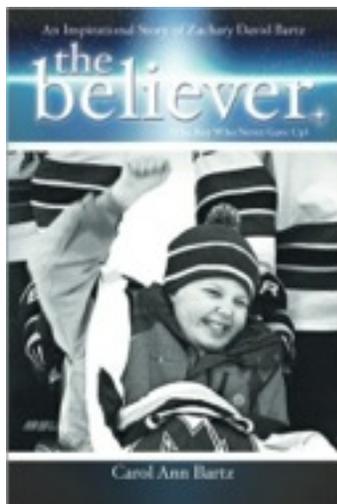


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Carol Ann Bartz  
carolannbartz22@gmail.com  
Phone: 651-210-2459



## ANNOUNCING NEW BOOK "THE BELIEVER"

### The Inspiring True Story of a Child Who Strengthened the Faith of a Community and Beyond

(MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, November 20, 2015)— "**The Believer: An Inspirational Story of Zachary David Bartz (The Boy Who Never Gave Up)**" is a new book that shares the true story of the life journey of Zac Bartz, an extraordinary child whose uncommon strength and spirit touched the lives of thousands of people who ultimately contributed to his fight for life. Even the movie star Kevin James honored Zac by acknowledging him in the Hollywood Film "**Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2**" and by personally meeting with Zac's family.

At the age of 19 months, Zac was diagnosed with neurofibromatosis (NF1), a disease that affects about 1 in 3,000 people, and which caused tumors to grow on his brain. At the time, Zac's father Nathan was serving in Iraq, so Zac's mother Carol Ann had an extra challenge in facing this diagnosis alone while caring for their other children. Zac underwent years of treatments including countless rounds of chemotherapy and radiation, and numerous surgeries. Unfortunately, when his tumors recurred and became malignant, he lost his battle at the age of 11, on November 20, 2013. But right to the end he never wavered in his faith or positivity. Among the many messages shared with Zac's family after his funeral was this one:

*When I entered the church for Zac's funeral, I felt an overwhelming 'Presence.' It seemed to fill every inch of the church. I thought I must be in the presence of a saint. Even though it was very sorrowful, I felt a feeling of peace and joy.*

As his mother Carol Ann Bartz, the author of the book states:

*When I started writing Zac's story, he and I planned for a different ending. It was supposed to be an ending with his healing here on earth, because he fought with such faith and hope. However, my hope was not God's will. Although I do not understand why it had to be this way, I do know that Zac was sent here and that he did accomplish his mission. And I do know he helped heal many broken hearts and helped mend the undesirable ways of others.*

In his legacy Zac's family continues to raise money for cancer research through the Zachary Neurofibromatosis Research Fund ([www.zacharyresearchfund.com](http://www.zacharyresearchfund.com)) so that hopefully, others may benefit. **The Believer**, published by Westbow Press, a Division of Thomas Nelson & Zondervan, is available in hardcover, paperback and ebook format and can be purchased at Amazon.com, BarnesandNoble.com, on Kindle and Nook, at WestbowPress.com, and for order at retail bookstores.

**About the Author:** Carol Ann Bartz lives in Chisago City, Minnesota, with her husband where they are raising their children. She is a hockey, soccer, and gymnastics mom as well as a runner and a triathlete. She graduated from St. Catherine University and continues to work part-time as a registered nurse at University of Minnesota Amplatz Hospital (now renamed University of Minnesota Health). Carol Ann continues to fundraise in efforts of one day getting closer to finding a cure for neurofibromatosis and cancer.

For more information about **The Believer**, please visit [www.zacharydavidbartz.com](http://www.zacharydavidbartz.com) or contact Carol Ann Bartz at [carolannbartz22@gmail.com](mailto:carolannbartz22@gmail.com) or 651-210-2459.

###