

Keeping Mommy's Light bright

By AARON BECKER COURIER TIMES

When a child's mother dies, the tragedy often is enhanced by the loss of tradition between the two.

One local organization is doing its part to ease the grief of hundreds of kids.

Shane MacIntyre, his father, Kim, and sister, Chelsea Rose, are dealing with the loss of their mom. In late 2003, two representatives from Mommy's Light Lives On Fund came to help the Northampton family keep the treasured traditions between the children and their mother, Monica, alive.

"I like how they keep my memories of Mom alive ... it feels good," said Shane about the Exton-based organization serving Delaware Valley families.

The organization was founded in 1997 and includes more than 100 volunteers. It distributes almost 40,000 bereavement education packages a year and provides direct services for more than 100 children.

To Kim MacIntyre, the little details are what matter most to his children. Mommy's Light continues the family's annual trip to the Hershey Hotel for Breakfast with Santa: a tour of Hershey's Chocolate World and a trip to Hersheypark, an important memory for Shane, 14.

For Chelsea Rose, 12, the special memory is staying at the Pier 4 Hotel at Somers Point, N.J., during the family's annual long weekend at the shore. That trip always included walking the Ocean City boardwalk and eating pizza at Mack and Manco's.

A yellow butterfly has come to signify that Monica is visiting and looking after the family.

"The first time we saw a yellow butterfly, it was on the beach near the dunes," Kim MacIntyre said. "After the volunteers' first visit, there was a yellow butterfly fluttering around outside the house.

"The kids think of it as Mom's visiting us in a spiritual way."

While the MacIntyres were appreciating the efforts of Mommy's Light, Michael Doyle, president of Comcast Cable's Eastern Division and founder of CN8, was finding out how much the organization's efforts meant. Doyle, an Upper Makefield resident, joined the board of Mommy's Light in 2003 and became its chairman in July.

Since 2003, Doyle has organized the Mommy's Light Golf Classic, the group's largest fundraiser, and used his Comcast affiliation to garner contributions from the cable company.

"[What this organization does] goes right to your heart," Doyle said. "It's brought me personally to tears."

Monday 12/3/07 Bucks County Courier Times

Aaron Becker, a freelance writer, can be reached at news@phillyBurbs.com.



Chelsea Rose MacIntyre, 12, and her brother, Shane, 14, open gifts for their annual holiday trip to Hersheypark from Mommy's Light Lives On volunteer Tracey Oberholtzer (right). KIM WEIMER / **COURIER TIMES**