



LETTER FROM THE BOMBECK FAMILY

DEAR FRIENDS,

When our mother, Erma Bombeck, was once asked the secret to her popularity as a humorist, she answered, "We've all been there. We're in this mess together. Let's get some fun out of it." But there was also a more serious side to our mother's life; she championed the rights of women, wrote a book about children with cancer, and together, she and our father, Bill Bombeck, were deeply involved in their community and philanthropy.

Our parents' association with the National Kidney Foundation of Arizona (NKF AZ) began in 1970. Our mom served on the board and helped create the successful Friends of Erma Bombeck Authors Luncheon, celebrating its 44th anniversary this year. When our mom passed away from polycystic kidney disease, our dad helped launch the Erma Bombeck Organ Donor Awareness program. Our parents were always aware of the reach and impact of NKF AZ, but it wasn't until we decided to chair this campaign that we learned of just how many patients are served by this extraordinary organization.

If our parents were with us today, we have no doubt they would continue their involvement with NKF AZ, ensuring that kidney patients in need of screening and support receive the care they deserve.

Two of us, Andy and Matt respectively, are successful kidney transplant recipients; proof of the great strides we've made in treating kidney disease today. Yet, chronic kidney disease remains an epidemic in Arizona. Increased awareness and education about prevention and transplantation is vital for our community.

We know NKF AZ has never wavered from its commitment to a community-based approach to serving the needs of kidney patients in Arizona. As the Bombeck children, we want to continue our parents' legacy with the foundation, and further strengthen that commitment. We hope you will join our family in creating an endowment to sustain the Foundation and expand their programs, including medication assistance, dental and pediatric care.

Our mom used to say, "if you can't make it better, you can laugh at it!" a philosophy that has sustained our family through good and bad times. But you can make it better. You can make a difference in the lives of kidney patients. We hope that you are inspired, as we are, by our parents' enthusiasm and generosity in life. Please consider a commitment to the National Kidney Foundation of Arizona's Hero to Hero Campaign.



Kindest Regards,

Betsy, Andy & Matt Bombeck