



# M.I.S.S.ing Angels ...

The M.I.S.S. Foundation

A Sanctuary for Bereaved Families

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## Why Did My Child Die: Faces of Why

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Why me? Why did my child die? Those are questions that preoccupy parents who have experienced the death of a child, despite the age or cause. And while the question may seem straight forward, there are no simple answers.

When a child dies, the question of "why?" has three varying dimensions. Parents have a need to discover the **clinical** "why." What failed? What was the weakness of body that resulted in my child's death? They need to know the **rational** "why." What events lead to my child's death and were they avoidable? Finally there is the **spiritual** "why," as in, how could God let something like this happen (often precipitated by the belief that a merciful God would not let this happen, thereby challenging their own spiritual ideals).

My experience was no different from any other parent when my daughter Cheyenne died in 1994. The anger, followed by denial and then

ultimately acceptance, were stages I had to go through before I could make sense of this tragedy. I found by persuading myself to face the emotions head on I was able to come to several personal resolutions with my grief. But first I had to work through each of the questions in my mind.

### The Clinical "Why"

The clinical answer to "why" may be ambiguous. There may be a succinct determination of the diagnosis of death after the autopsy or there may not be. Some people, from stillborn children to the elderly, die without determinable cause. This merely indicates that, for whatever reason, the medical examiner was unable to establish the mechanism or causal factor in the child's death. This inability to find a cause of death is called many things: in terms of stillbirth it is called SADS or sudden antenatal death syndrome, in infants it is called SIDS or sudden infant death syndrome, in toddlers or older children it is known as SUDS or sudden unexplained death syndrome, in adults

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## Passages 2001: A Conference to Remember

The MISS Foundation held its first annual conference for grieving families and the professionals who serve with care on June 29-30, 2001. Passages 2001, the conference theme, was an enormous success.

More than 330 people attended the two-day conference including nearly 30 children who had experienced the death of a brother or sister, or other core family member. Seven countries were represented and individuals from 15 states, including parents and professionals. It

was a time to learn, heal, and meet new friends.

The children's retreat included a visit from Phoenix Fire Department academy recruits. Children had an opportunity to drive in a real ladder fire truck and even spray the hose. The Phoenix Police Department brought out a patrol car and the children were able to explore the police department's race car! Adventure Sam, a magician specializing in working with

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### Take Note:

- New MISS Chapters are forming now! See page 23 for Chapter information.
- Peer contact information available in every issue of our newsletter. See page 13.
- Second Annual MISS Foundation Conference! May 23-25, 2002

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# Why Did My Child Die? *(continued)*

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it can be referred to as SUND or sudden unexplained nocturnal death.

The absence of a diagnosis is very rare, except in full term stillbirth where, according to the National Institute for Health (NIH), nearly 60% of stillbirths have undeterminable causes. More often in other cases, however, medical examiners are able to find a cause of death. They are better trained, have access to sophisticated laboratories and technology, and they are more determined than ever to help find the answers to determine why a child, or other person, has died.

Death is creative. There are many physiological and developmental changes, particularly early in life, that leave a young child vulnerable. Statistics for child death indicate that more than 50% of all child deaths in the United States occur within the first year of life. While some feel that having that answer is a blessing, others feel it is a curse.

## **The Rational “Why”**

The rational answer to “why” may be more complex and multi-dimensional. This may be where guilt, blame, and confusion ransack a person’s grief experience. The rational approach seeks to live and re-live the events leading to the child’s death, despite knowing the clinical answers “why.” If a child died of cancer, the parent may know, factually, the mechanism for death. But it’s the rationalization process of “why” that haunts them. They may retrace every bite of food, every trip to the ballpark, every family vacation trying to discover their own cogent answer to “Why did this happen?” “What did we do wrong?”

