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Charlotte's Litter Program

HONORING THE BOLD LIFE OF CHARLOTTE BACON

-- Nonprofit and two new books uniquely celebrate Charlotte's passions, while providing comfort to grieving families and teaching the unmatched value of therapy dogs

After the events of December 2012, the world felt helpless, nobody more so than the Bacon family. At six years old, Charlotte Bacon lost her life in the horrific Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in Newtown, CT. Though her name became known worldwide and her family – her dad, Joel, mom, JoAnn, and brother, Guy – thrust into the public eye because of her death, it's Charlotte's life, her passions, and the difference she continues to make in the world that begs to be known and to inspire.

Following the tragedy, therapy dogs were brought to school to help comfort the grieving children, one being Charlotte's older brother, Guy. The dogs sat patiently as students read to them, petted them, and spoke to them, and provided a much-needed calming presence for both children and teachers. Once the Bacons witnessed the wonderful influence of the dogs, they knew Charlotte had something to do with it, as she had loved animals fiercely – especially dogs.

Not long after, **Charlotte's Litter** was formed, which aims to advocate for and support appropriate therapy dog programs in educational and societal settings by connecting resources, as well as experienced people, while providing input and guidance to parents and educators. The Bacons hope to promote the use of therapy dogs to aid in both children's literacy as well as emotional support.

“We grieve every day for our beautiful, spirited Charlotte, and we will grieve every day hereafter. Our advocacy work and our books are an outlet for our grief. It brings us closer to our little girl and allows us to honor her. We also hope that, through it, we can offer resources, help, and hope to other families,” JoAnn says.

In addition to Charlotte's Litter, two books have been published to bring light to Charlotte's life, to help in the Bacons' grieving process, and to provide more information about the wonders of therapy dogs: *Good Dogs, Great Listeners: The Story of Charlotte, Lily and the Litter* and *The Dogs of Newtown*.

Good Dogs, Great Listeners: The Story of Charlotte, Lily and the Litter, written with the help of award-winning author Renata Bowers, is a beautiful children's book based almost entirely on Charlotte's actual life and adventures, with true-to-life illustrations by Michael Chesworth and a touching message. Charlotte, Lily and her faithful litter of stuffed animals embark on adventures sparked by Charlotte's curiosity and lively imagination, and along the way Charlotte discovers a love for reading to and alongside her most beloved companions.

The Dogs of Newtown by Guy Bacon introduces the world to the therapy dogs that visited and helped the students, teachers, families, and community of Newtown, CT, following December 2012. Written and compiled by Guy, Charlotte's brother, it emphasizes the unique personalities and attributes of each therapy dog and the impact that each has made in the lives of those it touched. As Guy writes, "these were some of the most special therapy dogs that visited my friends and me at school and helped lick the tears away."

Joel, JoAnn and Guy Bacon are the parents and brother of Charlotte Bacon, who died as a result of the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT. Charlotte was just 6 years old but left a bold impression on everyone she met. The Bacon family has founded and developed a number of projects to honor their spirited Charlotte, share her joy and beauty, and advocate for what has helped them most as they grieve.

Both books, *Good Dogs, Great Listeners* and *The Dogs of Newtown*, are able to stand alone, but are also used as tools for the Charlotte's Litter Program. Charlotte Bacon's bold story, the things she loved, and the Bacon family's own grief process have contributed to a brand that is unique to their family.

The Bacon family lives in Sandy Hook, Connecticut. They will always be a family of four.

For more information, visit www.gooddogsgreatlisteners.com and www.charlotteslitter.org, and connect with [Charlotte's Litter](#) and [Good Dogs, Great Listeners](#) on Facebook and [Twitter](#).

Good Dogs, Great Listeners can be purchased from www.amazon.com.

The Dogs of Newtown can be purchased from www.amazon.com.

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