

December 9, 2007

It doesn't seem possible that it's been 11 ½ years since this nightmare began. I close my eyes and it seems just like yesterday the boys were racing outside to play with their friends; so innocent, so alive, so very precious. My mind plays back like an old home movie first steps and birthday parties. I have so many memories each more precious than the next.

At times they are my salvation and other times my undoing. Yet even when the pain is the greatest, I force myself to feel it. It reminds me of what this is all about.

My pain is intimate and deep. A pain I'm not sure I could even comprehend had it not been forced upon me. There have been times I've simply wanted to say "no more", to just give up. It has been during these times I have felt each of you holding me up. I realize more and more each day that I'm not fighting this battle alone. With each tiny step you are all holding me up. Through all the times of despair and frustration, one of you has always been there to catch me when I fall. The injustice of this system has pierced my soul, yet each of you help me to heal. Your belief and support helps breath life back into me when I feel like there is nothing left.

There is a song by Celine Dion titled "I'm Everything I Am because You Loved Me", I have sang this song for my precious baby boys. Now I want each of you to listen to the words of this song. This is what your love and support has done for me.

To simply say thank you is not enough, and there really are no words to express the depth of my gratitude I feel for each of you. I know that my boys are looking down from Heaven with the same love and attitude for each of you. Through this fight they will never be forgotten. I hope you believe in angels like I do and realize each of you have two of the most precious angels watching over you as well.

With love and prayers,

Darlie Routier