A parent whose child was killed by a drunk driver may rationalize that if they’d only have been home, or been away, or not asked their child to come at a certain time, or had only...then their child wouldn’t have been in the car and wouldn’t have died. While there may be crumbs of truth to this rationalization, the reality is that we cannot change the events leading to the child’s death and that ‘if only

we’d have known, we’d have done things differently.’ Even the parent whose child died for no determinable cause faces the gift-curse of rationalization. Many play a perpetual video recorder in their mind’s eye and change the course of events, thus altering the outcome of their child’s death.

One factor usually consistent with the rationalizing is the experience of the emotion; guilt. This process forces the human psyche to face changes in decisions which, perhaps, could have changed the final outcome. This very difficult realization evokes guilt in most parents, an emotion that is one of the most collective expressions of grief, yet one of the most debilitating (Kubler-Ross, 1989).

## **The Spiritual “Why”**

Some families have a strong faith in an omnipotent entity, God. Some are uncertain. Others have no spiritual belief system.

Like the rational “why,” the spiritual “why,” may seem irresolvable, despite the diversity of people’s personal philosophies. Many people search their past trying to identify a transgression they committed for which now they are now suffering retribution. They didn’t go to church enough, didn’t spend enough time with their family, cheated on their income tax or their spouse. The mind can be a resourceful and imaginative enemy when death hits a family. Some families of strong faith find special solace in their belief system. Some say that they couldn’t survive the grief without it. Yet, others find their faith foundation even more challenging. They did everything they were supposed to do. They were faithful to their God, their morals, their principals, and still their child died. They may feel forsaken or betrayed and their entire relationship with God has been distressed.

Regardless of a person’s faith or absence thereof, most families still experience significant struggles with the spiritual question, “why.” This is the type of soul-searching event that can undermine every conviction and ideal a person held sacred.

Some parents ultimately surrender their faith when they can’t reconcile it with the loss they have suffered. Still some others will find their faith in the wake of their grief. The death of a child is a profoundly spiritual experience.

## **Grief’s Ego**

The process of bereavement is a selfish one. A parent seeks information on “why” their child died. Immature in the process, they seek out others who have had duplicate experiences. Comparing grief is a normal reaction in the formative grief process. Because grief is all consuming, it is difficult to comprehend that anyone else in the world could be feeling the same way. The “why” paradigm (*fig 1*) holds some very basic truths within its realm.

Clinically, while parents struggle for answers, there is always doubt, even when a palpable answer is provided. Determining the physiological mechanism for death is important for many reasons. For families planning to have more children, understanding what really happened could be helpful in determining the potential for reoccurrence. And while some families find solace in knowing the clinical “why,” others feel that having the answer exacerbated their confusion about why their child died. There are no *real* answers and each situation is unique. Yet, grief’s ego can try to ‘measure’ the worst of the worst situations. “My child died of *thus and such*. There is nothing worse than that.” “Well, it is worse not knowing *why*.” “No, it is worse when it was *preventable*.” “It is harder because they were in *such* pain.” “She was my *only* child.” “He died in *someone else’s care*.” “He died in *my* care.” “I *never* brought her home.” “The house is not the same *without her here*.”

It is not unusual to hear these comments. Grief is arrogant, and rightly so. The horror of **all** these experiences is inconceivable. Yet, neither having a clinical reason why, nor the factor of preventability, nor the location, nor the age, nor the cause makes any child’s death more difficult

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# Why Did My Child Die? (continued)

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than another. Every child's death is an equal tragedy which affects the family and the community.

From the rational perspective, blame and guilt are catalysts for destruction. The preventability, or perceived preventability of a child's death, can arise during this phase. When a child is in the care of the parents and then dies from an accident such as drowning, poisoning, or a fall while unsupervised, the parents are the hardest on themselves and each other. However, while guilt is a universal emotion of grieving parents, there is a corporeal guilt observed in the accidental deaths that can be insurmountable. These parents struggle with guilt, blame, and shame with self and society induced cause.

