



Thoughts of Autumn

Every year when September rolls around, my soul gets excited like a little girl in a candy store. The air gets crisp like a crunchy fall apple. The colors change from bright to vivid; a patchwork quilt of earth tones. And, the annual balloon release by Share Parents rolls into view.

I used to look forward to autumn because of the crisp air and gorgeous colors, but three years ago that changed. My son Connor died after three short days of life, and each September, I now join with other families of angel babies to release balloons in their memory. Fall now has new meaning for me. It's a time to connect with people who understand and empathize with the loss of my child.

Looking forward to the balloon release is bittersweet. Although it is a reminder of a sad event, it's a chance for me to publicize my love for my son. It's a chance for me to acknowledge that he exists even though I don't get to be his mother here on earth.

There are always certain things you can count on at the release; tears, tissues, and hugs. But you can also count on smiles, laughter, joy, beauty, and friendship. I bring my entire family so they can share in the joy of recognizing my son and in honoring all of the children that were taken too soon.

Every bereaved family would benefit from attending the balloon release, as there is something for everyone. With school starting, fields are being harvested, and temperatures dropping, add to your list of fall things to do—attending the balloon release. Join with us as we honor and memorialize all of our children, and who have a slight understanding of what you are going through as you think of and miss your angel baby. ~Amy C. Maddox

Bittersweet Event

It's a bittersweet event. Part of you is sad from the events that you are remembering, and yet happy you had the chance to have that little person be a part of you even for a small moment. It's amazing to see the families there, who have their arms around each other and are obviously so happy to have each other. It is heart wrenching to see young couples there who lost their first baby and haven't had the joy of a little one yet.

We all have a great respect for each other, because we know we are among others who have felt our exact sorrow and have been in our shoes. We also know that having been through it, life does go on and you do get feeling better. It's nice to reassure others of that.

We go back every September to the balloon launch to send a balloon for each of the boys. It's a time to reflect on how far we've come since those sad time and support other who are in the midst of their grief.

~Jessica Littlefield

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If you have a poem or story you would like to share about your precious angel, please email it to kristi@pizzaplusutah.com

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