

Bereaved Parents of the USA Loses a Good Friend Darcie D. Sims May 20, 1947 – February 27, 2014

(Published on page 6 of the Bereaved Parents of the USA Newsletter, *Journeying Together*, Spring 2014)

Darcie Sims was one of us. She listened to our stories, she felt our pain, she walked our walk, she made us laugh, she made us cry and she always taught us something to help in our grieving the death of our child or children. She was a strong supporter of Bereaved Parents of the USA, often spoke at our gatherings, attended our workshops, and was a frequent workshop presenter. She wrote and spoke both from personal experience of grief over the death of her son, Austin (“Big A”), and from extensive academic learning and interactions with thousands of bereaved parents. Darcie was a genuinely nice person. Her death is a great loss to all of us who knew her personally, those thousands who heard her speak and read her writings, and those many bereaved parents to come who will never hear her speak.

Darcie’s accomplishments are impressive. After Austin’s death she discovered there was very little available to support or assist parents facing the nightmare of child loss. She made it her life’s purpose to learn all she could about the grief process and teach all she learned to other grieving parents. She earned a number of degrees and became a grief management specialist, a certified thanatologist, a certified pastoral bereavement specialist, and a licensed psychotherapist.

She is the author of *Why Are the Casseroles Always Tuna?*, *Footsteps Through the Valley*, *Touchstones*, and *If I Could Just See Hope*. She co-authored *A Place For Me: A healing Journey for Grieving Kids*, *Footsteps Through Grief*, *The Other Side of Grief*, and *Finding Your Way Through Grief*, with her daughter, Alicia Sims Franklin. She co-authored *The Crying Handbook*, *In the Midst of Caregiving*, and *Exploring the Heart, Soul, and Challenges of Caregiving for Professionals*, with Dr. Robert Baugher. She also wrote and produced the videos *Handling the Holidays* and *What Color is Dead: Death From A Child’s View*, as well as authored numerous chapters in professional books and textbooks.

Darcie was featured in the award-winning video series “*Good Grief*” produced by Iowa Public Television, and has been featured in several other videos as well. She wrote six Care Notes for Abbey Press. She was an internationally recognized speaker who delivered her message of hope with compassion, grace and a fair amount of humor.

The bereaved parents community was greatly enriched by Darcie Sims and her life. Her writings will continue to help us for years to come. (End of Article) Additional accomplishments of **Darcie D. Sims, Ph.D., CHT, CT, GMS**: Darcie was Coping Editor for *Bereavement Magazine* for 15 years. She wrote many articles for *Grief Digest* which is published by Centering Corporation.

She served on the national board of directors for The Compassionate Friends, the national board of directors for the Association of Death Education and Counseling and the board of trustees for the National Catholic Ministry to the Bereaved. She received The Compassionate Friends Professional Award in 1999. She co-chaired the 1991, 1996 and 2005 World Gathering on Bereavement, and keynoted at all 4 World Gatherings.

Darcie co-founded of GRIEF, Inc. a grief consulting business and the Director of the **American Grief Academy**® in Seattle, Washington. Along with serving as President of this organization, she

served as Director of Training and Certification for the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors®. She was also a Board Certified Professional Counselor (APA), a Fellow in the American Psychotherapy Association, a Certified Diplomat in Clinical Hypnotherapy and is listed in *Who's Who in America*, *The World*, *Who's Who of Women* and *The International Who's Who of Professional and Business Women*.

We lovingly say to Darcie: "Thanks for the little while. We'll see you soon." She coined this phrase which was picked up by Alan Pedersen who then wrote the song, "Thanks for the Little While" in honor of their friendship and Darcie's son. Please visit her website at www.GriefInc.com to read a very touching tribute written by Alan in Darcie's honor.