However, the reality of parenthood is that while as the ad says, "...it only takes a second (for a child to drown)," it is impractical to think that a parent can keep track of a child every waking, or sleeping, moment of every day. Most accidents are precisely that- accidents. Parents can only do their best to watch their children. Most do their job most of the time with great diligence. **But every parent has made a mistake.** Every parent has made that mistake (which usually does not result in a tragedy) and thought, "Oh no! They could have run into the street, or fallen into the pool, or swallowed those pills, or fell down those stairs, or I should have known they were depressed, I should have been watching them closer, I should have called more often..." The multi-agency campaigns to promote child health and prevent accidents can and do reduce the number of accident related deaths. But they also have a contraindication: Competent and loving parents who have lost a child to an accident, and not those guilty of criminal negligence, acutely rationalize the event and find themselves, often, unable to forgive a common mistake with a fatal outcome.

## Understanding Grief the Why Overlap

There are three key concepts necessary to understand the affect of death on the human psyche: bereavement, grief, and

mourning. Bereavement is the social status granted to families experiencing grief. Grief is the manifestation of bereavement. It is featured emotions, inclusive of the "why" questions, of bereavement. From extreme sadness, depression, rage, and guilt, grief is the tangible expression of these emotions. The term 'mourning' refers to the grief work, that a person must experience to emancipate him or herself enough from intense psychological and physical bonds with the deceased child to return to day-to-day life and social responsibilities (easier said than done).

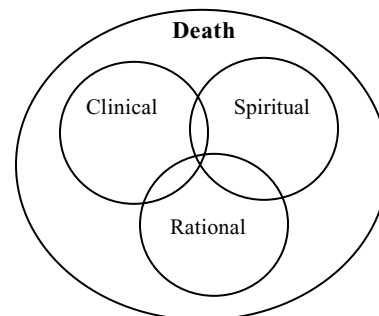
The death experience is saturated with diversion and silence and in our culture. We have socialized death, perhaps because of the historical shift from focusing on the after death events to the concern for the time preceding death. Most Americans face grief after the death of a loved one, though usually not their own child, alone and confused. Our culture has not kept up with the dramatic changes in how we die.

Decades ago it was not unusual for children to die, particularly during infancy. Many women bore six or more children recognizing that several will likely die. With the decrease in infant mortality, people began to expect their children to live. They had fewer and fewer children. More recently, couples are waiting until they are older to begin a family and on average have two children. Infertility is widespread. Thus, each child represents significant value to the family unit. It has become unthinkable for any person to die during infancy and childhood in our society. Most people cannot even bear to think about their own child's mortality and "it" becomes a topic that few dare to allow themselves to consider. These dynamics may propel the grieving family into an atmosphere of mystifying segregation from their core support system. The litany of misunderstanding surrounding parental grief is frequent concern.

## The "Why" Paradigm

The clinical, rational, and spiritual questions play out during the process of grief. Most people experience an overlap of the

types of "why" questions. Soon after the child's death, most are focused on the clinical aspect of "why." This is the first thought, particularly in a sudden, unex-



pected death. Answers may seem to be an apparent means to closure and acceptance. Rationalizing helps the griever face the most debilitating emotions such as rage, guilt, and shame. This can be a necessary step toward healing. Dealing with those emotions can help the griever to develop and embrace coping mechanisms. The spiritual quest for answers can sometimes help the mourner with the 'unanswerables'- the enigmas to which only faith can provide comfort and support. This spiritual journey inward can be an epiphany for some, initiating life-lasting changes in a person's life - helping them appreciate their loved ones more, re-prioritizing, and gaining a new dimension to their approach to adversity and challenge.

Yet, each tiny step is excruciatingly painful for the grieving parent. There are a plethora of indescribable emotions and inconceivable thoughts. The most unshakable ones centering on "why."

