

**From:** friendsofnikki@comcast.net [mailto:friendsofnikki@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 11, 2012 12:08 AM  
**To:** Donna  
**Subject:** All Because of You.....

October 10th, 10/10/85, the day my little girl was born. She was born in Whitehouse, NJ at Aunt Josie and Uncle Frank's house. Their "daughter Bo's" baby. One of several little Shih Tzu's that Mom suggested we go check out. You see, my little Maltese, Ziggy, died that July, at only 10 years old. I was not ready for that. In fact, he was my very first dog, and I didn't think he was ever gonna die! I was barely 21 when I got him, living my life happy and care-free. Just got my nursing license, my first apartment, and a beautiful little puppy. Nobody told me they left so soon. Anyway, Ziggy was gone and I was devastated. For months, I couldn't even stand to hear a dog bark without crying. I knew the holidays were coming, and I knew I could not live through Christmas without a dog, a replacement for Ziggy, to fill the void. Little did I know that there was no such thing as a "replacement", or even "filling the void". However, Jim and I made the decision to "just look" at Aunt Josie's pushed-in face dogs to make Mom happy.

They were all running around the gated kitchen. Don't even remember how many. All I knew was that none of them looked like Ziggy, so whomever we took would be second best. But, I needed a dog before Christmas, that I also knew. I sat on the steps leading to the kitchen looking at them, and one - just one- came up and kissed me. Okay, that made it easy, we'll take her, I guess. Well, I've told the story many times at Friends of Nikki meetings, how Nicole Kimberly Kahora and I didn't hit it off too well in the beginning. Why? Because she wasn't Ziggy, plain and simple. What I didn't know at the time was "who" she was! An amazing little girl who would change the direction of my life forever!

Yes, October 10th, 10/10/85, the day the true founder of Friends of Nikki was born. The day I committed myself not only to pushed-in face dogs but to sharing the pain of others who have lost their "Ziggys". I learned over the next 14yrs 8 months that pets do die way too soon, and that it hurts way too much, for way too long. I also learned that once you are loved by one, you will never be the same again.

Thank you, Nikki, for all you were on this earth, and continue to be, now in Heaven. Many who have never met you have been touched by your spirit. The spirit that kissed me that first night, the spirit that eased me through the pain of losing Ziggy, and the spirit that continues to live on through me and my work. One day, it too will be over, and we will be reunited - Ziggy, Nikki, Danni, Doogie, and whomever else I am fortunate enough to share my remaining years with.

Happy 27th Birthday, my precious little girl - It is all because of you!!!!