

## *To Our Dearest Jessi,*

*It's been ten years since you were stolen from us and from the world. We miss you more than words can say and love you dearly. We want you to know that, while we will never be the same, we have found a way forward and are helping others to move forward as well.*



*The pain of your death spurred us on to action to help others. We founded an organization we named Survivors Empowered that is dedicated to helping survivors of gun violence, especially survivors of mass shootings. Sadly, the past ten years have seen very*

*little progress in stronger federal gun laws and a sharp increase in firearm deaths. But we keep working.*

*Our work with Survivors Empowered takes us throughout the country in a fifth wheel rig visiting sites of mass shootings, trying to provide comfort and help wherever we can, and speaking about the needs of survivors. We published a book about our experience and we co-authored a toolkit for survivors so more people can understand what is happening and what to expect after a shooting.*

*The practice of mindfulness has been very helpful to us and we help other survivors to take mindfulness classes.*

*We feel your presence everywhere and through so many things. For example, on July 20, exactly ten years after you were fatally shot, Congress will hold a hearing on a terrible bill called the Protection of Commerce in Lawful Arms Act that gives the gun industry immunity and forced us into bankruptcy. And next week, on July 27 the United States Congressional Committee on Oversight and Reform will hold a hearing to question the CEOs of Daniel Defense, Sturm Ruger, and Smith & Wesson who made the gun used to kill you and eleven others.*

*We like to think that somehow you had a hand in the timing of those hearings.*

*Oh, and you would be very excited to know that Jackson Browne (yes, that Jackson Browne!) has become a good friend to us and is helping us raise money in September at his concert in Colorado for Survivors Empowered.*

*We still need and miss our baby girl but we want you to know that you are resting in power and that we are honoring you and your legacy every day with action and with love.*

*We love you,  
Mom and Dad*