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# From the Heart of a Grandmother

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## *In Memory of Aaron Lee Farrier*

It's been four years since Aaron passed away  
Four years in which I struggled everyday  
I tried my best to carry on,  
hide the heartache, stand up tall  
Looking back on days I still recall...

I smiled when I didn't wanna smile  
I laughed feeling guilty that I had  
I lashed out at God and doubted faith  
Then I turned around and prayed  
he would help me through each day.

I spoke when I didn't wanna speak  
I saw others' joy through jealousy  
I listened but all I really heard  
were well meaning empty words.  
From those who did not hurt  
and those who could not see...  
That I'll never be who I used to be.

As I journey down grief's never-ending road  
They will never know and I pray they don't  
For time has now become my closest friend  
And someday, in my own way, I will mend.

I'll smile thought it's only half a smile  
I'll laugh and the guilt won't feel so bad  
I'll listen and try to comprehend  
Someday, we'll meet again

But for now, I must be content  
And carry on... 'til then.  
It's been four years since Aaron died.

Ros Hurley,  
Grandmother of the Sunshine Boy

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## Passages 2001 *(continued)*

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*(Continued from page 1)*

kids in crisis, was on hand to perform for the children too! **Camp Paz** volunteers spent time playing at the pool, working through Kaleidoscope of Grief books, and making puppets, masks, and other crafts with the children who ranged in age from 5-15.

Friday evening ended with a touching candlelight memorial service with candles that were donated by the family of **Tony Lensen**, a five-year old who was killed in 1944 during a WWII school bombing. His sister and his mother donated the candles in his honor. MISS Foundation members gently called their children's names as they lit a candle to remember their beloved child. **Dr. J. Frederik Froen** also had an opportunity to light a candle for his nephew who was born still in Norway. The weekend was a poignant reminder that love is truly stronger than death.

The highlight of the event was the awards ceremony. The **Gold Wings Visionary Leadership Award** was given to **Dr. Michael Durfee** and **Jami Garrison**, MISS Foundation Board Member and web master, won the **Legacy Award** in memory of her mother, **Lois Ellen Miller**. **Ashlee Simps on**, age 10, won the **Giving Tree Award** for helping to illustrate our most recently released children's grief book and **Debra Scaturro** won the **Kindness Project Award** for her work with critically ill children and humanitarian efforts. Two outstanding health care workers, **Dr. Guillermo**

**Guiterrez**, Neonatologist at **Phoenix Children's Hospital** and **Linda Schill, R.N.** at **Thunderbird Samaritan**, won awards for their compassionate care to families who experience child death. Two corporate awards were given to the **Glendale Active 20-30 Club** and **United Parcel Service (U.P.S.)** for their support and volunteerism to benefit the MISS Foundation.

The conference closed on Saturday afternoon with a brief reception and raffle. On display at each event was the MISS-ing Angels quilt, an interwoven masterpiece of hundreds of square representing hundreds of lost lives that was lovingly created by **Kym Smith, Donna Howell**, and **Janine Armstrong**.

I'd like to thank the entire **Board of Directors** and our committed **facilitators** and **volunteers**. Without you, this would not have been possible. There are no words that can express how truly grateful I am. And I shall close with comments from the evaluations submitted by families touched by the death of a child:

**Comments from participants included:** "Thank everyone for everything. It was the most wonderful experience I have ever had and I will never forget the people and presenters I met."  
G.P., Argentina

"It was such an amazing conference. I learned so much...this is the most incredible organization and people I have ever encountered! You've made an im-

pact on me that will last a lifetime!" L. G., Tempe Fire Dept.

