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E-Haven Email (from griefHaven)

Where Hope Resides

E-HAVEN EMAIL APRIL 2006

GRIEFHAVEN IS ON TELEVISION

When? This Monday, April 10
Show? "Starting Over"
Channel? NBC, Channel 4 in L.A.
Check local listings in your area
Time? Noon in Los Angeles
Check local listings in your area

Dear Friends,

Does our being on television sound somewhat commercial to you? That was my reaction, until I learned all about the show "Starting Over," how and why its founder created the show, how it was helping hundreds of women start their lives over, and what my involvement would be. Here is the story.

Last November, I was contacted by a producer of the television show, "Starting Over." To learn more about the show and its loving premise, go to www.startingovertv.com. I was asked if I would spend time with Bethany, a loving mother who was living at the Starting Over home and who had recently lost her only child, Shelby. I knew it would be a privilege and an honor, as it always is

with anyone who allows us to be a part of their lives at such a tragic and intimate time.

I spent several hours at the "Starting Over" house, sharing, crying, and "hoping," with Bethany. It was a huge challenge for both of us, since we were sharing mother-to-mother pain, but there were also cameras all around. Even so, everyone at "Starting Over" was warm, compassionate, sensitive, and caring, never invading our private space, and even shedding a tear or two with us (and we all know how meaningful that is).

Well, we just found out today that our show will air this coming Monday, April 10, on Channel 4, NBC, at Noon in Los Angeles. I don't know about the channel and time in other parts of the United States and other countries, so please check your local listings for the proper time and channel. Again, the show is called "Starting Over."

Being on "Starting Over" was another way of helping one more parent who needed us. It was also an efficient way of letting large numbers of people know we are here for them.

Thanks to all of you for helping us get where we are now. There are so many other parents and families out there looking for hope.

APRIL QUESTION OF THE MONTH:



“Please share with us a memory you have of your child that never ceases to make you smile or laugh whenever you think of it.”

If you can, please take a few minutes to share a memory with us on our message board at griefHaven.org and dropdown box “Connect With Others.” It could be funny, touching, silly—whatever you want. And, if you don’t feel comfortable sharing a story, you will probably receive quite a bit of warmth and/or laughter by reading those stories already posted.

Thanks to all of you for sharing your precious memories.

NEXT NEWSLETTER

Our next newsletter is being put into the mail next weekend. Be looking for it. It is another gem of an issue. The feature article was written by Wayne Neiman and Anne Roberts, loving husband and wife and parents to Mitchell and Spencer. The title of the feature article is,

“Ten Years Later: One Family’s Perspective,” and it’s full of wisdom and candid sharing. So be watching for yours in the mail. If you don’t receive it, please contact us and let us know so we may straighten out any mailing problems.

CHANGE OF INFORMATION

Please remember to let us know whenever you change any of your personal information, including your mailing address, email address, or telephone numbers. Otherwise, you will not receive our emails or important mailings. I especially don’t want anyone to miss out on newsletters or the video when it’s done. Write to us at hope@griefHaven.org to send changes.

LET OTHERS KNOW WE ARE HERE

One of the ways the foundation has tripled in size over

the last two years is by loving friends, parents, and family members letting those in need know we are here. We have even begun to receive requests from Hospice centers, specialists in the areas of grief and end of life care, and medical staff.

This is very important to us, since our country has veered far away from talking about death and even from being able to be around a parent whose child has died. Society in general has no idea that losing a child means a lifetime of working, planning, and rebuilding our lives. That translates into, “We need you to be with us for the rest of our lives.” Educating the public will result in a more loving, accepting, and compassionate society.

We will be discussing this very subject in-depth in our next newsletter.

BIG HUGS!

Why do I always end my emails with “Big Hugs?” Erika believed hugging was a warm and loving way to let someone know you care, and she openly shared her caring in that way. Also, she always ended everything, whether it was a physical good-bye, email, or phone call with a huge, warm hug. At the end of her life, when she was very weak, she still managed to reach her arms into the air and gave us all one BIG, LAST HUG! It was the most precious one of all.

So, dear friends,
Big Hugs,

Erika's Mom, Susan



BEST FRIENDS

**Tannis on the left, Erika on the right
Here is Erika, hugging.**

