



BC WOMEN'S HOSPITAL
& HEALTH CENTRE

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20 May 2009

Mary Dice
Davey Derby Foundation
3652 River Road
Chemainus, BC V0R 1K4

Dear Mary,

I have recently learned from Joan Washburn that the Davey Derby Foundation has made a generous donation to the Vancouver Island Artists' Memory Box Program.

As a social worker at BC Women's, one of the hospitals which benefits from this program, I have the responsibility and the privilege of liaising with Joan and distributing these beautifully painted boxes to bereaved families. Personally, and on behalf of my colleagues, I would like to extend my thanks to you and to the Davey Derby Foundation for supporting this program and share with you the impact that these memory boxes have on families who have experienced a pregnancy or infant loss.

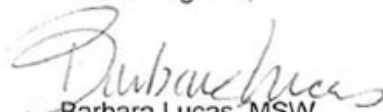
Following a perinatal loss, parents are likely to experience a roller coaster of emotions, including shock, anger, confusion and profound sorrow. We offer grief counseling and support to assist families in coping with these feelings and help them to gather mementoes that will bring them comfort during the healing process. These mementoes may include photographs, foot and hand prints, a baby bracelet, a lock of hair, a baby blanket, clothing, ultrasound pictures, as well as any items the parents may have previously collected. Once assembled, these precious keepsakes are placed in a memory box and presented to the parents prior to their discharge from hospital.

Although nothing can remove the pain and hurt of experiencing a loss, mementoes are deeply treasured by parents and bring solace during a time of unspeakable grief. Parents may also share them with grandparents and other family members, finding it a helpful way to "introduce" their baby to the extended family who is also mourning the loss and seeking ways to support the grieving parents.

The Davey Derby Foundation's heartfelt and generous contribution to the Memory Box Program will help us to continue supporting bereaved families as they move through the grief process. We also know, from experience, that memory boxes will be treasured and will bring comfort long after parents have accepted their loss and are able to look forward to the future.

I would be grateful if you would extend our sincerest appreciation to the members of the Davey Derby Foundation as well as our best wishes for a very successful 9th annual fishing derby.

Kindest regards,


Barbara Lucas, MSW
Acute Perinatal Program