"This has given me a new calm and peace in my life. I feel like I can begin to work through my grief now. Thank you so much!" A.N., Parent

"A wonderful, beautiful, peaceful time."  
K.H., Parent

"You cannot imagine how much this has helped me. Thank you so much! The speakers were wonderful, the location was great (well, it was a little hot) and the candlelight was incredible. Plus, Dr. Kubler-Ross being there was such a surprise." S.J., R.N., New York

"Last nights session helped me more than imaginable. You made me see there are other people that know how I feel...You opened a whole new world for me. I am deeply touched by your foundation and the people. I was able to let all my feelings come out through tears...Thank you so much!" P.S., Age 14

We'd like to thank our key sponsors again: St. Luke's Health Initiatives, Banner Health Systems, Samaritan Healthcare, Southwestern Litho, Lufthansa Airlines, Phoenix Police and Fire Departments, and Rural Metro Fire Department for their support. And, once again, thank you to our endless list of volunteers, presenters, and board members who helped make this conference one that will be etched in our hearts always.

# A Lifetime of Giving: Time to Reflect on the Wings of Elisabeth

## Dr. Elisabeth Kubler-Ross Elected Honorary MISS Foundation Board Member

In a rare public appearance, Dr. Elisabeth Kubler-Ross received the Platinum Wings Lifetime Achievement Award for her service to humanity. The awards speech left many awestruck in the room, for every person realized they had been touched by the wings of an earth angel. The speech and presentation was given and read by MISS Founder and friend of Kubler-Ross, Joanne Cacciatore:

“Each year, the MISS Foundation honors an individual with the Platinum Wings Lifetime Achievement Award. This is an exceptional award intended to recognize a person who has given their lifetime to helping change our world, and taking us, step by step, toward the betterment of humanity. Let’s pay tribute to her and share some of the reasons she was chosen as we travel down the pathways of her life:

*Reading excerpt from Death: The Final Stage of Growth*  
*It is hard to say if my precarious introduction to life was the first “instigator” to going into this field. After all, I was not expected to live and if it had not been for the determination of my mother, I might not have survived. She strongly believed that such little infants could only survive if they received a great deal of tender loving care, frequent breast feedings and the warmth and comfort that only home could give... She cared for the three of us person-*

*ally, nursed us every three hours... So perhaps the first significant lesson in my life was that it takes only one human being who really cares to make a difference between life and death.”*

Born one of triplets at just 2 lbs, she may have been tiny, but she has proven, even until this day, to be one of the mightiest women in history fighting against Goliath-sized forces of ignorance, hatred, and fear.

Since her tender teens, she has been an activist for empathy and compassion. Courageously fighting Nazi terrorist activity, she worked with the victims of WW II and treated refugee children who survived the horror of the concentration camps.

*Reading excerpt from The Tunnel and the Light:*  
*“I ended up in Maidanek in Poland, in a concentration camp where I saw train loads of baby shoes of murdered children, train loads of human hair. To read about this in books is one thing, but to stand there and see the crematories and smell it with your own nose is something quite different...I asked myself: how can grown men and women like you and kill 960,000 innocent children and at the same time worry about their own children at home having chicken-pox? And then I went to the barracks where the children had*

*spent the last night of their life... Maidanek was the beginning of my work.”*

In 35 years of devoted service, she has never charged a single patient. For many years, she specialized in helping children who were terminally ill- many with cancer. Instead of ignoring the child and reality, she patiently communicated with her dying patient and offered real solace, respect, and comfort. A true international citizen, she traveled around the world, making house calls in remote villages, dedicating her life in the service of helping others in the most difficult circumstances.

*Reading excerpt from The Tunnel and the Light:*  
*“She had opened the door to the hospital room and there was this mother in a coma...a picture of total loneliness. Nobody touching. The two little girls dashed into the room, jumped up on mommy’s bed...they shared with mommy that they knew she could not hug them anymore, but that she could hear every word they said and that very soon she would be as free as a butterfly. The father naturally started to sob and cry and finally hugged his children and communicated with them. The next morning, Lorrie went to class to ‘show and tell...’ She went to the*

*(Continued on page 6)*

## A Star in Heaven



We sit beneath the night sky  
 By the whisper of windsong...  
 In the quiet of the darkness.  
 And they are never far.  
 Those we have loved  
 and cherished,  
 Those who have changed our lives  
 In some small or profound way  
 Are closer than we know,

Because it is their light  
 That shines on our world.  
 It is the brilliance of their souls  
 That makes our night sky glow  
 A star in heaven shines  
 Just for you...

