



To whom it may concern,

My name is Jennie Martin. I have been married to my husband Carl for 22 years and we have two daughters, both of which I am glad to say are happy and healthy young adults: Georgia is 20 and Laura is 16. I have been working as a special needs teacher aid for 11 years. In this time I have worked with numerous children with various disabilities ranging in age from 4 -19 years. I have also worked with many students suffering from life limiting and terminal illnesses.

While my job is never easy and presents many challenges, I have enjoyed making these children's lives as fun filled and happy as possible. Whilst a number of children I have worked with over the years have passed away and at times has left me broken hearted, I feel I have made their lives just a little bit brighter.

I have also got to meet the families of these children and I have watched their struggle and heartbreak as they lose their babies. One child in particular that I was very close to was Amy; she was a gorgeous, funny, clever and very loving girl who I was lucky enough to get to know in her final four years. In this time I got to know Amy's family and we became firm friends and remain so to this day. In the last six months of her life, Amy started spending time at Zoe's Place, which at the time was Queensland's only children's Hospice. She started staying one night a week for respite and eventually moved in permanently in the last few weeks of her life. Amy was 12 when she passed away peacefully at Zoe's Place surrounded by her loving family.

I spent a lot of time at Zoe's Place with Amy in her final weeks; it was such a pleasant environment and had a very relaxed atmosphere that was not at all like a hospital, more like a large family home. I have visited other children in palliative care in hospital and it just didn't compare to the friendly family orientated environment that Zoe's Place offered. The compassion, dedication and support that Zoe's Place staff showed us all at such a devastating time was amazing. I was so impressed with the services that they offered their clients and loved ones that I even held some fundraising events in their honour. I was devastated to hear that Zoe's Place had closed, as I know many other families desperately needed the support they offered.

I am a passionate supporter of Queensland Kids and I will continue my fundraising efforts to help enable the establishment of Hummingbird House and I will continue to support this worthwhile cause to ensure its future is cemented.

Yours sincerely,
Jennie Martin