



Dan and his boys

hugged and cried and hugged and cried. I called Marty and again cried with my buddy over the phone. I asked what we should do and he said hold that baby as much as you can, take as many pictures as possible and encourage Ben and Abby to spend as much time as possible with their first child. Emma Grace McFerron, a full term, beautiful little girl, was born still on the morning of February 28th. When we returned home we retreated to Marty and Becky Loy's back porch and hugged and cried once again with our dear friends. At that time we had the opportunity to learn more about their experience in the loss of their baby, Sara.

Our 2017 camps brought us many special and wonderful families, including two beautiful women who lost someone very special to them only 10 weeks prior to attending our May camp. Here is just a glimpse of their journey.

- Mariah Singer-Brown, Director

Our person, Nina's father and my husband, was killed in a tragic car accident in March 2017. We attended CAMP HOPE in May 2017. Our grief was pretty raw and we were still in shock at camp. The camp was recommended to me by a friend and we are so glad that she did!

At first, I was afraid there would not be many teens at camp. To my surprise there were lots of teenagers who lost someone they loved dearly. Nina, who is 17, said that Camp HOPE was an amazing experience and she met so many good people. She shared that since her loss was so recent, just by being around others who were in different places in their grief was beneficial. Nina said, "Just hearing that people are eventually okay was monumental for me." She also said she learned to appreciate the life you have and the people that are in it. Nina hopes to return to Camp HOPE as a counselor in the future.

While Nina was at the Kid's Camp, I attended the adjacent Adult Camp. The Camp HOPE counselors all have personal experience with loss and are really 'in tune' with the groups and individuals and what they need. It was remarkable to me that in spite of my pain, I could empathize with each person who shared their story. We shed tears together as

In the years since Emma's death, Abby and Ben created Denver Share, a non profit that works with parents who have experienced the death of a child. They have found this to be challenging, emotional and rewarding, working with others through a shared grief journey. Yes, they are mirroring the strength and resolve that helped form Camp HOPE and Dan Hebert Camp HOPE.

In life we all will deal with death, as death is a part of life. The Loy family lost their second child, beautiful Sara, and through the amazing grace of hope, after a terrible loss, started Camp HOPE. The Hebert family lost an amazing son, brother, husband, dad and uncle when Dan died; however, numerous grieving children and their families have gained the opportunity to experience the Dan Hebert Camp HOPE. The McFerron family lost their first born child; however, numerous Denver families are being aided through the challenges of their baby loss via Denver Share.

Carol and I are blessed to know three amazing people, who were all guided, motivated and assisted in some way by the hope found after the loss of someone loved; and now you also know these amazing folks. Thank you to Marty and Becky Loy, Lynn Hebert, Jim and Cynthia Hebert and Ben and Abby McFerron for so beautifully illustrating love, grace and hope after experiencing the loss of a loved one. You are my role models and heroes. Carol and I are am humbled and honored to know and love you.

- Fred Hebert



Nina, back row second from left, with her cabin group

strangers, united by the unthinkable. The loss of a loved one creates an aloneness - or separateness - and there are very few people who understand your pain or how you feel. I still communicate with some of the remarkable people I met back in May.

Camp HOPE is a light in the darkness, wherever you may be in your grief. Thank you.

- Julia & Nina Jiannacopoulos



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*A camp experience for
children and their
families after the death
of a loved one*

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From the inception of Camp HOPE, we have had to rely on you, our donors and fundraisers. We have always operated under the guise that 'our donors are always watching.' We've been and continue to be frugal while doing our best to spoil our campers during their short stay with us. In his retirement, Fred Hebert has chosen to give his time to our campers, not only as a volunteer counselor and Board member, but as one of our main fundraisers. Here is his story.

*-Becky Loy
President and Founder*

Love, Loss, and HOPE

It is said in life that one is fortunate to have a couple very close friends. Carol, my wife of 42 years, and I are blessed to call Marty and Becky Loy close friends. Marty and I drove up and down the road together to earn our PhD's from the University of Wisconsin. We have many wonderful stories about shared academic challenges, but probably remember more about those trips. Carol leaned heavily on Becky's wisdom with grief and loss when her brother Jeff died in 1997 at age 42. I will never forget seeing Marty and Frank O'Brien in the crowd, 200 miles from home as I delivered a eulogy to my dad in Bayfield in 1998. Our truly deep friendship has been tested numerous times in many ways; allow me to expand.