MISS Foundation’s **Sacred Hearts**  
 Logo Pendant ~ A Beautiful and Unique Gift  
 Representing Eternal Love  
 Custom Made Sterling Silver Pendant with  
 20” chain now available with or without  
 birthstone (see order form page 22)

\$60.00

Add \$12.00  
 For birthstone and  
 specify month



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# Elisabeth *(continued)*

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*(Continued from page 5)*

*blackboard and drew a cocoon and a butterfly coming out of the cocoon and shared with her class of first graders her visit to her dying mommy in the hospital and thus gave what we considered the first Death and Dying Seminar to a class of first graders by a first grader... Because of this one shared moment with her mother, this child was able to reach the whole class..."*

She brought the first hospice to the United States. And as a medical doctor, she was often surprised by the disconnectedness between the doctor and patient- an unwillingness to share and communicate, honestly, and about the plethora of emotions the patient or the surviving family faced. She spoke out within her own discipline to change the ethos in medicine and encouraged physicians to interact on a deeper, psychosocial platform with their patients. She became a tenacious advocate and an immutable voice.

*Reading excerpt from On Children and Death (This is the first book I read after Cheyenne's death in 1994) "No one can successfully shield another person from the pains of life; no one can take our grief away. No one can truly console a parent who has lost a child or make the grim reality disappear. But we can help them and*

*be available to them. We can be there when they need to talk...cry...when they have to make decision to difficult or complex to decide on their own... In Laura's case, the depression started long before the tragic death of her baby before the delivery...her physician avoided her...she was sedated and unable to grieve, unable to experience the depth of her pain, and thus unable to start living again."*

With undying fortitude, she has faced her share of adversity too. Her farm home was burned to the ground. Lost were all her possessions, priceless memories- photographs- journals of her past- research- she had lost it all. She had planned to adopt eleven AIDS-infected babies into her home. Ignorance, prejudice, and arson would interfere. This tragedy brought her to Arizona in 1994.

She has touched you, whether you know it or not. She is the single most influential force in changing the perception of death, dying, and the culture of grief, introducing the subject as discourse now mandated in most medical schools and universities. It is impossible to have been born after 1960 and remain unaffected by her work.

The day I first met her, I was supposed to spend an hour or two with her. I was mesmerized for 5-1/2

hours. There was tremendous love, compassion, and truth in her presence. And even though her physical cocoon is weakened, her spirit is compelling and valiant. And she continues to inspire us all with her own words from her book *The Wheel of Life*:

There is within each of us a potential for goodness beyond our imagining; for giving which seeks no reward; for listening without judgment; for loving unconditionally.

I am very proud to present the Platinum Wings Lifetime Achievement award to my hero, my mentor, and beloved friend, Dr. Elisabeth Kubler-Ross."

And with tears streaming down her face, Honorary Board Member, Dr. Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, was escorted to the front of the room by her son to accept the award. The standing ovation lasted several minutes as many people shared the emotions of Kubler-Ross. Then several hundred people joined in unison to sing "Happy Birthday" as she was presented with a hand crafted silver necklace of the MISS Foundation's logo embedded with her ruby birthstone. As she put the gift around her neck, the audience realized that this moment in time was a miraculous one to remember and share with their children and grandchildren.



