

Dear Friends,

For the past 14 years, I have had the pleasure to serve as Calm Waters' Executive Director. It has been a true honor and privilege to be a part of such a wonderful agency serving families in our community, especially our grieving children. I will never forget the first time I observed the grief stricken faces of the children attending a support group. Being new to the agency, I questioned how could our volunteers help heal their broken hearts so smiles would once again return?

It didn't take long for that change to take place. As the weeks progressed, the same children I met the very first week were arriving with smiles on their faces and leaving with the sounds of laughter. Those children realized they were in a safe place and not alone in their grief. After attending group, one child wrote, *"thank you for giving me my joy back"*.

I am writing to you, to announce my retirement at the end of 2018 after having been involved in the non-profit world for more than 22 years. My immediate plans are to have a little more time to enjoy my grandsons, my family and once again, experience the world of travel!

Since the organization began, we have grown our grief programs and added new services that have helped more than 35,000 grieving children and parents. I am confident that Calm Waters will continue to meet the needs of grieving children due to the outstanding leadership of a professional staff, a dedicated group of volunteers and a committed Board of Directors.

Please know that we could not have accomplished all that we have done without the generosity of you and our other stakeholders. You have helped us grow our services, including our new counseling clinic which opened last November. Today, we are reaching more grieving children and families than ever before!

My hope is that you will continue to support our Calm Waters children. We have great plans for the future but we can't do it alone without your continued interest.

Again, a heartfelt thank you to each and every person who was a part of this beautiful journey. The future is bright for Calm Waters and I am excited for the next chapter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara J. Butner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Barbara Butner
Executive Director
Calm Waters Center for Children and Families