



LOVE.GIVE.REMEMBER.

October 2015

The Michael Shane Plowden, Jr. Loving Legacy Foundation is a 501c3 non-profit organization
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IN THIS ISSUE

One year later...

by Michael and Torie Plowden

We are ever mindful of Buddy's sweet spirit. It has been more than 15 months since he physically left us and went on to be with God. During that time, we have worked hard to ensure that he lives on in the hearts and minds of all who loved him, while at the same time continuing to introduce others to him.

Buddy taught us the importance of unconditional love toward others. He modeled that loving behavior his entire life. His playfulness reminds us to take time to laugh. His energy reminds us to get up and experience the world around us; to live each moment to the fullest! His inquisitiveness reminds us to remember that lifelong learning is important. And so, thanks to this sweet child, we all have a wonderful example of how to live a beautiful life.

In early September 2014, less than 3 months after his death, we were led to start this Foundation to honor his memory and ensure his spirit helps shape the lives of others, as he shaped ours. The **Michael Shane Plowden, Jr. Loving Legacy Foundation** is a 501c3 non-profit organization that works to educate children and their parents or

caregivers on how to be safe in their environment, even as we encourage them to live their lives to the fullest and share their "best" selves with the world. We are working to cultivate kindness in the lives of children.

This year has been a time of unimaginable, indescribable and profound sadness but also there has been a blossoming of hope. Even as we continue to grieve, we are so thankful for the support we have received, so proud of what we have been able to achieve, and so hopeful about what the future will bring for Buddy's Foundation, which is igniting a spark in the hearts of our supporters! To be successful, however, we need your continued prayers and support! In return for your donations, time, or talent, we promise that not only will you touch the lives of children and families, but you will also be touched by the spirit of our sweet son, Buddy, who will forever be missed, but not forgotten.

Buddy's short life teaches us that one person can change the world. We know that the world is indeed better because he lived!



10.23 Initiative

Our first virtual fundraiser will be held on Buddy's 6th birthday.

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Water Safety Events

We have held multiple water safety events in our community. Read on for more information.

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Celebrating Life

On October 31, we will be hosting a reception at Howard University beginning at 1:30pm.

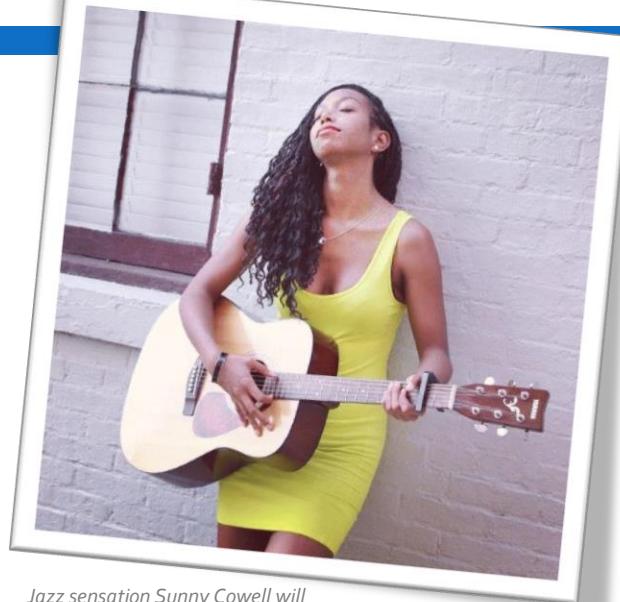
This year, we will present an award to Tara Eggleston, for her unparalleled dedication and commitment to our water safety program. Ms. Eggleston works as an Assistant Division Chief for the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's (M-NCPPC) Department of Parks and Recreation.

Former NFL Football Player and Howard alum, Leonard Stephens will speak regarding the impact extracurricular activities can have in a child's life.

Tickets may be purchased on our website or via Eventbrite.

So please join us for a lovely afternoon of remembrance, a New Orleans style reception, live jazz music and a silent auction.

This event is sure to be fantastic and you will still have plenty of time for trick-or-treating!



Jazz sensation Sunny Cowell will perform live at our event!

JAZZ RECEPTION

October 31, 2015
1:30-4:00pm
Howard University
Blackburn Center, Hilltop Lounge

Purchase Tickets at
<http://lovinglegacy.eventbrite.com/?s=44988598>

10.23 Initiative

On October 23, 2009 our lives changed for the better. This is the day that our sweet Buddy was born. This year, he would have been 6 years old.

We will have a virtual fundraiser in his honor on his birthday! Donate as little as \$10.23 on 10/23! Donations can be made on our website or via the Givelify app.