**Dr. Mark Fischione gets to know attendees at the First Annual MISS Foundation Conference: Passages 2001.**



**Joanne Cacciatore presents the Platinum Wings Lifetime Achievement award to friend, Dr. Elisabeth Kubler-Ross**

# Conference 2002: The Culture of Grief when a Child Dies

The MISS Foundation's 2nd Annual Conference, *The Culture of Grief: When a Child Dies*, will be held **May 23, 24, and 25 of 2002** in Scottsdale, Arizona at the Scottsdale Doubletree Resort! Make your reservations now! The conference will be Thursday (for professionals and MISS volunteers and paraprofessionals), Friday and Saturday for parents, grandparents, and grieving children! Infant and toddler care available through the resort concierge.

Workshops and Presenters include: Dr. John DeFrain, Dyanne Greer, J.D., Dr. Bud Leikvoll, Dr. Mark Fischione, Lisa Burns, Judy Harmon, Kara Jones, Sgt Randy Force, Dr. Guillermo Gutierrez, Dr. Victor Shamas, Paul Alexander, Joanne Cacciatore, and many more!

Topics include three tracks: **Creative, Para-Professional, and Clinical**

**Workshops Include:** The Micro-Culture of the Grieving Family; The Bond Between a Mother and her Unborn /Newborn Infant: *What the research tells us about Mother's Intuition*; Caring for a Terminally Ill Child: Healing through Writing: Poetry, Prose, and Verse; Rituals that Empower; Cross Cultural Considerations and Ritual; The Bereaved Child; Behind the Scenes of the Autopsy; From Idea to Law: Changing Legislation in your State; Website Design and Maintenance; The Power of Meditation; Connecting with Emotions through Music; The Death Scene: Investigation Protocol; Grief in the Workplace; Professional Burnout; Candlelight

vigil and much more!

The kids retreat will include a visit from the Phoenix Police Dept and Fire Dept for water fun and time to understand 'our special grief.' The kids conference is all day Friday and Saturday.

The resort is offering a special rate of \$89 per night, but rooms are limited so RESERVE your spot today! Online at [www.doubletreeparadisevalley.citysearch.com](http://www.doubletreeparadisevalley.citysearch.com) and to view photos of the 2001 conference, see: [www.misschildren.org/~nibali/passages2001a](http://www.misschildren.org/~nibali/passages2001a)

If you are from out of state, we will connect you with local families to guide you and help you throughout your stay here!

## Scenes from Passages 2001



**Families and professionals share in a moment of writing and remembering**



**The kids giving Mr. Rudy a workout!**



**Dr. J. Frederik Froen from Oslo, Norway talks about his research on stillbirth and sids**



**The children working on their grief book**



**Phoenix Girls Choir shares**



**Cpt David Garard teaching**



"[I]t was rewarding on so many levels. [I] learned about others, [I] grew within myself, and [I] felt validated. [I] felt the pain beginning to heal and a greater understanding has continued, even months after the conference, to inspire me. Thank you all!"



# Remembering Our September and October Children...

## Happy Birthday

### September

Mercedes Adame  
Ashley Karin Marie Allen  
Morgan Gray Moss  
Courtney Lynn Beisner  
Ashlyn Rebekkah Brooks  
Blake Cash  
Bernice Celis  
Jason Michael Collins  
Angel Starre Crowkiller-Scherr  
Jakob Bradley Detwiler  
Emily Amanda Dickerson  
Matthew Dodge  
Ryan Spencer Dugan  
Cody Robert Windmiller  
Austin Earick  
Alec Ellson  
Treasure Isabella Escobar  
Chadwick File  
Kazman Gajdecki  
Scott Christopher Gomez  
Lyle Heinonen  
Rachel Elizabeth Hilburn  
Josephine Hoffman  
Carmen Jimenez  
Joseph McAdoo Jones  
Payton King  
Matthew Lester  
Westin Letter  
Corinna Martin  
Carol Michelle Mickelson  
Matthew James Mowen

