

A NIGHT at the RACES

TO BENEFIT **GRIEVING CHILDREN, TEENS AND ADULTS** IN CENTRAL OHIO

On May 15, 2000, our family experienced a life-changing event that will never be forgotten. Our three year old son, Bobby, died suddenly from an infection caused by bacterial meningitis. Although I could write a book about the details leading to his death, the endless night in the hospital, and the week of the funeral, I am writing to tell a different story — one of vocation, purpose, meaning and hope.

Shortly after Bobby's death, Christi and I sought support for ourselves and our remaining children at a monthly support group. We desperately needed help: I could not function at work, Christi was attempting to care for the other children, our marriage was being challenged, our faith questioned, and our kids were expected to perform well at school. Although we had a tremendous support system from our families, it wasn't enough. Our families eventually had to get back to their daily routines while we struggled to breathe. **We desperately needed to find meaning in our grief**, and through much prayer, discernment, organization and community forums, we founded Cornerstone of Hope in January 2003.



Cornerstone of Hope is a nonprofit organization with a mission to provide support, education and hope for the grieving. We offer individual and family counseling, as well as support groups for children, teens and adults. Additionally, we organize summer camps, memorial services and a variety of family workshops all geared toward turning "tragedy into triumph." The need for our services has been tremendous, as we have served over 20,000 individuals since October, 2003. As we expand our staff and the number of programs to serve the community, our territory has also expanded. We are proud to announce the opening of a second location dedicated to serving those who grieve in central Ohio. Cornerstone of Hope Columbus opened in the summer of 2011. The response from families has been amazing. It is not uncommon for us to hear, "Thank you for coming here!" from individuals and families at our new location. While we are thrilled to be in Columbus, it comes without saying that as a non-profit in the growth stage, our financial needs have also grown.

We would be honored by your support of any donation you would be willing to contribute to help us generate excitement for our inaugural Night at the Races Event on Saturday, March 10, 2012 at the Swim and Racquet Club, 3500 Kenny Rd., Upper Arlington, Ohio 43221. The year's event will include a buffet, silent auctions, cash raffle, entertainment and ten horse races. All donors receive an acknowledgement in our event program that is given to attendees, as well as to donors upon request.

We would truly be grateful for any level of support. **All proceeds from the event will be used for our programs to support grieving children and their families in central Ohio.** Cornerstone of Hope is a qualified 501(c)3 non-profit organization and your donation is 100 percent tax deductible. If you would like to make a donation or need additional information, please contact us at **614.824.4285**, e-mail **stacey@cornerstoneofhope.org** or visit our website at **www.cornerstoneofhope.org**.

Your time and consideration are most appreciated. We wish you health, happiness and success always.

Sincerely,

Christi and Mark Tripodi, Founders