

## **PARENTS TO PARENTS: LESSONS IN LIFE**

It is the most natural thing as a parent to protect our children from the moment they enter the world. They are made from us - they look like us. Their first step, their first word, and every stage of growth is treasured and remembered as they take yet one more step away from us and become independent people. We can only hope that our children carry with them the lessons in living they've learned and witnessed by our example during the years with us.

Maybe the hardest thing to do as a parent is to let go of their hand and let them fall for the first time. To put them on a school bus as they head off to kindergarten that very first day.

How often do we hear, "Stop treating me like a baby!" Somewhere along the way we let them make their own decisions with our guidance. And we let them learn from their mistakes. We have done well if we have given them strong wings to fly on their own and the moral conviction to know and do what is right when they leave the family "nest." This will carry them through the incredible ups and downs of life to come.

Our daughter, Laura, has learned through her experience that she has the power to raise her voice to right an injustice. We are so proud of her. Her decisions and actions during this past year speak volumes about how she will live her life.

We have heard so many voices of concern from parents about having their children share information they have. Will it be put up on the website? Will it be publicized in the newspapers? Who will our children have to talk to? Will they have to go to court? The question we can answer is that your anonymity will be preserved. We ask you to think carefully about allowing your children to report this information. Our children are stronger than we think. And the lesson they just might learn will empower them for the future when they need to stand up for themselves. Please visit the new "PARENTS" page on our website for more details.

We want to thank everyone for your letters of support. We update the site daily.

(All documents on the website are public record or have been offered to us with permission to publish.)

We thank you, Lynn & Peter Bliss