



## Letter from the President

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*Affiliations are for identification purposes only*

Sixteen years ago, my wife, Ana Edler Brown, passed away. We had shared 41 years of marriage and raised two children to adulthood. More than 200 people attended her memorial service, a mix of family, friends, and extended family “adoptees,” many who said, “She was an extraordinary lady. I wish there was something I could say or do.” The same sentiments were echoed in calls, cards, and emails from friends and family around the country and overseas unable to attend the service. They hurt for us, also. They missed her, too. They wished there was something they could do.

Over the years, as a group member and a Board member, I have witnessed how many people have been helped through the HOPE Connection community. I have also watched many of those people give something back through volunteering and donations. But there are still so many people who don’t know how much HOPE heals, who also miss our loved ones and are still out there thinking, “I wish there was something I could say or do.”

From those sparks of love and good wishes came the idea of a “*Celebrating the Life*” Bowl-a-thon to pay tribute to those who have passed and to honor HOPE Connection for guiding us through the dark into the light.

### Here’s how it works:

The Bowl-a-thon will take place on Sunday, March 4, 2018 at PINZ Bowl in Studio City from 1-4 PM. We have reserved lanes and each lane will be dedicated in the name of a loved one. For instance, my lane will be “Team Ana Edler Brown.” My son and daughter will be co-captains, using social media, email, texts, and even (imagine) the phone to network the event and ask for donations.

The day of the marathon, kids, grandkids, cousins, and friends can either come out and bowl or cheer and support. There will be food, prizes, auction items, and raffles. It will be an afternoon of coming together, remembrance, and rejoicing.

HOPE will provide the software and help each team set up their online account for donations or checks can be mailed into HOPE Connection. The proceeds will enable HOPE Connection to hire more therapists, procure office space for the staff, and increase outreach bereavement support in and around Los Angeles.

If you want to sponsor a lane, please contact Jack Brown at 310-476-9195, email: [abbottgroup@earthlink.net](mailto:abbottgroup@earthlink.net) or pick up a Sponsor Form at the Tuesday and Thursday group meetings.

Sincerely,

Jack Brown, President