

June 2009

***MOMMY'S LIGHT LIVES ON FUND®***  
**KEY FACTS**

- Mommy's Light was founded in 1997 by Newtown, PA resident Mary Murphy, mother of Bryan, less than 3 months before she died.
- Mommy's Light is a Pennsylvania non-profit corporation with 501(c)(3) status.
- There are more than 626,000 maternally bereaved children and teens living in the United States.
- Mommy's Light distributes child bereavement education materials nationwide, including a 22-minute DVD for surviving fathers and family members, *When a Mother Dies...Breaking Down the Walls of Silence*, and *Warnings Signs: Indications That a Grieving Child May Need Help*, a brochure that helps adults identify when to provide additional support.
  - Mommy's Light has provided these resource materials to 37,000 school counselors nationwide.
- Mommy's Light's free tradition fulfillment services are available to the more than 20,000 maternally bereaved children and teens living in the Delaware Valley region and to families accepted into a pilot program to test nationwide delivery of our tradition fulfillment services.
  - Mommy's Light has provided direct services to more than 183 children and teens and fulfilled over 570 traditions. Mommy's Light serves children and teens once a year until they turn 18.
  - Of those served, 50% are girls and 50% are boys.
  - Of those served, 48% are Caucasian, 44% are African-American, 4% are Biracial, 2% are Asian-American and 2% are Latino.

- Children and teens served have mothers who suffer from or have died of:
  - **Cancer** **70%**
    - breast 20%
    - cervical 9%
    - ovarian 8%
    - colon 4%
    - melanoma 2%
    - pancreatic 2%
    - lung 5%
    - other 20%
  - **Heart disease or illness** **9%**
  - **Accidents** **6%**
  - **AIDS** **4%**
  - **Other** **11%**
    - includes pneumonia, hepatitis, respiratory illness, diabetes and drug overdose
- Researchers have described that children and teens whose mothers die are three times more likely than the general population to gravitate to either end of the social spectrum. That means they are three times more likely either to (a) spend time in juvenile delinquent institutions or jails or (b) become great contributors to society.
- More than 200 volunteers donate thousands of hours each year to work directly with the children, teens and their families, support fundraising events, help with administrative tasks and participate in community outreach.