

THE BUTTERFLY *bulletin*

MOTHER'S DAY FUNDRAISER

Join us this Sunday, May 2nd from 11AM-2PM at the Gazebo at Burke Park in Malvern [corner of Warren Ave & Roberts Lane] as we honor International Bereaved Mother's Day. Attendees will enjoy live music and refreshments and can purchase tickets for our raffle baskets!

The funds raised in this fundraiser will go directly towards our mission and will enable us to partner with additional hospitals and healthcare organizations to continue to expand our community of support.

We are so grateful to the local businesses and our community for donating such amazing products and services for our raffle baskets!

Most importantly, we invite bereaved mothers to come to our table for a special gift that we hope will provide some comfort to them and remind them that they are not alone.



Gift for Bereaved Mothers



Hope to See You There!

Mother's Day Baskets for Sale



For more information about our event, please visit butterflybaskets.org/raffle.



LILLY PULITZER SHOP & SHARE EVENT

Our sincere thank you to Lilly Pulitzer for hosting a Shop & Share at Lilly Pulitzer in both the King of Prussia and Ardmore, PA stores on Saturday, April 17.

An extremely generous donation of 10% of the proceeds from these locations - including phone orders - will go directly to Butterfly Baskets!

Thank you to everyone who came to the store or placed a phone order to show your support! We know you will love your purchases!



LILLY PULITZER DONATION

We are so grateful to Lilly Pulitzer for their generous donation of supplies for our comfort baskets. From mugs and journals to hair accessories and tumblers, our recipients have appreciated the cheerful patterns of each of these gift items.



NJ DONATION DRIVE

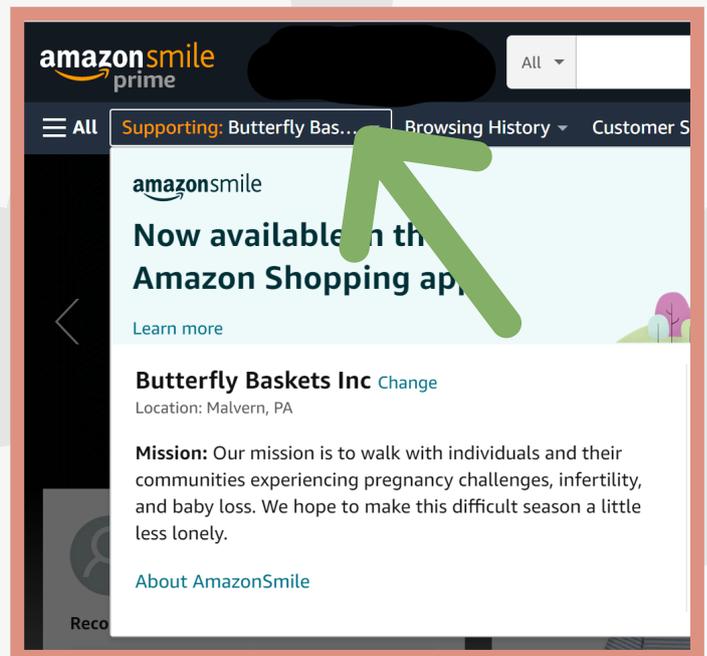
Casey and Tom hosted a donation drive in honor of their butterfly baby on February 27 in Columbus, NJ. We are so grateful to Casey, Tom, their family and community for donating fuzzy socks, bath items, mugs and journals for our baskets!

If you know someone who would like to host a drive, visit us at butterflybaskets.org/volunteer for more information!

AMAZON SMILE LINK

Butterfly Baskets has been approved for an Amazon Smile link! Please consider shopping on Amazon and donate to Butterfly Baskets at the same time by setting up your smile.amazon.com.

Simply click on the drop down pictured and search for Butterfly Baskets in Malvern, PA. 0.5% of eligible purchases will be donated to Butterfly Baskets!



