



# RUN & WALK *for* BROOKIE B

For suicide awareness and prevention

Friday the 13th of January, 2012. The worst day of our lives. Mary found our 31-year-old daughter Brook lifeless in her bed in our home. She had taken her own life. It was the tragic culmination of fifteen years of struggle with mental illness, depression and suicidal thoughts rooted in a traumatic event she experienced when she was sixteen years old. Stories like hers are seldom told, yet more common than most people realize.

As survivors of suicide loss, we are twice as likely to die by suicide ourselves. While it is a dreadful thought, we understand it. Hopelessness can be contagious. We count ourselves among the fortunate who are able to find renewed hope in our lives thanks to the support of our family, friends and caring community, and in particular NAMI Tallahassee and the Bluebird Run for Brookie B.

The Bluebird Run for Brookie B was established in 2015 as a memorial to Brook and all of the other loved ones we have lost to suicide. It is an event to honor their memory, and much more. It is an event to celebrate our own mental health and the opportunities we all have to share.

As a community we join together to promote awareness of the social challenge of suicide and promote the mental health resources available to us in our own community.

On Labor Day 2019 we sent 555 runners and walkers onto our two beautiful trail courses for our 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. There were teams and families running and walking for their lost loved ones. There were joyful jogs and gritty runs. There were more smiles than you can count. And there were souls watching over it all and praying for our welfare.

The Covid Pandemic kept us from gathering in 2020, but the response to our Virtual Edition was overwhelming and heart-warming.

If you are looking for a place to put your heart or at least some of your valuable time, please look further at our website. There are so many ways to be a part of this touching event. Please join us in the 2021 Bluebird Run for Brookie B, complete with hugs and handshakes around the party tent, in our return to our home on the Greenway.

Thank you!

*Bill and Mary Bowers*

[BluebirdRun.com](http://BluebirdRun.com)



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