



765 Morning Glory Drive
Taylor Mill, KY 41015

November 29, 2020

Dear KAREfarm Family and Friends,

When I reflect upon 2020 up to this point, like so many families, there are reasons to celebrate and reasons to mourn. One conclusion I have come to is that this year has been marked with how we give, take, and treat each other. From cancellations and then rescheduling, and the obstacles..... Moving from a vision to reality has been nothing short of a call from a higher power and a miracle reinforcing that this is good work and the right work. On paper, a KAREfarm retreat was not going to happen, not in 2020. When each obstacle was met with an answer, a solution, it continued to spur us on. Mike, my fellow co-founder, donated White Tail Ridge Farm as home base and coordinated each weekend to build infrastructure and coordinated logistics of countless volunteer hours to culminate in one goal that we did not think we would see at the onset of this pandemic- hosting a retreat to support other bereaved mothers. Personally, I am humbled by the selflessness given through volunteerism and donations and together WE MADE THIS HAPPEN!

I was asked to take the lead in organizing our “Giving Tuesday” campaign, leading up to a day marked in generosity, that will only allow us to support and serve more in 2021. My other co-founder, Stephanie, lost her father a few days ago, so her priority shift has meant supporting her mother in the recovery from Covid as well. Her father passed on November 20th, he shared a hospital room with her mom as they were getting rehab after a bout with Covid. When Steph drove her mother home from the hospital (without her husband of 60 years), she said her mother was downplaying her own grief compared to losing a child. My immediate reaction was, “How can we compare”? There is not a worthiness, or any one person deserving of services or support more or less than another when feeling an unbearable loss. It made my heart physically hurt to hear that her mother felt she had to qualify her grief for even a moment.

On this Thanksgiving holiday weekend, I also continue to walk a tightrope within my own heart. Trying to accommodate joy and pain, grateful for my surviving children, family, and friends yet finding ways to honor the little girl that I lost and struggling to make the most of every family moment with my younger brother, diagnosed with a terminal illness in July. Making memories, supporting those I love, and paying forward the support that was built into me by others- it’s the only thing that makes sense.

One of the core ideas behind the creation of KAREfarm is to break the debilitating isolation of grief by supporting others in communities and making connections. Only then can we break through some predetermined construct of how we think we should feel? The bullshit (sorry, if I offended anybody, but it really is that) of what is socially acceptable, a timeframe, or way we are supposed to do this? No. We have to learn to honor and own our individual journey. Although KAREfarm was initially founded under the need to serve others feeling the isolation and grief of child loss, it has only been through finding community in others and making connections that we have listened to and learned that the need is so much greater than we ever imagined.

My ask for this Giving Tuesday, that you invest once or throughout the year to help increase our capacity by building additional platforms, adding tents or bedding, and supporting additional retreats at no cost to our guests. Each platform, with recent increased lumber costs, and a 3 season canvas tent is \$4500. The cost for KAREfarm to furnish bedding for each tent is \$450. The cost for KAREfarm to support attendance free of charge to each guest is \$190.00(this includes all meals, journals, workshop materials which meet Covid compliance).

If at this time, you are not able to give monetarily, my ask is that you please pass along our information to anyone that you know is grieving and could benefit from bereavement support. You could also reach out to volunteer with us in 2021! Our goal is to build three additional campsites and a storage facility to house and protect our tents throughout the offseason while still offering each guest a place to stay and find support at no cost.

KAREfarm has been built through the generosity and volunteerism of others. With your donation, we would like an opportunity to be generous as well. With each tax deductible donation made on or before giving Tuesday, you will be entered to win one of three \$50 gift cards. Please take a moment to visit our site on Facebook, share our post, or find us at www.karefarm.org

With Gratitude,

Christa Plummer

KAREfarm co-founder and Avery's mom