



April 2024



Dear Friends,

Happy Spring! Are you wondering, "What is up with the Kentucky Fried Chicken photo?" April is my son George's birth month and every year on April 11th, my family has a tradition of going to his gravesite for an early evening picnic of Kentucky Fried Chicken. When the kids were little they loved KFC! We have been doing this for the past 25 years. We also always bring a birthday cake and sing happy birthday to Baby George. Although we

celebrate his birthday, the weeks leading up to that day are always difficult for me. I share more about it in this month's newsletter.

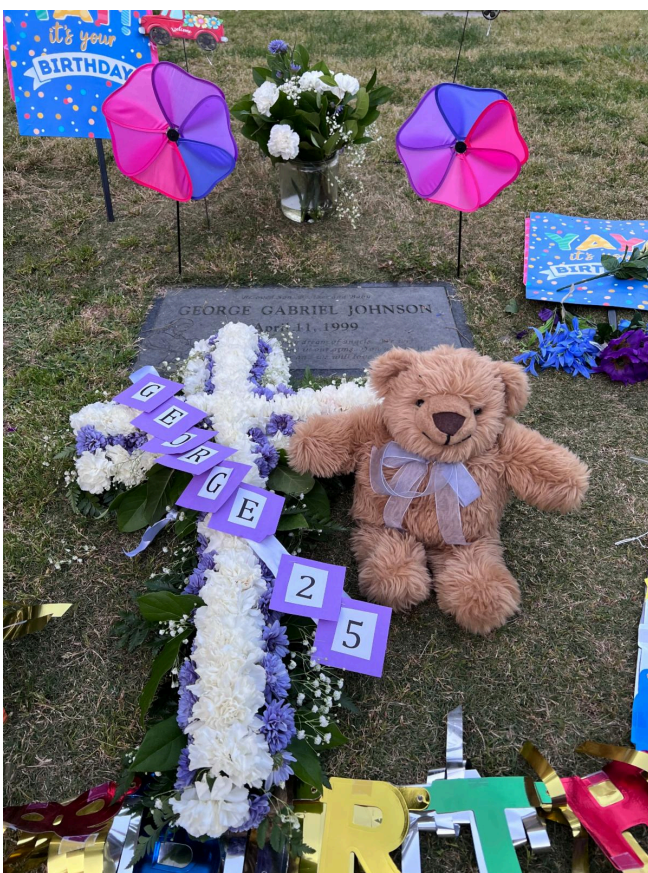
This month we participated in Empty Cradle's Walk to Remember, which is always a heartfelt and beautiful event. In addition, we brought more Comfort Cubs to children in foster care through our friends at Voices For Children in San Diego.

We are so grateful to still be here 25 years after George's birth, continuing to bring comfort to families who have lost a child and others who have experienced trauma. We are so very thankful for your many years of generosity and support.

Warmly,

Marcella

In Remembrance of Baby George



Happy 25th Birthday to my sweet Baby George. He is the “why” of The Comfort Cub Program. I am so grateful that we have been able to distribute more than 40,000 Comfort Cubs in his honor and touch the lives of over 120,000 people all over the world. However, this month I felt the deep pain of our reason “why.” You’d think after 25 years it would get easier and most days are. However, the weeks leading up to his anniversary are very painful. It’s been 25 years, but it feels like yesterday that I was not sure I could take my next breath.

My husband and I were crushed by losing our son and wanted to do something to help other mothers, fathers and families experiencing

this pain. How could we help ease their inevitable pain, even just a tiny bit? That was my hope in creating The Comfort Cub.

I want other people who are experiencing this deep pain and heartache to know they are not alone and they can make it another day. If you or someone you know is hurting due to the loss of a child, please **apply for a gifted cub**. It would be our honor to give you a little bit of comfort and remind you that you are not alone.

Empty Cradle - Walk to Remember 2024



This month, we attended **Empty Cradle's** annual Walk to Remember event. As always, it was a beautiful tribute to the sweet babies gone too soon. Families who attended were given the opportunity to receive a Comfort Cub.

It is always heartwarming hearing the stories of gratitude for The Comfort Cub. One military family shared their story of receiving two Comfort Cubs through Balboa Naval Hospital with two of their losses. The mother shared that she felt comforted knowing she would receive a Cub as she experienced her second loss. Their Cubs go everywhere with them to this day.



Voices for Children & The Comfort Cub

A transitional tool for trauma therapy



Voices for Children is a San Diego based, nonprofit organization that recruits, trains, and supports Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) volunteers who speak up for the needs and well-being of children in foster care.

The Comfort Cub is honored to support the work of Voices for Children. We assist this wonderful organization by providing Comfort Cubs to help children like Aidan who have experienced trauma and may need a transitional mental wellness tool as they navigate the unfamiliar surroundings of foster care.

We are able to continue to provide Comfort Cubs to organizations like Voices for Children, because of your generous support. Please consider partnering with us by making a one time donation or by becoming a monthly donor to help provide Cubs for children like Aidan.

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"Three year old Aidan (named changed for confidentiality), entered the Polinsky Children's Center in late 2023 after having been removed from his family due to his mother's drug use. When he arrived at Polinsky Children's Center, he was inconsolable and refused to eat. For almost a week, Aidan cried almost all night before finally, exhausted, collapsed into sleep all day. Aidan's CASA and the staff at Polinsky Children's Center were at a loss as to how to help due to his young age, limited language skills, and protracted heightened emotional state. Instead of eventually settling into a routine, it appeared Aidan's grief at being separated from his family was worsening each day.

In discussing this with the CASA, she told me she wished Aidan had some sort of transitional item (such as a stuffed animal or blanket) from home to comfort him—and suddenly, I thought of the Comfort Cub! The CASA brought a Cub to Aidan that day and as she visited with him after delivering it, he did not speak one word, but buried his face into the Cub while clinging onto it. The CASA called Polinsky Children's Center the next morning, and was told by staff that Aidan had just finished eating breakfast after having slept the whole night through for the first time since his arrival, and that he had not let go or put down the Cub that whole time. Aidan and his CASA attended our annual holiday party, as he approached me with his CASA, guess what he was holding? His Cub! The CASA was so grateful for the Cub, and we both noted it helped provide comfort to Aidan during a time of extreme trauma and transition."

- Diana Woldt-Gorsich, Senior Advocacy Supervisor, VFC



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