



## **Recap of the 2008 Butterfly Release in Memory of Our Children Gone Too Soon, But Never Forgotten**

The Brevard Chapter of The Compassionate Friends held their 2<sup>nd</sup> Butterfly Release on October 4 at 200 PM at Lake Wanteska in Connestee Falls, NC. This year we dedicated the Butterfly Release in Memory of Kevin Palan, who has now join Brandlt Michael Koehler in Heaven. Kevin died on January 27, 2008. Sharon and Kevin inspired us to hold our 1<sup>st</sup> Butterfly release, which will now become a yearly tradition. I know that Kevin was watching down on us, along with all our children. It was a picture perfect day.

Every parent, grandparent and sibling gathered around the lake. Marisol Gollnick (Co-Chapter Leader) began the program. There were several readings, by Sharon Palan, Marisol Gollnick, Bea (Sharon Palan's mom), Joan (Mike's mom) and Vickie (Craig's mom) who read each of our children's name.

Sharon handed each parent, grandparent and sibling an envelope which was labeled "*Our Children Remembered*". Inside each envelope was a giant Monarch butterfly waiting to be released.

As each envelope was opened, the butterfly began to emerge on its own. Some took off immediately while others took a few moments to adjust to the light before it flew away. Each one was our child, grandchild, sister/brother, Gone Too Soon, But Never Forgotten. It was a beautiful moment. Sharon Bach (Belinda's mom) butterfly nestled on her hair.

The songs titled "*I know You by Heart (I Chase Butterflies)*" and "*Celebrate the Children*" was played by Alan Pederson.

Larry (Craig's dad) talked and gave us a closing prayer.

After the butterfly release, we all went up to Sharon's house where we shared in all the delicious food brought by all the parents.