



## 2018 Retreats & Events

- ◆ February 1-4 - Infant Loss Weekend Retreat
- ◆ March 10 - A Memory Grows 5K
- ◆ April 19-22 - Infant Loss Weekend Retreat
- ◆ May 5 - A Mother's Heart - One Day Retreat
- ◆ June 3 - A Gathering of Fathers: - One Day Retreat
- ◆ July 26-29 - School Aged Weekend Retreat
- ◆ August 12 - Prayer Flag Workshop
- ◆ October 15 - Wave of Light
- ◆ November 8-11 Grief & The Holidays- Infant Loss Weekend Retreat
- ◆ November 27 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Remembrance Ceremony

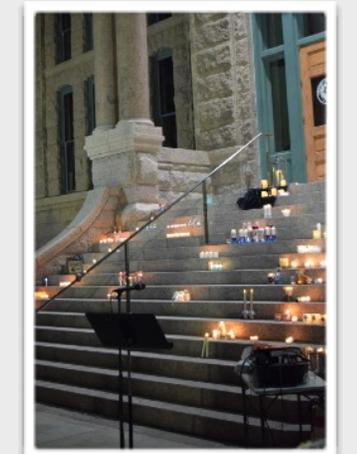
## An Amazing First Year!

What an incredible year! Exactly one year ago I was anxious and wondering if an organization like A Memory Grows would meet a need and be embraced by the Dallas/Fort Worth community. I knew from my own personal experience that something like A Memory Grows held great value I just hoped that others would find it to be a space of healing for parents and families. Although I wish we would have all found each other in different ways, I will be forever grateful for all our children that have led us to a place of community, friendship, healing and love.

By the end of this month we will have completed 4 - 4 day retreats, 2 - 1 day retreats, and 3 special events. We have had nearly 400 people participate in our first year and have had the privilege of remembering and celebrating the lives of 150 children. Parents and family members have traveled from across Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Maryland to be a part of A Memory Grows! We have laughed and cried, remembered and celebrated and have helped one another dream of and carry on the legacy of love that our children have placed on our hearts.

I cannot thank you enough for sharing the most precious part of your heart, life and story with us. We do not take this privilege lightly. You will always be a part of A Memory Grows and your children will never be forgotten. Their story is not over. Love carries on.

With you on the journey,  
DeAndrea



## Grief and the Holidays

One of the most difficult times of the year is quickly approaching. No one is more aware of the empty chair, the missing person from the family pictures, the yearning for the opportunity to make memories, than the parent who should be doing all kinds of things to make these days special, but who is instead trying to figure out just how to get through. Finding ways to navigate the holiday is essential to survival. Know that only you knows what is best for you and your soul. Below are a few assurances of what we know to be true:

- It is OK to do something different this year if you just cannot do what has always been done because it is too painful.
- If you want to continue the family traditions, you can find ways to continue to incorporate your child into those precious moments.
- If you need to be alone, that is OK.
- If you need to be with others, that is OK, too.
- Feel free to share what is helpful and what is hurtful with those who you will be around.
- Ask for their patience and understanding.
- Ask them to recognize your child, to speak their name, to remember them in a special way.

It is never easy to find your way through the holidays, but you can and you will. We are here for you, you are not alone. Be watching the A Memory Grows Facebook, Instagram and website for ways to publicly remember and share your child with others who are walking the journey with you.



## You are Invited to our 2nd Annual Remembrance Ceremony

Tuesday, November 28  
6:30pm  
The Brooks at Weatherford

We know that holidays can be incredibly hard. The dreams of what should be and the memories of what once was can be difficult to manage when our hearts are hurting and the rest of the world seems festive and bright.

Our Remembrance Ceremony is a time of quiet reflection to honor and celebrate our children. The ceremony is held in an open air chapel and concludes around a pond with the naming of our children and the floating of beautiful lanterns. A reception is held after the ceremony and offers a time to create a token of remembrance for your child as well as the opportunity to connect with other families who understand this journey. This event is open to all ages, and extended family and friends are welcome to attend.

**Please register at [www.amemorygrows.org](http://www.amemorygrows.org)**



## Words of Gratitude

To the Ryan Family Charitable Trust, none of this would have been possible without you. Thank you for being the tangible proof that love always carries on!

Many thanks to Matt and Elaine Marshall who celebrated their daughter Caroline with A Walk for Caroline and raised over \$7,000 for A Memory Grows!

Thank you to Derek and Amy Ray for honoring Owen's birthday with gifts to A Memory Grows!

Food nourishes the soul and we cannot thank Aledo United Methodist enough for providing the food for our 4-day Retreats! What a tremendous gift to our organization and to those who are attending!



## Ways to Help A Memory Grows

- ◆ Help prepare quarterly newsletter
- ◆ Volunteer at an event
- ◆ Provide food for an event
- ◆ Donate craft supplies for retreats
- ◆ Donate fabric for quilts for our 4 Day retreats
- ◆ Make a one time monetary gift
- ◆ Schedule a monthly monetary gift
- ◆ Honor your child and invite others to honor your child with a gift to A Memory Grows on holidays and birthdays
- ◆ Give the gift of a retreat to parents who could benefit from an A Memory Grows program.



Lisa Marino is a woman of many talents. She knows the journey that parents are on when they attend an A Memory Grows event. She puts her heart into creating a special gift for all those who attend the 4 Day Retreats. Lisa your heart and love touches all of us! Thank you!

Marilyn Brumley is an artist with a heart of gold. She is known for her painting, stained glass and mosaics. Marilyn is creating a one of a kind piece for A Memory Grows that will be on display at our 2nd Annual Remembrance Ceremony. If your child has been remembered at any of our events this first year, they will be incorporated into this piece. Once A Memory Grows has its own location this piece will have a permanent home. Thank you Marilyn for remembering each one of our children in such a special way!

Suzanne Marsden and Ability Resources, thank you for finding value in A Memory Grows and sharing your legacy with us so that we may help others in the same spirit that you have!

Continued support of the following individuals for their consistent monetary gifts, donation of services, talents and business:

The Rev. Sue and Dr. Joe Krayner

Darlene and Ed Bortner

Cassie Lozuk - Graphic Artist

Shirley Watkins - Berry Patch Fabrics

Kathleen Tegler- LPC

Shannon Reynolds - Artist

Cook Children's Hematology/Oncology Service

Rick Bettinger - Gittings Photography

Clint Church - Guitarist

Dace Sultanov - Celloist



## Remembrance Ceremony Marks 1 Year Anniversary

This year's Remembrance Ceremony will mark the 1 year anniversary of the public launch of A Memory Grows. To mark this special occasion and to honor the children and families that have made A Memory Grows a reality, a special mosaic is being designed. Each child whose life and legacy has connected with A Memory Grows will be a part of the creation symbolizing that we are all stronger when we are together and that their story will continue to be shared. You will not want to miss this special night on November 28th!



## Continuing the Legacy

A Memory Grows is a 501(c)(3) organization that relies solely on donations to fund all retreats and special events. There is no such thing as a small gift. As the holiday's approach we invite you to consider offering the gift of healing and love to parents as they navigate the road of grief. A gift in honor or in memory of someone you love is a special way of showing that love carries on. All gifts are tax deductible and can be mailed to:



A Memory Grows  
 P.O. Box 34282  
 Fort Worth, TX 76162

A Memory Grows is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that serves as an outreach to grieving parents, and as a resource to hospitals, clinics, hospice groups, churches and other nonprofit organizations.