The Len and Connie Hebert family resided in Mosinee and Dad was the high school principal where all six of his children graduated. The youngest, Dan, had a larger than life personality, and claimed that mom and dad finally got it right with their sixth child. I am confident in stating my four siblings agreed with this humble assessment. After college, Dan headed to California to join his brother Jim and Jim's wife Cynthia, to live the good life. He settled in San Jose with his wife Lynne Frame and had two boys, Tanner and Jackson. By all indications, their lives were good; they seemed blessed in many ways. Dan's life, and ours, changed forever when he learned, at an outpatient clinic, that he had an extremely high white



blood cell count. Further tests indicated an extremely rare form of leukemia called T-cell prolymphocytic leukemia. All Internet searches came to the same awful conclusion – death.

The only possible means of defeating this disease was a stem cell transplant. All five siblings were tested as matching donors; I matched on all 3 markers. I vividly recall dancing in Dan's kitchen with Dan, Lynne, Tanner, 4, and Jackson, 1. We had a plan and held on to the hope of beating this disease.

Dan began treatments to allow the stem cell transplant to be a viable treatment plan and they proved successful. While he had lost his hair, he looked strong and healthy; his hair grew back and his energy returned. He stated strongly that he was ready for the one chance he had at attaining a quality life and wanted his boys to know he tried



WINTER 2018

Please help us to continue providing free services to grieving children and their families. Remember Camp HOPE with your giving. We are a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization.

DID YOU KNOW?

Since 1989, we have served over 4300 grieving children & teens.

*Thank you to Spectra Print, Stevens Point, for the donation of the design and printing of this newsletter.
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The Len and Connie Hebert Family

A camp experience for children and their families after the death of a loved one.

everything to spend as much time as possible with them. He knew the leukemia, although in remission, would return with a vengeance and then remission may not be possible.

Dan's preparations for the stem cell transplant were much more challenging than mine. He went through full body radiation and a series of chemotherapy to essentially destroy all the cells within his body to be receptive to the infusion of mine. I received a series of shots and spent all day with Dan. The two weeks of preparation were the greatest gift I have ever been given. We talked at length about Dan's future. He was going to become a motivational speaker, making folks aware of what was truly important in life. His illness gave him the opportunity to slow down and deeply appreciate all the blessings he had in life, not taking them for granted.

Our transplant was a success. Dan was able to go home for a day, before returning due to an infection. During this time, my siblings were taking turns spending time with Dan, helping Lynn as much as possible. But



Fred and Dan

one day in mid-November, Jim called and said I should get on a plane as Dan was dying. I was blessed to spend a couple nights with Dan in his hospital room, along with our sister Molly. The nursing staff said he might hold on for as much as a month so I returned home. I cried the entire flight; I could not stop, as I watched families traveling to be with loved ones for Thanksgiving. The next day, I went to work and in the afternoon, Marty knocked on my door. We hugged and cried and hugged and cried. I truly don't think there is/was any other man on the planet that I could have been that open and raw with. I shared Dan's fears that his boys may not remember him. Marty suggested writing a children's book dedicated to Dan's journey through his illness. I loved the idea and actually wrote two books about my brother Dan. That same evening Jim called again and said the nurses and doctors thought Dan would die within 24 hours. So on Thanksgiving day, we rushed back. Our

entire family made it in time. Dan, Lynn and the boys were surrounded by family. Dan died on Thanksgiving day, leaving Lynn and Tanner, now 5 and Jackson, almost 2. Dan was only 36. Our family was in disbelief, as we thought he would beat this and live happily ever after. A reminder that bad things happen to good people. It was simply our turn.

Dan's wife Lynn was a widow at 33, with two beautiful little boys. She is an amazing woman from a supportive family and sought grief counseling in and around San Jose. Lynn was frustrated and she was unable to find anything remotely viable for Tanner. I mentioned that Tanner may benefit from Camp HOPE so she brought the boys to Wisconsin. Tanner and I headed to Camp. I was his counselor and it was an extremely emotional camp for both of us. Lynn was impressed with how Tanner had received camp, while he learned he wasn't the only little boy without a daddy.