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ETSY STORE

Visit our Etsy store to purchase a comfort Butterfly Basket that can be donated to the hospital or can be shipped directly to an individual experiencing pregnancy or infant loss.

Your support makes a difference!

www.etsy.com/shop/ButterflyBasketsOrg

VIRTUAL 5K 2020

From November 6-16 2020, Butterfly Baskets held our kick-off event: a virtual 5k. All of the funds raised went to creating Butterfly Baskets and care packages for local hospitals and doctors' offices.

Our goal was to raise \$10,000 and it was surpassed, thanks to everyone who ran, walked, and biked for many days. We are grateful to all participants who graciously served our community last fall.



ANNE KAULER: 5K ALL STAR

Butterfly Baskets [BB]: What was your motivation to run?

Anne [AK]: When Katie told me about the 5K run to benefit Butterfly Baskets, I was so excited! I used to run regularly but got away from it after having children. So I figured training for a 5K would be a great way to get back into running. And of course, supporting Butterfly Baskets was very important to me. So it lined up perfectly. As the race got closer, I was getting so excited, telling everyone about it and wearing my shirt all the time while out running and training around my neighborhood.

BB: Why did you do a 5K every day?

AK: I didn't anticipate doing the "5K every day" at the beginning. The morning of 11/6/20, I woke up so excited and it was nice outside and I just put my sneakers on and went out to run. It was a beautiful morning and I was so proud to be wearing the t-shirt and running to benefit this incredible organization. As I was running, I thought about how good I felt and had the idea to challenge myself to do the 5K every day. When I completed the run, I took a selfie, posted it on Facebook, and put it out there that my goal was to do the 5K every day during the fundraiser. I did it quickly before I had a chance to talk myself out of it, and once it was out there, I had to do it! But I was excited and knew I could do it. I posted my journey on Facebook every day to keep me accountable.

ANNE KAULER: 5K ALL STAR, CTD



BB: Who are your biggest running supporters?

AK: My sisters are all very active and supportive! Specifically Theresa Velasquez. She ran a marathon one time which always amazed and inspired me! She runs all the time and truly seems to love it.

BB: What was your mindset around the 5K every day?

AK: My mind was really focused on Katie and her nonprofit organization. When I had the idea to run the 5K every day, one of my first thoughts was "This is going to be hard...." and then I started doubting that I could do it. Then the excuses started forming in my mind of all the things I had to do and when would I have time to do this every day for 10 days? Thankfully I was able to stop that thought and replace it. I thought about Katie and what she had gone through. When she found out that her baby Isaac had a life-limiting diagnosis, that was incredibly hard. But she carried on and did everything that she could possibly do to be the absolute best mother to Isaac in whatever way she could in however long she had him. I thought about how she did that every day and never gave up, even though she was going through one of the most difficult things I can imagine a person could go through. Whenever my mind started thinking that I couldn't run or that it would be hard, I thought of Katie's strength, and I immediately would stop making excuses and get out there and get it done.

BB: When and why did you start running?

AK: I started running for health and wellness in college, just a couple miles a few days a week. I was never a fast runner but I did it because I knew it was good for me and I wanted to get in shape. Plus I loved running/training with friends for a goal. My friend Eileen Monaghan Ficaro, who also went to Villa Maria, and I ran the Broad Street Run for the first time in 2008. We had a great time! Then I ran it again in 2019 with my sisters Katie and Theresa. It's funny, I definitely don't think of myself as a runner, because I'm not fast or super consistent, but the Butterfly Baskets run really struck a chord with me and inspired me to do the 5K every day.

BB: How long and why have you volunteered with Butterfly Baskets?

AK: Since the start! I'm so proud of Katie and how she was able to turn something so difficult into such a beautiful organization that provides comfort to so many. I love helping and supporting her in any way that I can!

Thank you so much, Anne, for your dedication to this amazing organization and fundraiser. You are an incredible inspiration for all of us. Keep on running!

