



## Former Campbell Employee's Legacy Lives on in Betty Christopher

**CAMPBELLTODAY**

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### Through Mommy's Light, WHQ Property Administrator helps children celebrate their connection to their mothers who have died

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**Would you like to get involved in community service?**

Learn more about the Campbell Soup Foundation **Dollars for Doers** program by visiting the program description on the [Campbell Today portal](#).

If you are interested in granting children's requests, providing administrative support, coordinating special events, or otherwise volunteering with **Mommy's Light**, contact Betty Christopher at (856) 968-4415 or e-mail Mommy's Light at [bav@mommyslight.org](mailto:bav@mommyslight.org).

And watch the "WHQ News" section of the *Campbell Today* portal for information about a Mommy's Light training session being planned at WHQ in 2007.

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Ten years ago, Mary Murphy, a former Campbell employee in Swanson Frozen Foods, was diagnosed with cervical cancer that quickly progressed beyond hope of remission. While coping with the illness and preparing for her own death, Mary and her 10-year-old son, Bryan, thought that carrying on one of their beloved traditions, making butter cookies at Christmas, would offer him comfort after she was gone.

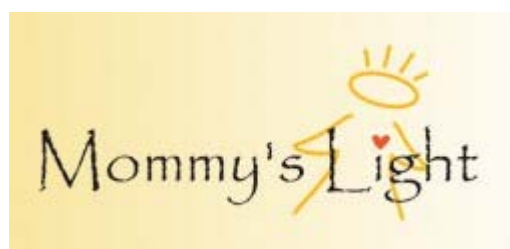
Mary formally incorporated the [Mommy's Light Lives On Fund](#) in October 1997 to "bring joy and comfort to children and teens by helping them keep alive traditions or simple pleasures they shared with their mothers."

Since Mary's death in 1998, her spirit lives on through Mommy's Light, and through dedicated volunteers such as **Betty Christopher, Property Administrator** in Campbell's Real Estate Department at World Headquarters.

#### "I had to get involved"

"In 2002, Laura Munts, Executive Director of Mommy's Light and a close friend of Mary's, did a presentation at Campbell," Betty recalled. "I lost my mom when I was 11, and I have tried to continue her traditions, so I wanted to learn more. I got to know Laura, and I saw a film of Mary that was so touching -- I had to get involved."

Mommy's Light currently serves more than 125 young people, with a long-term goal to expand beyond Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware to serve more of the 626,000 maternally bereaved children and teens currently living in the U.S.



**SMALL WONDERS.** Betty recently delivered science kits -- and blue-tinted sweets -- to Joey and Danny, Haddonfield, N.J.-area boys whose mother died in 2003. As a Mommy's Light volunteer, Betty arranges for the boys to continue a tradition they treasured with their mom -- visiting Philadelphia-area museums including the Franklin Institute, the Museum of Natural History, and the Philadelphia Zoo.

Betty went through the group's extensive three-hour training program, and in November 2002, she became the first volunteer to help families in New Jersey. She also brought training classes to World Headquarters in 2003. As the lead N.J. volunteer, Betty now offers one-on-one support to nine families with 17 children from Cranbury in northern New Jersey to Collingswood, near WHQ.

"I first visit each family with another volunteer, and we talk with them at length to get them comfortable enough to open up and share the tradition or activity they would like to continue," she explained. "Then, my helper and I plan, shop, prepare, and deliver whatever is needed to keep that tradition alive once every year." They facilitate, but do not participate.

For example, she has delivered movies and a popcorn maker for movie night, a milk shake maker and games for game night, tickets for the zoo or a favorite museum, and aprons, rolling pins, and pre-measured ingredients for children to make a recipe that reminds them of good times with their mother. Campbell also has provided tickets to Camden Riversharks baseball games at Campbell Field.

### "This was what I was meant to volunteer for"

Betty, who has been with Campbell for 12 years and also is active in the Campbell's Administrative Professionals (CAPS) affinity group, recently obtained a \$2,000 Campbell Soup Foundation Dollars for Doers grant for Mommy's Light. The Foundation provided an additional \$1,000 in 2003.

"Betty's commitment to this program and the children equals her commitment to Campbell," said **Dayle Rosenzweig, Manager-Real Estate Operations**. "How rewarding it must be to see the delight of the children when Betty comes to visit, and how rewarding it is to work for a company that supports and encourages employee commitment to programs such as Mommy's Light."

The media has taken notice as well. "We have had television coverage of our events, and two years ago Laura and I were on the local NBC program 'Huggins' Heroes.' That show generated a call from a daughter whose mother had just passed away, as well as contacts from people who wanted to offer time and money to help."

Betty also has been honored with Mommy's Light Volunteer of the Year award. "Betty is one of Mommy's Light's most valuable, reliable, and joyful volunteers," Laura said. "She embodies the heart and spirit of Mommy's Light."

"The award made me feel good," Betty said, "but honestly, what makes me feel better is when I can help the children to be happy. We try to make every visit special, and they love even the littlest things, like *Pez* candy dispensers! That's what I like to do -- to bring joy to them."

Mothering other children is nothing new to Betty. She raised two stepchildren, and now, with Jack, her husband of eight years, she has another stepdaughter, Jennifer, and a two-year-old grandson. And she has never forgotten her own mother.

"My mom was a very giving person," she said. "She loved buying Christmas presents for everyone, and I do the same thing. That's where I get my joy from, and that's why I love Mommy's Light. When I heard of Mommy's Light, I knew this was what I was meant to volunteer for, and this organization has changed my life. Every day, I look forward to the visits and being with the children. I look forward to helping to bring joy to their lives."



**MOTHERLY LOVE.** Mary Murphy, a former Campbell employee, incorporated Mommy's Light in 1997 to help continue beloved traditions for the children whose mothers have died. Though Mary died early in 1998, volunteers such as Betty Christopher keep her dream alive.

-Written by **Lisa Rouh, Contributing Editor**