Lynn and Tanner returned to Camp HOPE together, with Lynn attending Adult Camp. Shortly after, Lynn began thinking about starting a grief camp for children in northern California. Lynn returned with my brother Jim in May 2003 to study all aspects of running a grief Camp. Marty and Becky were extremely helpful in allowing them to gain an understanding of all the elements required to be successful. In 2004, Lynn ran the first Dan Hebert Camp HOPE through the Taylor Family Foundation's Camp Arroyo in Livermore, California. She continues to feature 3 camps a year, running the entire operation out her home. Tanner and Jackson, now 21 and 18, are very involved in the Camp; Tanner will probably replace his mom within the next couple years to run the Camp. To date, Dan Hebert Camp HOPE has met the needs of over 2000 children and their families.

In 2004, my brother Jim started a two day Dan Hebert Memorial Golf Tournament to help support Dan Hebert Camp HOPE. My brother Bart and I have attended all of these outings, as it gives us a chance to share Dan stories with those who knew and loved our brother and see Lynn and the boys. It is hardly a surprise that Marty and Frank O'Brien have attended as well. This outing, now known as "The Dan", has raised over \$280,000 for Dan Hebert Camp HOPE and remains the largest fundraiser for the California Camp HOPE.

I retired from UWSP in 2009 and remain close to Camp HOPE, continuing to volunteer and serving on the Board of Directors. In 2014, we decided to resurrect the Camp HOPE Golf outing that Marty and Frank had run in the 1990's. We attracted 60 golfers and have grown each year, to 124 golfers in 2017, raising much needed funds for Camp HOPE. When I informed Jim of our golf outing for the Wisconsin Camp HOPE, he quickly offered to match whatever money we raised. I was stunned, but hardly surprised. Jim has long held a deep admiration for Marty and Becky and the camp he affectionately calls "the mothership". This past year, Jim and Cynthia attended the Camp HOPE golf event and I was able to recognize his amazing generosity.

In 2013, our youngest daughter Abby and son-in-law Ben experienced the tragic loss of their first child, Emma Grace. They had hurried to the hospital as Abby was concerned because she was not feeling movement. Carol and I were staying with them in Denver, enjoying all the preparation and excitement associated with the birth of our first grandchild. We received the awful call from Ben to please come to the hospital, as the baby had died. We tearfully drove to the hospital and

Many of the gifts received were given in tribute and recognition of special individuals. All gift tributes are noted by the *italicized names* after the donor's name.

THANK YOU

Spring Creek Community Church, Arkdale
Kristen Klunder, Appleton
Chuck & Sally Litka, Juneau
Cynthia & John Delaporte, Columbia, MO
Brian & Amy Formella, Stevens Point
Diane & Greg Pfister, Friendship
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Kraemer Bros., Inc., Plain
Abbie Your Cause
Michael & Emily Loy, Wausau
Amy Sanders & The Dieringer Research Group, Brookfield
Hancock Lions
Stan & Rosetta Bauer, Spring Green
Catherine Neiswender, Appleton

"I recently ran a 5K race to raise money to fight cancer. I challenged my family and friends that I would match whatever they pledged for my race and add it to my own donation to Camp HOPE. While I believe we need to continue to find cures and treatment for cancer, I just as strongly feel we need to support people in their grief after a loss. I learned about Camp HOPE through a friend who lost her husband to cancer. Both she and her daughter have benefitted from the good, healing work that you do at Camp. I am grateful for what you provide, especially to young people suffering from loss."

Herb Kohl Philanthropies, Milwaukee
Tomorrow River Lioness Club, Amherst
Terri Hall, Plover
Marion Lioness Club ***"Thank you for your good program."***
Aurora Health Care including,
Kathleen Gruszecki, Sheryl Hawkins, Roberta Ashby
Network for Good
Kevin & Jeanne Karch, Custer
Betty Jenkins, Stevens Point
Junior Woman's Club, Stevens Point
Cecile Even, Richland Center

"With thanks for the wonderful weekend Katelyn and I spent with you. Keep helping kids and their parents! Good work you do."

Marla Garber, Iola
Gregg & Sheila Jozwik, Brookfield
Joe & Joan Bickelhaupt, Oshkosh

"It's been a few years since we have been at Camp HOPE. Camp gave us hope during the tragic loss of our daughter, leaving us guardians of her two beautiful girls."

Ted Hagen, Sun Prairie
Network for Good & Nicole Zlszewski
Sheryl Hawkins, Kenosha

Kathleen Gruszecki, Cedarburg
Roberta Ashby, Williams Bay
Susan Balisterri, Elkhart Lake
Judy Pierce, Hartford
Tomorrow River Lions Club, Amherst
Warren & Dorothy Hege, Richland Center
Society Insurance & Jeff Dickmann, Fond du Lac
Tammy & Emil Diehl, Plain
Duane & Beverly Ped, Amherst Junction
McCaslin Lioness, Lakewood
Eric Beuerman, Madison
Lionel & Joanne Baxter, Avoca

"A small donation sent with blessings and love for all the special things you do."

