

**MORRISVILLE**

# Kids who've lost mom get help from peers

Students at Grandview Elementary School raised money for an organization that helps kids cope with the loss of their mother.

By **NAOMI L. JENKINS**  
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How do you help a child whose mother has died? About 50 fourth- and fifth-graders at Grandview Elementary have the answer.

Throughout the school year, they have supported a nonprofit group that helps children continue a tradition or special activity they shared with their moms.

Yesterday, the kids gave representatives of the Downingtown-based group, called Mommy's Light Lives On, a check for \$1,000. They raised the money from individual and business donations.

Mommy's Light will use the money to pay for kids to continue traditions they shared with their moms.

Studies on grief show that children adjust better to the loss of a parent when they continue to feel an emotional connection, said Laura Munts, president of Mommy's Light.

"One way to do that is through tradition, and making sure the routine continues," Munts said.

"One girl [who lost her mom] is 8. She wants to bake chocolate chip cookies on her mother's birthday each year," Munts said. "We make sure all the ingredients are there for her to come home and do it."

For other kids, the tradition might be planting flowers or going to the mall for a special snack, she said.

The group was founded in 1997 by a mom with terminal cancer who wanted to help her child and others adjust to the loss. Eighty percent of the kids who have been helped by

Mommy's Light have lost their mothers to cancer, Munts said.

The Grandview kids wrote letters to local businesses telling them about Mommy's Light and asking them for donations.

They said they chose to support this charity because they were touched by the thought of kids living without their moms. Plus, one of their classmates, De'Ambra Thompson, 11, lost her mother to cancer in December.

"I think if the teachers didn't help, we wouldn't have reached our goal," De'Ambra said of the Mommy's Light fund-raising efforts.

"I want to give them a whole bunch of money because I think it's a great charity," said classmate Edwin Rivera, 10.

Students raised \$500 from M&M's candy sales, individual donors and company donations from Sweet Harts Ice Cream, Manhattan Bagel, Nick's Pizza, Rita's Water Ice, Holy Trinity Lutheran School, Italian People's Bakery and William Penn Savings and Loan.

The Giant Foods supermarket in the Morrisville Shopping Center gave the school a matching \$500 donation, bringing the total to \$1,000.

"It fits right into what Giant Foods does. We're very committed to being community oriented," said George Sheriff, store manager.

To make a donation or seek assistance, contact Mommy's Light at [www.mommyslight.org](http://www.mommyslight.org) or call 610-725-9790.

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