

Gambill knew instinctively that something needed to be done for people like herself. Barely four weeks into her own grief, the seed had been planted. But it would be many more months before plans would be made to follow up on a support group. Reflecting on that time, Gambill concludes, "I couldn't take someone else where I hadn't been myself."

It was eight months later when Gambill received a magazine article in the mail about a support group called The Compassionate Friends. She immediately contacted the organization, setting in motion the framework for a chapter of The Compassionate Friends in Indianapolis. In April 1977 the group's first meeting was held in Gambill's living room.

Those early members, who had responded to a brief article about the fledgling group in a local publication, covered a wide range of circumstances and experiences. Several members had lost children through terminal illness. Automobile accidents had claimed the lives of others. Still others had seen their children die in tragic and bizarre ways. One mother lost her teenager in a freak accident with a homemade bomb, while another suffered the trauma of the savage and violent death of her 4-year-old by a pack of dogs.

Compassionate Friends opened the door for Gambill. She began to speak to hospitals, churches and civic groups all over the city. "Judy's gift to me was public speaking," Gambill says. "I developed a gift for it after her death."

Then last summer in the wee hours of a July morning Gambill was struck with an inspiration: She envisioned a magazine for bereaved individuals. "I saw a clear picture in my mind," she explains. "A man in a raincoat was standing in front of a newsstand reaching for a magazine that said 'bereavement.' As he reached forward, he thought, 'I have a friend who is bereaved and I don't know what to do. Maybe this will help.'" Gambill remembers stumbling out of bed at 3 a.m. and being struck with the idea. "I just got caught by it," she says, adding, "sometimes a 3 a.m. idea isn't any good at 8."

Gambill puzzled over the inspiration for three days and then called her good friend, Bill Corbin, an entrepreneur with 15 years of printing experience, who publishes a monthly consumer protection magazine. A graduate of Harvard with a degree in business administration, Corbin's keen business sense would become a guiding force behind their publication. Gambill remembers thinking to herself, "If he laughs and hangs up I'll know this was a stupid idea." But he didn't laugh. They planned to meet for an hour the next morning to discuss the potential for such a venture, and five hours later they



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