



Bringing **joy and comfort** to children and teens whose **mothers** are terminally ill or have died by helping them keep alive **traditions** and simple pleasures they shared with their **mothers**.

March 2010

KEY FACTS

- Mommy's Light Lives On Fund® 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 are also now available to families living in the contiguous United States via our nationwide tradition fulfillment service.
 - Mommy's Light has provided direct services to more than 186 children and teens and fulfilled over 638 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 21%
 - cervical 9%
 - ovarian 8%
 - colon 4%
 - lung 5%
 - other 23%
 - **Heart disease or illness** **9%**
 - **Accidents** **6%**
 - **AIDS** **4%**
 - **Other** **11%**
- 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.