NEW OFFICE SPACE!

On January 23rd, 2021, the Butterfly Baskets moved into a new space in Malvern, PA. The office and warehouse space has been temporarily donated by Specialty Medical Products [SMP], a local company based in Malvern. SMP is a medical supply company that consistently supports the Butterfly Baskets Organization and their message.

The group outgrew their old storage space in founder Katie Hill's basement which they have been working out of since last July. Director and board member Mary Beth Smart comments, "the new office space is a quaint, one room studio that is the perfect size for us to start!"

Move-in day was made possible with the help of board members and volunteers along with Katie Hill and her family. The day was complete with music, muffins, and fruit, to make the exciting day even more fun!

SMP's donated space will provide a place to hold meetings and plan fundraising events. The new office is the perfect space for the Butterfly Basket's team to expand their efforts and further their mission.

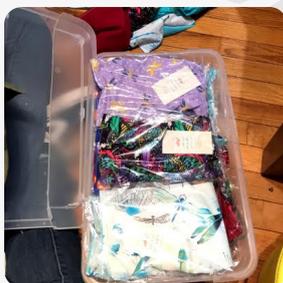


BSA HANDMADE LAVENDER EYE PILLOW DONATION

Boy Scouts of America members Lily Rohner Troop 19, Elena McFadden Troop 111 and Willow Ferstler from Troop 111 performed service hours during the month of February for Butterfly Baskets! Together, they handmade 90 lavender scented eye masks over a cumulative 53 hours.

The Scouts helped in all aspects of selecting fabric, cutting fabric, sewing the pillows, ironing, filling the pillows, labeling and packaging while maintaining Covid-19 restrictions.

Thank you so much to Lily, Elena and Willow for providing such wonderful additions to our comfort box inventory items! We are so grateful for your service!



Thank you!



BUTTERFLY BASKETS PERSPECTIVE: LABOR & DELIVERY NURSE



Our Butterfly Baskets team had the privilege of speaking with Lori Plans, RN, BSN, RN-C OB at Paoli Hospital who helped to give us insight on how our organization is helping our community and spreading the message of hope to local grieving families.

Lori reflected on her experience thus far with Butterfly Baskets and how her patients have received our baskets and pouches after experiencing the losses. We are so grateful for nurses like Lori who not only help families in their time of sadness but also take the time to spread awareness for our organization.

Butterfly Baskets [BB]: Can you provide are some examples of how the baskets/pouches have lifted the spirits of grieving parents?

Lori Plans [LP]: Many of the parents that I come in contact with are just finding out about the loss of their baby. It is a tremendously difficult and sad time and they so often don't know what to ask, what to expect, how to feel - all of which is completely normal. Most families are very receptive to accepting one of the Butterfly Baskets/pouches especially once they understand that these are being given to them from another family who has experienced the same loss and that it is filled with items that helped them.

It helps them connect and to feel not alone. Often times, families are sent home with footprints, handprints, lock of hair or other mementos that are linked directly to their baby but it is often too early and far too painful for them to look at and hold those items. So they are often placed in a box, high up on a shelf and left for a later date when they are more capable to see them.

But the Butterfly Baskets offer these families a connection to their babies without the often very painful reminders that footprints/hand prints/ photos can evoke. It is a beautiful gift that families can have and that make them feel not so alone. The friends and families of the bereaved parents mean well and are supportive but it is truly a different kind of support to know that there are other families out there that have walked a mile in their shoes. It brings a welcomed peacefulness that would otherwise not be possible during this tragic time.

BB: How has Butterfly Baskets lifted the morale of the nurses who work with grieving families?

LP: As nurses - we are trained to heal, to make someone better, to care for our patients. When we are faced with caring for a bereaved family who has experienced what I believe to be the most tragic kind of loss, we often feel helpless. The Butterfly Baskets provide the nurses with a way to connect.

