

The Best Day Ever Foundation



SAVE THE DATE – Saturday, April 16, 2022 "Shine the Night"

Shine the Night is the Best Day Ever Foundation's annual event to honor children gone too soon. It is being held this year at England-Idlewild Park in Burlington, KY on Saturday, April 16th at dusk. We release paper lanterns on the night before Easter as a symbol of Jesus as the light of the world. We believe our children should light up the night together to help disperse our darkness.

We all want our children to be remembered. As we celebrate their lives, our hope is to ensure no family feels alone. Together, we will "Shine the Night" for our children. The event will also be streamed live via the Best Day Ever Foundation's YouTube channel for those unable to join in person. If you would like to help us, please reach out to Amy at amykappen@bestdayeverfoundation.us

Mermaid 2021 Events – Reflection

It's been two years now since our wish became our mission. From our first official Shine the Night to our Mermaid Jeep Ride fundraiser, the Best Day Ever Foundation had a year filled with love and support for us to share with our bereaved families. Here's a brief reflection of our 2021 events and impact:

This was the first year we brought families together in person. The Best Day Ever Foundation hosted numerous private events with bereaved families, gathered at some of our local sports teams' stadiums, including the Cincinnati Reds, FC Cincinnati and Florence Yalls. We shared joyful moments from coffee walks in the parks to happy hours or small dinner parties all the way to racing go-karts and rage rooms. We also held our very first bourbon experience provided by Tour With Us KY for a small group of bereaved parents. A day that began as strangers turned into friendships with an unimaginable bond before the tour ended. We toasted #ToMermaids a few times, but the tears we cried and the laughs we shared were a true gift of walking along a path of healing together. It was a best day ever!

In the Fall of 2021, two family tributes were revealed at the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Emergency Room entrance. We purchased these paver stones to forever honor two sweet girls and their insightful approaches of life. We hope to offer memorials to more bereaved families soon.

The Best Day Ever Foundation's team made another big mermaid splash at the Leukemia Lymphoma Society's (LLS) Light the Night, by raising \$33,997 and named the #2 Friends & Family team. Earlier in the spring, a third research grant in Sophia's name was earned by assisting the LLS' Student of the Year campaign! Our combined financial impact to pediatric and cancer research partners, now exceeds \$575,000 (and that's net!). Mermaizing!

In November, First Church of Christ in Burlington, KY graciously cohosted the Best Day Ever Foundation's annual blood drive for Hoxworth Blood Center. It was another great turnout with 47 volunteers, including 10 first time donors! Thank you for all who donated and continue to give the gift of life.

I've met a lot of new grieving families along with others who have traveled the path for a few years. I am learning what helps a family when faced with the unimaginable loss as well as what is not ideal for connecting bereaved families. I've come home at times and cried that I'm doing it wrong, I should have considered something I missed, and I have wanted to give up. But then I heard a whisper through all the noise, "don't stop." I consistently hear that our organization is different than a group grief counseling session and since grieving the loss of a child doesn't follow any instruction book or timeline, families are becoming more involved with a new approach. We've received so many thank you's and that our community needs this service. We're going to just keep swimming...

Looking forward to 2022 – We are excited to announce that we're teaming up with Camp Cedar and Kings Island for our very first camping retreat getaway for bereaved families in August 2022. Providing an opportunity for the families to have more dedicated time healing with other bereaved families. Another first planned is for our bereaved mothers to destress after the holidays by coming together at our Best Day Ever Foundation Spa Day in February. An expanded bourbon tour group in the Spring is already in high demand after last year's memorable experience. We will continue toasting #ToMermaids at each and every opportunity.

If you or your company are interested in sponsoring any future Best Day Ever Foundation event (or portion of an event) for our bereaved families, we'd love to hear from you! We couldn't do this without your support.

No one should travel this path alone. If you or a family you know have endured the loss of a child, please contact me and let us help soften this journey.



Here's to making 2022 the Best Year Ever! Thank you!

Amy F. Kappen, Founder & Executive Director of the Best Day Ever Foundation

We are grateful to continue working with our partner, Reis Promotions, to offer you comfy Best Day Ever Foundation merchandise while supporting our mission. Keep toasting #ToMermaids. Refer to our website for available items at www.BestDayEverFoundation.us

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