



## Perspective

**A**rtists are creators. Some create on broad canvases, while others impart their message through small, beautifully rendered images. They are exacting judges of the acceptability of their visions. Vermeer produced evocative works in small dimensions. Michaelangelo needed a grander scale. There is a story told about this great Renaissance artist and his magnificent statue, *Moses*. The work is a powerful representation of a legendary hero: enormous in dimensions, palpably robust, oozing strength, charged with faith and hope. As the work was finished, the sculptor stepped back to appraise his creation. Captivated by the visceral essence of his work he tapped the marble with his hammer and said, *Speak to me!* It doesn't matter whether it is legend or fact. It is a tale that should be true!

I believe each of us is inherently an artist, a fashioner of a tapestry that relates the story of our lives: the borders representing families that we are born into, the fabric emboldened with the colors of friendship, flashes of color here and there denoting the great moments in our times, of loves lost and won, of battle scars proudly earned, of laughter, of tears, of perseverance, of faithfulness. It is not for us to see the whole of our work. How often can we see the impact of this art? We cannot take time to step back and experience the totality of our work. That is a task for others. We all get one lifetime in which to develop our story. Whatever time, duration of days, we get to create our tapestry has to be enough. Children such as Carlie Brucia, healthy, vibrant, looking forward to tomorrow, have left us small images.

Loss can come at any time. How we respond to that loss is wholly personal. For Matt Barbis, Carlie's cousin, the response was to bring his idea of an educational foundation to reality. It is a labor of love. His energy and zeal cannot bring Carlie home. But his desire to prevent further heartache because of the abduction of another child is not the work of a hobbyist, but that of a true advocate. His work will keep other children safe and keep them out of harm's reach.

Help those of us who work with him at *The Rose Brucia Educational Foundation* make a difference.

Sincerely,

*Patrick M. Chierichella*

*Education Coordinator*