



Patricia Goskowski Kubus will participate in a special story hour on Thursday, Sept. 23rd, at 10 a.m. in the Forest City Library for children ages 3 to 6. She will read her book "Amanda helps Becky say Farewell." She is pictured above at a recent book signing at Borders Books.

Local Author, Patricia Goskowski Kubus, to hold special reading

By Jennifer Butler

Sometimes when something bad happens in a person's life, something good can still come from it. "When one door closes, another one opens" is the adage that has been often used.

For Patricia Goskowski Kubus, this has proven true. Following the death of her daughter, Amanda Leigh Kubus, who was born with a birth defect known as Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia (CDH), Mrs. Kubus used the tragedy to help others.

"I've written four books, they were mostly done over the first five years after our loss of Amanda. I would revisit them from time to time and change little pieces of them," she noted.

She recently released her book, "Amanda Helps Becky say Farewell" on May 11, 2010. The name Amanda came from her first born child who was with their family only a short time. She created the character because the author's heart longed for her and it was a way to keep her alive in the family, she explained.

Amanda is the angel in the story that comes to light to visit Becky to help her with her feelings of frustration and bitterness in losing her dog, Max.

Patricia and her father, Michael Goskowski, author of "Pick up the Pennies," have always talked about becoming authors and shared their writings among family members. "It was a dream that would come up in conversation without any real goal time and then I woke up one morning and said let's do it before it's too late," she said.

During her time of learning

to cope with the loss, she often found that writing helped as well and has surrounded herself with good friends and family.

"The idea of this story and future 'Amanda the Angel' stories is to give children encouragement and to let them know they are not alone. God is there and has placed angels around them to watch over them," stated Mrs. Kubus.

"Honestly, and I'm sure most mothers would agree, this was a tragedy of such a loss that hit me so hard, healing to me will never be completely found until I'm fortunate enough to reach the gates of heaven to be with my child again. As for now, as I promised the Lord above, who answered our prayers and blessed us with two healthy children, I will do whatever I can to be the best mom," she said.

In the future, she hopes to continue writing a series of Amanda the Angel books.

Mrs. Kubus graduated from Forest City Regional High School in 1987 and holds an associate's degree in business administration from Penn State Worthington.

She lives with her husband, George, and two children, Joshua and Grace, in Mayfield. She is the daughter of Michael T. and Josephine Goskowski. She is president of marketing/sales at Kartri Sales Inc., Forest City.

On Thursday, Sept. 23, the Forest City Library will hold a special story hour program at 10 a.m. in the library. All area children, ages 3 to 6, are invited to attend. Mrs. Kubus will read her book "Amanda Helps Becky Say Farewell." Children must be pre-registered. You may call the Forest City Library at 785-5590.