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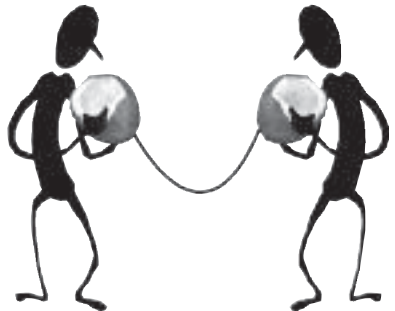
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Editorial: Circle of Love

Just when 23-year-old Coral Shores graduate Brittney Baker's dream of becoming a dolphin trainer was about to come true, she had a tragic car accident.

By the time you have this newspaper in your hands she will have been in a coma in ICU at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami for 2 months. She is being treated for massive head injuries and multiple broken bones. As soon as she is stable enough she will need to have spinal surgery to repair a broken back. Brittney was tossed about that car like a rag doll and her recovery is going to be a very slow process, if she recovers at all. The accident happened April 7th at MM 100. Most people would not have survived such a horrific accident but Brittney has youth and strength to her advantage and that is what has kept her alive and got her through several surgeries and infections already.


Brittney is the child of John and Jennifer Baker of Key Largo. Jennifer Baker is the manager of Dolphin's Cove and her husband John is currently only employed part time. Over the years the Baker family has been active in so many community benefits and events - they are too numerous to mention here. Jennifer Baker is the type of person who won't say no. She will not give up until she finds a way to make it work. It is that kind of character and determination that she has passed on to her only child, and I believe, this what has kept Brittney alive and fighting.

Every day since the accident John Baker, Brittney's dad, commutes one and a half hours to the hospital, roughly 130 miles round trip, and her mom Jennifer follows after work. You can imagine the expense, just in gas alone. There is no time to stop and make a sandwich because every minute, every second, with Brittney counts.

The expense is astronomical but if it was your child or loved one you would do it too. There is a site on Facebook "Britt's Battle" where people can donate money to help with Brittney's medical expenses as she does not have any insurance. In an effort to help Jennifer and John with their traveling expenses we are going to be offering "Good Karma" bracelets to be worn as a "constant reminder to keep the circle positive and loving."

The bracelet pictured comes in a beautiful mesh jewelry bag with a tag attached featuring a photo of Brittney. Suggested donation is \$10 each. These make great gifts too. If you would like to be part of the "Circle of Love" please contact me (305-304-2837) or Judy Curtis (305-394-0249).

The Florida Keys are composed of a series of over 100 miles of fragile islands that have weathered many storms. We enjoy our paradise but when hard times befall one or all of us we pull together as there is strength in numbers. Every one of us counts.



Rotary Club of Key Largo Welcomes New Members



(L-R) Jennifer Miller, Incoming Rotary President, Patty Sparks Representative Holly Raschein, Katrina Lavine, Rotary President

The Rotary Club of Key Largo inducted two new members into their Club in May: Representative Holly Raschein, from the Florida House of Representatives and Patty Sparks of ST Sparks Construction. Both women are very active in the community and are role models for their civic involvement.

The main objective of Rotary is service – to local communities and throughout the world. Key Largo Rotary meets at the Hilton Key Largo every Wednesday at 7:30 am. Further Information can be found at [www.keylargorotary.org](http://www.keylargorotary.org).

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