



Staff photo by Scott Stetzer

Grant Moore and his children, Lee, 11, and Danae, 14, select plants to continue a spring tradition of planting flowers, something the children always did with their mother before her death in February.

Remembering mom

Mommy's Light helps children preserve family traditions

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SOMERS POINT — When Grant Moore lost his wife, Jeanmarie, to ovarian cancer, he and his two children felt like they were alone. Painfully,

The children, Lee, 11, and Danae, 14, had hoped that their mother would get better. But a cancer that had been in remission returned. Jeanmarie was 47 when she died in February.

Shortly afterward, Mommy's Light, an organization in southeastern Pennsylvania, came into the family's life.

"I saw it on TV not long after we lost Jeanmarie," Moore said. "I called Laura Muntz (the president of Mommy's Light) and she was moved by my story."

Mommy's Light provides for families in the Delaware Valley when the mother is in a life-threatening situation or is deceased. When a family requests support, Mommy's Light meets with them to discuss a tradition or "simple pleasure" the children want to preserve.

For Lee, it was planting flowers with his mother in the spring, while for Danae, it was baking cookies at Christmas time. Mommy's Light set out to preserve those traditions.

The Moore family went to Tom's

Garden Gift & Christmas Wonderland in Hamilton Township recently and picked out the plants they needed. Tom's owners, Diane and Bobby Caucci, donated half the cost of the \$400 worth of flowers, plants and seeds, while Mommy's Light covered the other half.

Mommy's Light will continue to provide flowers every year for Lee to plant until he is 18, and will also provide supplies for Christmas cookies for Danae, who looks forward to making her favorite, corn flakes and coconut cookies.

Danae is a freshman at Mainland Regional High School, and Lee, a sixth-grader at Dawes Avenue School. They talked about their interests and school, but it was hard for the children to talk about their mother.

Their vegetable garden contains a plaque given to them by Tom's that says "Garden of Courage."

"My wife was the most courageous woman I ever knew," Moore said.

Not only is this the family's first Mother's Day without their mom, but May 10 would have been the Moores' 17th wedding anniversary.

Moore, 44, wanted to thank members of the community for all their help, especially coworkers at his masonry

company.

He said life without his wife was more difficult than he imagined. Today, he is involved in a new relationship, but he says that doesn't mean he loved his wife any less.

"I loved my wife," he said. "My daughter told me recently that she knew I loved her mommy. I bathed and fed her; I did everything for her."

Some might consider the contribution from Mommy's Light to be a small thing, but Grant Moore disagrees.

"It is a very large gesture on their part," he said. "It is not a small gesture by any means. It's a way for the children to remember their mother, and for that, I am grateful."

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WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Mommy's Light will consider cases in southeastern Pennsylvania, southern New Jersey or northern Delaware, regardless of income. For more information, call (610) 725-9790 or see: www.mommyslight.org.