments of service did cross paths. He then shared that he was a retired police officer.

I asked her where she retired from and she told me she was a retired nurse. I asked what hospital she retired from and she told me. I excitedly stated "we have a nonprofit and that is one of the hospitals we are in." She asked me about the nonprofit so I explained how we had a granddaughter who was born still. After Brianna was born into the arms of Jesus, our son Brian gave our daughter in law Jessica, a teddy bear so that she didn't leave the hospital with empty arms. As I watched how much that teddy bear helped Jessica in her healing process, we decided to start the Brianna Lee Foundation to help all those moms that were faced with leaving the hospital with empty arms.

As I looked at her closer, I noticed she had tears running down her face. Not a few tears falling, but streams of tears running down her face. I apologized for making her cry. Her comment to me was "We had one child 30 years ago. She too was a stillbirth. You have no idea how much a teddy would have helped me! I wish you were around back then as I would have loved to have had a bear to cuddle and hug and cry with." Thirty years later and the pain is still so strong!

At this point all I could do was give her a hug and tell her I was sorry. So, for all the moms who lost a child and never got a teddy bear, we honor you and we cry with you! We also rejoice in that fact that the Brianna Lee Foundation is a Foundation that honors all the stillborn babies and to the moms that have shared in this tragedy. God bless you!

Linda Miller

Welcome to our new hospitals this quarter!

University of Colorado Hospital in Aurora CO

St Joseph Hospital in Denver CO Rush University Medical Center in Chicago IL

Merry Christmas Rowan From Mom (Megan), Dad (Gerrit), Rhys, Kiara and Elias Campbell



Thank you to Cabot Microelectronics in Aurora IL. for your donation!



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Jim & Karyl McCullough

Pam Howe

To the Brianna Lee Foundation,

Thank you so much for sending us all of the wonderful teddy bears. I cannot tell you how much our patients love them.

They are wonderful!

Thank you again,

Jennifer Waitt

RN Bereavement Nurse

Open Arms Program @ Community

Health Network

Indianapolis IN

When shopping on Amazon, consider shopping via the Amazon Smile page as a portion of the sales will go towards the Foundation. Thanks!

<u>smile.amazon.com/ch/46-1979851</u>, AmazonSmile donates to Brianna Lee Foundation?

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