

Profiles:

The Button Family

When Luc Xander Button was four and a half weeks old, he contracted RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus)—a contagious virus, which is the most common cause of bronchiolitis and pneumonia in children younger than age one in the U.S. Luc was admitted to Good Samaritan Hospital for observation. Two days later he was transferred to Lucile Packard Children's Hospital and placed on life support.

"For five weeks," said Tara, Luc's mother, "we experienced a roller coaster ride watching a team of doctors do everything they could to save Luc. He fought and fought. Never could we have imagined that a baby could have that much courage. But on March 30th, 2008 we turned off the life-support machines."

"After his memorial, I thought to myself there has to be an organization out there that can help us," said Richard, Luc's father. "We needed specific support for young child loss as well as support for our 3-year daughter Zoe. Through research we were referred to the Community



Grief and Counseling Center at Hospice of the Valley where we meet individually and as a couple with Laura. Additionally we attend the Women's and Men's Child Loss Groups. And Zoe knows we come to the Center to talk about Luc and she enjoys her sessions with Kristina."

"I thought we could handle the loss of Luc on our own," said Tara. "But Richard and I have very different styles. He likes to talk about it, and I don't. After seeing Laura for a few months, she encouraged me to try art therapy. I bring my art home and show it to Richard. It's been an amazing way to get me to talk and to open up about how I feel and it allows me to access things I'm scared to access."

"The Center is amazing because we have an outlet to talk to people who at least partially or fully understand," said Richard. "In our groups there are like-minded people who are saying the same things. It's a scary thought to think that if the Center didn't exist, what would we have done? Would we still be married? Coming here has had a profound influence on how we've developed personally, as a couple and how we are coping with all of this."



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