Encourage your friends and family to get involved. Let your

teenagers get in on the giving. Allow them to understand the joy of giving back and contributing to a cause that is far greater than themselves.

On 10/23, share our initiative with your friends, "Like" us on Facebook, donate to make a difference in the life of a child and use **#lovegiveremember!** With your help, we can make that hashtag trend!





Amazon Smile

Do you ever shop on Amazon? Each time you make a purchase on Amazon Smile and designate our Foundation, Amazon makes a small donation to us at no cost to you!



Givelify

Giving is now easier than ever. You can find us on Givelify. Download the app and donate from your smartphone. "Give. Tap. Done."

LIKELIHOOD OF FINDING A
BONE MARROW MATCH IF YOU ARE:

76%

African-American

83%

Hispanic

97%

Caucasian



Jolie at a water safety event

Register as a Bone Marrow Donor

Buddy's final act of kindness was to become an organ donor. At the most difficult time of our lives, we were able to make this decision because we were well aware of our child's gift of selflessness and felt sure that he would want us to donate. We would encourage you to also consider donating organs. Discuss this issue with your family so that they would be aware of your desires.

But, in the meantime, did you know that you could give life in yet another way? Every year, thousands of people are diagnosed with blood cancers and other severe diseases (such as sickle cell disease) that can be cured with bone marrow transplant.

Unfortunately, African-Americans are not well-represented in the national bone marrow registry. Additionally, they also have the most diverse tissue types. Therefore, the matching process

is difficult in this group.

In conjunction with Alpha Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, we will be hosting a Be the Match donor drive. Joining the registry is quick, easy, painless and FREE!

Remember, **YOU** can make an important difference in a person's life. We hope that you will join us for this event.

BONE MARROW DONOR DRIVE

October 23, 2015
noon-2:00pm
Howard University's Campus,
in front of Blackburn Center

For more information about the bone marrow donor registry, please visit bethematch.org

College Tours

Buddy had a love of learning and would certainly have attended college. This fall, the Loving Legacy Foundation will be partnering with Developing Young Professionals, Incorporated to bring college tours to students from Vermilion Parish in Louisiana. Approximately 50 students will attend each tour.

We are so excited about this endeavor! We hope that children who already aspire to attend college will be motivated to commit to academic excellence. We also hope that children who

haven't dreamed of attaining a higher education will be able to "see" themselves attending college.

If your child is interested in this fantastic opportunity or if you would like to volunteer as a chaperone, please contact Kalen Smith for additional information at 718-249-9564.

Schedule of Tours:

October 19th ULL

October 20th SLCC

November 7th McNeese State University

November 14th Southern University

November 23rd Xavier University and Dillard University

Water Safety

Since April 2015 we have brought a series of water safety seminars to the community. These events have targeted both adults and children and have focused on necessary precautions to enhance water safety. The sessions have been presented to both Boy and Girl Scouts as well as to other groups.



Our community partners from Howard County Parks and Recreation have worked tirelessly to staff these events and to provide education while engaging children of various ages in interactive activities. Parents have also enjoyed these activities and have all learned valuable, life-saving, lessons during these sessions.

If your community group could benefit from this information, please feel free to reach out to us on our website or via email at lovinglegacyfoundation@gmail.com. We will work with you and our team to ensure a successful event.

Operation 1,000 Smiles

Last year our first community service activity was a holiday toy drive. Like most kids his age, Buddy really enjoyed Christmas! We felt this would be a perfect opportunity to bring smiles to other children in our community, thus "Buddy's Love: Operation 1,000 Smiles" was launched. Our goal was to collect and distribute 1,000 toys to local children. Through your generosity, we collected 1,180 items and distributed them to military families in Maryland and North Carolina as well as to the National Center for Children and Families (Bethesda, MD) and Bright Beginnings (Washington, DC). This program was a resounding success!

As the temperatures drop, we can already feel Fall in the air. We are approaching that magical time of the year and are already getting into the Holiday spirit. We will kick off the toy drive at our reception on October 31. You can bring new, unwrapped toys or gifts for infants to teenagers. Remember that no toy is too large or too small—all will be happily received by children.

If you are interested in hosting a "toy box" at your office or business please contact us. We will deliver the box to you and also pick up the toys from you.

Let's work together to ensure many families experience joy during the holidays.



2014 TOY DRIVE PHOTOS



Sorting Toys

Our supporters are incredibly generous!



Community Partners

Our community partners at The Hair Lounge II (Fort Washington, MD) collected more than 80 toys!



Special Delivery

Jolie (Buddy's little sister) delivering toys to the National Center for Children and Families (Bethesda, MD).

DID YOU KNOW?

We are a 501c3 organization. Your donations are tax deductible.