

Losing Love, Finding Love, Giving Love

Becky Simmons

My children and my life changed forever on February 4, 1997. My husband, Keith Kimble, was traveling on his way home from work and started developing severe dizziness and weakness. This progressed to severe headaches. After a trip to the emergency room and an MRI, we were told that he had a brain tumor. He was immediately scheduled for surgery to have a craniotomy to remove the tumor and have it biopsied. Fortunately, the majority of primary brain tumors are benign, but Keith was diagnosed with a very aggressive malignant glioblastoma. The next nine months were a blur with more surgery,

parents, we were married and started a wonderful new journey together.

We have been very blessed with the support that we have received during the events that we have been through, but I always thought it would have been beneficial to have some sort of support group to belong to with people going through the same type of issues. Dr. William Nass, one of Keith's neurosurgeons, approached me in the hospital one day and said that he had been thinking about the need for a brain tumor support group and wondered if I would be inter-

ested in helping him get it organized. This was a wonderful opportunity to give back the love and support that our family received and help others struggling with a brain tumor.

This led to the formation of the Florence Neurosurgery and Spine Brain Tumor Support Group that is open to anyone affected by a brain tumor - whether it is the patient, family or friends. We have guest speakers at each meeting followed by a time of sharing and refreshments. We meet every six weeks at the office of Florence Neurosurgery and Spine at McLaren Medical Park East, 901 East Cheves Street, Suite 420. Our next meeting is Thursday, February 21 from 7:00 P. M. to 8:30 P. M.

If you are affected by the diagnosis of a brain tumor, please know that there are others in the area that are sharing your concerns and we welcome you to our support group.

My children and I were surrounded with love from our family and friends, but we had to somehow carry on with our lives without a husband and father. It was very difficult to say the least; but together, we persevered.

chemotherapy, radiation, more MRI's and trips back and forth to Duke.

We have three children that were eleven, fourteen and twenty-one at the time and they each struggled in their own way as they watched their dad grow weaker and weaker. Our family, friends and church reached out to our family with an outpouring of love and support. They brought meals, built a wheelchair ramp, helped with the children and were there to just listen and provide a shoulder to cry on.

Keith fought his battle bravely; but in November of 1997, his battle was over. My children and I were surrounded with love from our family and friends, but we had to somehow carry on with our lives without a husband and father. It was very difficult to say the least, but together, we persevered.

My son, William, was in college when his dad was diagnosed, but he pressed on and finished school and is now married with three precious children. My daughter, Katie, graduated from college last year with a Business Finance Degree and recently got married. My son, Kyle, joined the National Guard and had to take a leave from college to be deployed to Afghanistan. He will be home at the end of January. I went back to school and became a Registered Nurse and work in critical care at a local hospital.

My life was busy and my children were my focus. Then, out of the clear blue, I was introduced to a man that changed my life again. I never imagined that I would find love again, but Marcus came into my life and our friendship grew and deepened and we both knew that we had a rare gift of finding love again. Two years ago, surrounded by our children and

each meeting followed by a time of sharing and refreshments. We meet every six weeks at the office of Florence Neurosurgery and Spine at McLaren Medical Park East, 901 East Cheves Street, Suite 420. Our next meeting is Thursday, February 21 from 7:00 P. M. to 8:30 P. M.

If you are affected by the diagnosis of a brain tumor, please know that there are others in the area that are sharing your concerns and we welcome you to our support group.

My children and I were surrounded with love from our family and friends, but we had to somehow carry on with our lives without a husband and father. It was very difficult to say the least, but together, we persevered.

My son, William, was in college when his dad was diagnosed, but he pressed on and finished school and is now married with three precious children. My daughter, Katie, graduated from college last year with a Business Finance Degree and recently got married. My son, Kyle, joined the National Guard and had to take a leave from college to be deployed to Afghanistan. He will be home at the end of January. I went back to school and became a Registered Nurse and work in critical care at a local hospital.

My life was busy and my children were my focus. Then, out of the clear blue, I was introduced to a man that changed my life again. I never imagined that I would find love again, but Marcus came into my life and our friendship grew and deepened and we both knew that we had a rare gift of finding love again. Two years ago, surrounded by our children and

each meeting followed by a time of sharing and refreshments. We meet every six weeks at the office of Florence Neurosurgery and Spine at McLaren Medical Park East, 901 East Cheves Street, Suite 420. Our next meeting is Thursday, February 21 from 7:00 P. M. to 8:30 P. M.

If you are affected by the diagnosis of a brain tumor, please know that there are others in the area that are sharing your concerns and we welcome you to our support group.

