

small improvements. Kaitlin would continue to fight and defy the odds. I was told that she would never be able to eat enough orally to maintain her nutritional needs.

In the spring of 1996, I met someone special while chatting on-line. She bonded with Kaitlin right away, and accepted the challenges of her extensive care as much as I had. By late summer, we were married. Again Kaitlin had a stable and loving family environment. She began again to show improvements. Over the next six months she began to eat enough pureed food orally to maintain her nutritional needs. She also began to "coo" and laugh!

After a lot of time, hard work, Speech therapy, and patience, she was able to now eat ground food and rarely required nutrition through her G-tube. Physical and Occupational therapists were also key players in Kaitlin's recovery. At first she was unable to even lie down comfortably because of her high muscle tone. After constant therapy for months she began to regain some control of her bodily movements. It was a slow recovery for everyone involved with her care.

In May of 1998, Kaitlin did the impossible. With help from her therapists and a piece of equipment called a Rifton Gait Trainer, she walked! Almost 3 years it took her to achieve this. She could not have accomplished this without her therapists and all of her special equipment. Again she has done what was thought could never happen. Because of dedicated, professional therapists, teachers, special equipment, and a great deal of love, Kaitlin proved that every child can and deserves to lead a full and happy life.

### "As Long as Hearts Remember"

As long as hearts remember,  
As long as hearts still care,  
We never part with those we love --  
They're with us everywhere...

So may our precious memories  
Of those we hold so dear  
Bring peace and comfort to us now  
And keep our loved one near.

Author Unknown

In Loving  
Memory of  
Our Daughter  
Kaitlin Marie  
Bell  
June 6, 1994—  
August 15, 1998



### Initial Contributors:

- The Meadowood School staff
- Judith Roach
- Beatrice and Robert Derickson
- Nancy Harper
- Noble and Martha Callaway
- Ruth and Samuel Panella
- Pathways to Empowerment:
- Glenda Motta and Kathi Whitaker
- GM Associates:
- Glenda and Nick Motta
- Mark and Lynne Meyer-Berlin
- William and Sandra Eskridge
- Gertrude Phillips
- Ernest and Diane Long
- Therapy Services of Delaware, Inc.
- Carolyn Cotter
- Byron and Teresa Shores
- Rebecca Moore and David Wheatley
- Sandra Hetrick
- Bryn Mawr Rehab P.T. Department
- Josephine Falcone
- John G. Leach School Staff

### Initial Contributors

(cont.)

- Nancy L. Teloh
- Beatrice L. Gilbert
- Mary S. Baker
- David and Ingrid Bertlein
- Michael and Sarah Mack

If you are interested in helping us with any fundraising activities, have any ideas for fundraising activities, or know of anyone who would like to receive this newsletter, please call us at (302) 292-2346 and ask for Jim/Teisha Bell, or press #1 to leave a message. Please be sure to leave your name and a phone number where you can be reached.

All correspondence can be mailed to:

The Kaitlin Marie Bell  
Foundation  
C/o James/Teisha Bell  
5 Parliament Court  
Newark, DE 19711

Fax: (302) 292-2353  
E-mail: [KMBFound@aol.com](mailto:KMBFound@aol.com)

See our website at:  
[www.kmbfoundation.org](http://www.kmbfoundation.org)