BUTTERFLY BASKETS PERSPECTIVE: LABOR & DELIVERY NURSE, CTD



BB: Are there any personal anecdotes that you would like to share?

LP: I can remember early 2009 I was ecstatic that we were expecting our second child. Admittedly, it was earlier than we were planning (and I remember voicing such out loud and later blaming myself for what happened next) but were thrilled nonetheless.

I woke early one morning to horrific cramps and knew something was not right. I miscarried and it was very early. I think I was only 8-10 weeks along. I was brought into the office, an ultrasound was performed and the loss was confirmed. I was told "it" would pass on its own and to call if the bleeding became too heavy or lasted more than a few days. I was told to take Ibuprofen for the pain. I received comments like "At least it was early" and "God has a way of fixing things when they aren't right" or "You should probably have more space between the kids anyway". The people that said these things to me were and are not mean spirited. They had never experienced this and truly didn't know what to say. I felt silly and ridiculous for being upset, or crying or grieving. So I didn't. I did go on to have my second son the following year, but I often wonder if my initial issues bonding with him had anything to do with the grieving I didn't do for the baby I lost.

There was no discussion of grief, of support groups, of my emotions - nothing. If there had been something like Butterfly Baskets then I have often thought how much easier my experience may have been. I will never know - but I do know that it is one of the driving forces behind how passionate I am about caring for these families during this time. I hope to never ever need a single Butterfly Basket ever, but the reality is that we will and do need them. Those families need them. Us nurses need them and I believe it is also extremely healing for Katie and her family to have created such a wonderful organization.

BB: Can you describe how the Butterfly Baskets is helping grieving families in times of need?

LP: I can not begin to express how important the need is for organizations like Butterfly Baskets. These families come to us to deliver their baby who has already passed or passes shortly after being born. And these families are often discharged from the hospital long before any reality of the situation has set in. Organizations like Butterfly Baskets provide these families with the much needed connection to others that they will need in the days and weeks to come. It also helps to open the communication between the nurses/doctors and the patient to begin discussing the process of grief, services available to them and support that is out there. By presenting them with this gift, it not only provides them with the feeling of support but acts as a way to honor their baby and their existence no matter how short that might have been.

BUGS & BUTTERFLIES PLAY PARTY WITH LOLLY AND YOYO



Butterfly Baskets held its first kids event in March - the Bugs & Butterflies Play Party with Lolly and Yoyo.

The event was planned as an opportunity to spread awareness about our organization and its mission. To keep everyone safe, we decided to do a virtual event and it was such fun seeing the children's smiling faces during the Zoom party .

Yoyo had the kiddos up and moving all around as they created imaginary butterflies and plodded through the forest. Then Lolly ended the event with music and a reading of "The Invisible String," a beautiful book about love and connection.

Thank you to Lolly & Yoyo for performing and thank you to the kids who joined us and all of our supporters who shared about the event.

We look forward to more events for the whole family in the future!

A MORNING WITH
LOLLY AND YOYO

OUR 1ST KIDS' EVENT

BUGS & BUTTERFLIES PARTY

A MEANINGFUL PARTNERSHIP: LOVE, JESSICA

Butterfly Baskets is happy to be partnering with Love, Jessica, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit whose mission is to financially assist families with medical and funeral expenses after a miscarriage or stillbirth.

We will be offering Butterfly Baskets to each family that Love, Jessica funds.

For more information, please visit our blog at <https://www.butterflybaskets.org/blog>



GET INVOLVED!



We are so thankful to all of our volunteers. Your time and talents help so many families!

These beautiful and soothing lavender eye pillows were created in honor of a dear boy, Everson James. They are sure to provide comfort and blessings to those who receive them.

If you or someone you know makes handmade items that might be a great addition to our baskets and pouches, please let us know and email info@butterflybaskets.org!

LET'S CONNECT



[@butterflybasketsorg](https://www.butterflybaskets.org)