

scribers. Subscribers include those who have experienced a loss, professionals, support systems of all kinds, and friends and loved ones of the bereaved who need information on how to help those they love.

Gambill admits that her favorite time of day is when she opens the mail. "Everytime I open a piece of mail I bond with that person even though I've never met them," she says. "I just want to go where they are and put my arms around them."

Such a letter arrived recently from Ernestine McCrory of Lexington, Miss. McCrory's son, Kevin Ray, was killed in a freak accident in the parking lot of a convenience store near their home. On a cold, snowy evening in January, she stopped at the store, letting her two sons out. As they walked in front of her car, a man whose windows were covered with snow backed up and collided with them. Her two sons were pinned between the vehicles. McCrory's 13-year-old survived, but 11-year-old Kevin died in her arms.

At the time of Kevin's death, McCrory's mother was slowly dying of a brain tumor. Her family decided that her aging mother should be spared the news of the tragedy. For the next year McCrory lived a lie. When Grandma would ask why Kevin hadn't come to see her, she would make an excuse that he was out playing or involved in some other activity. After her mother's death McCrory entered a psychiatric hospital. It was the chaplain at the hospital who told her about Compassionate Friends. "That is what saved my life," she says.

Such incidents, and others like them, have convinced Gambill that what she is doing is very important. "There are so many people out there with stories to tell," she says, "But *Time* and *Newsweek* don't want to do those."

Through *bereavement*, Gambill has set in motion a support system for those who are grieving and those who wish to help. Twelve years ago, Gambill experienced one of life's greatest tragedies, but she does not dwell on the past. "I get to make whatever I want out of today," she says. •

Author Joannetta Hendel's son, Alex, died in 1984 of a breathing disorder that occurred during sleep. He was 2½. The mother of four other children, Hendel is currently working on her first book, which deals with her personal adjustment to the loss.

What follows is Hendel's reaction following her son's death. It first appeared in the May 1988 issue of bereavement magazine.



JOHN DAVID FLICK

KASLER GROUP

BEST INTERIOR
1987 HOME-A-RAMA

Peter Whitten
Nanette Lauck

3755 E. 82nd St.
845-8855



YOUR FEET DON'T HAVE TO HURT

Take a step in the right direction. Call the Academy of Foot and Ankle Specialists for a professional consultation. Learn what modern podiatry can do for painful bunions, hammertoes, fallen arches and heel spurs. The call is free. And best of all, life can again be free of foot and ankle pain.

Academy of Foot and Ankle Specialists

Indianapolis: 927-3885
Statewide: 1-800-228-AFAS

Affiliated with the American Surgery Centers of Indianapolis