Aurora Health Care, Milwaukee including
Kathleen Basten-Sturm, Roberta Ashby, Sheryl Hawkins,
Kathleen & Steven Gruszecki
Bernard & Mitzi Hlavac, Stevens Point
Tom & Soni Kraemer, Plain
Judith Mabie, Stevens Point
Robert & Karen McDonald, Stevens Point
Martha Loy, Madison
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Maureen McNulty Panke, Burlington
Chuck & Sally Litka, Juneau
Stevens Point Area Co-op
Joy Ellen Ryan, Fort Myers, FL
Linda & Herb Paulus, Plain

"Thank you for all your work. Peace & Blessings."

James Berbee & Karen Walsh, Madison
Zach & Kelly Kastenburger, Redwood City, CA
Christian Education Leadership Academy, Pewaukee
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Lioness Club of Greater Kenosha
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Lynne & Tom Oswald, Plover

"I especially appreciated the 'first year as director' article - it was great!"

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IN MEMORY

Dave & Sarah Forster, Little Chute, *Nicholas Beecher*
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Phil Noteboom
Marcia & James Lyons, Columbus, IN,
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Helke Funeral Home, Wausau, *Beverly Brainard,*
Kathryn Wagoner

Mary Ellen Greiten, Townsend, *Ron Viaene, Helen Meyer*

"I have had two friends pass away in the last few months and I want Camp HOPE to get our donation."

Dennis Findley, Wautoma, *Deborah Findley*
June & Gene Johnson, Stevens Point, *Emma McFerron*
Matt & Vicki Beglinger, Mount Horeb, *Kenzi Valentyn*
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Martha Loy, Madison, *Fritz & Elly Loy, Bob & Marie Schultheis*

Lisa & Jeff Dickmann, Fond du Lac,
Brian Leider, River Mae DuQuaine
Bernadine Limmex, Spring Green,
Vincent Limmex, Carol Brager
Shari Diehl, Prairie du Sac, *my dear friend Maureen Kirk*
Mary Berard, Stevens Point, *Jasper O'Keefe*
Pamela Neider-Chehade, Spring Green, *Anita Frank,*
Cletus Ring, LaVerne Kauk, Barb Bettinger,
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Ruby Alfini, April Schmitz, Jack Schultze, Viola Lamont,
George Alt, Alphonse Alt, Florence Sprecher, Anita Frank,
Beverly Jones, Marcella Stauffacher, Alois Liegel Jr.

Maureen Houlihan, Gentle Spirit Yoga, Stevens Point,
in loving memory of Brendan Ebel
Max Gunderson, Shiocton, *Grandma Connie*
Joe Zei, Almond, *his wife Sherry*
Richard Frame, Fort Atkinson, *Dan Hebert*
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Tom Murphy, Michael Anding, James Richardson,
Francis Feiner, McKenzie Valentyn, Jen Lease

Logan & Lydia Weiss, Plain,
their mother Angela Weiss and grandfather Paul Fish
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Jeanine & Theodore Schmitz, Seattle, WA, *Phil Noteboom*

IN HONOR OF

Tina Aldrich, Janesville, *Bri Wyss, Bobby Wyss*
Gary & Jackie Nachreiner, Spring Green, *Tara Anding*
Logan & Lydia Weiss, Plain,
their grandfather Gary Weiss battling cancer
"Thank you for all you do."

SPECIAL APPRECIATION FOR OUR FUNDRAISERS*

Always in our Hearts Walk/Run, East Troy
"Always in our Hearts run/walk was on October 21st this year and it was actually on Josh's birthday. He would have been 40! It was a beautiful, warm day much like that day in Kentucky when he was born. I know he is proud to be helping grieving children who come to Camp HOPE. He really was so good with children. Love, Debbie"

Stiletto Strong Expo, Wausau
Wisconsin Club Managers Golf Tournament, Milwaukee
Ernie Open Annual Golf Tournament, Plover
Casting for HOPE, Brookfield (11th annual)
Camp HOPE Classic Golf Tournament, Stevens Point

A heartfelt thank you to all of our anonymous donors.