### September (con't)

Regina Marie Munoz  
Stephanie Rangel  
Naomi Malilah Spencer  
Emily Ann Nolan  
Abbey Leigh Pawelkiewicz  
Kyla Jean Potter  
Brycen Randolph  
Emmanuel Ruiz  
John Edmund Sarna, Jr.  
David Lawrence Baker  
Samantha Jo Shull  
Macayla Johnne' Morris  
Edgar Vargas-Hernandez  
Ian Walter  
Adam Christopher Williamson  
Joshua Sullivan

### October

Christina Marie Aloï  
Joey Elizabeth Messina  
Tristan Andrew Castellanos  
Collette Chang  
Julia Marie Cheney  
Angelica Louise Ciddio  
Brianna Clark  
Gina D'Addieco  
Brianna Oakleigh DeCarlo  
Jeremy Edwards  
Brandon Lee Fayer

### October (con't)

Alejandro Ferrales  
Michelle Flowers  
McKaden Patrick Fowler  
Lola Serephina Sanchez  
Joshua Robert Garza  
Elizabeth Hall  
Henry Hall  
Christine Holland  
Timothy Dakota Hollon  
Bethany Hookom  
David Christopher Hryszko  
Harley and Hayden Jacobson  
Jennica Mariah Jespersen  
Jacob Johnson  
Melanie Lopez  
Michael Martel  
Zachary Taylor Jones  
Andrew Moss  
Lily Rowan Ogburn  
Jamie Pierce  
Levonte Malik Reed  
Lili Claire Resnick  
Trey Brayden Roper  
Skyler Kirby Schmidt  
Hailey Elizabeth Scranton  
Kolton Siebert  
Moriah Lynne Sharp  
Christina Elizabeth Harley Llanes  
Cheyenne Autumn Smith  
Rebecca "Becca" Christen Stewart  
Megan Lee Wondra

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*And as we let our light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.*

*As we are liberated from our own fear our presence automatically liberates others.*

*-- Nelson Mandela, 1994 inaugural speech*

## *In Memoriam*

### September

Nicholas Foster Adams  
Kayla Rose Battle  
Courtney Lynn Beisner  
Brandon Boddy  
Ashlyn Rebekkah Brooks  
Alyssa Michelle Brown  
Autumn Sarah Carmack  
Jason Michael Collins  
Angel Starre Crowkiller-Scherr  
Emily Amanda Dickerson  
Matthew Dodge  
Dakotah Rayne Dougherty  
Cody Robert Windmiller  
Aaron Lee Farrier  
Treasure Isabella Escobar  
Immanuel Friedman  
Kevin Geitz  
John Thomas Haney  
Rachel Elizabeth Hilburn  
Josephine Hoffman  
Ja'niaha Cheyenne Jones  
Jared Michael Kennedy  
Gabriel Joseph LeCompte  
Aaron Wane Lindsey  
Corinna Martin  
Matthew James Mowen  
Jonathan Navrat  
Emily Ann Nolan  
Abbey Leigh Pawelkiewicz  
Kyla Jean Potter

Brycen Randolph  
John Edmund Sarna, Jr.  
David Lawrence Baker  
Samantha Jo Shull  
Jacob "Jake" Hunter Smathers  
Joshua Sullivan  
Macayla John' Morris  
Ian Walter  
Adam Christopher Williamson  
Ryan Joseph Yancik

Christine Holland  
Bethany Hookom  
David Christopher Hryszko  
Jason Michael Saulmon  
Harley and Hayden Jacobson  
James Richard Jenkins  
Jennica Mariah Jespersen  
Carmen Jimenez  
Jacob Johnson  
Joseph McAdoo Jones  
Michael Martel  
Eduardo Mata  
Zachary Taylor Jones  
Andrew Moss  
Paulie Michael Mullenix  
Lily Rowan Ogburn  
Kaylyn Rae Owen  
Jamie Pierce  
Levonte Malik Reed  
Kody Stevens Rye  
Ian Martin Paul Sadler  
Moriah Lynne Sharp  
Christina Elizabeth Harley Llanes  
Elizabeth "Libby" Margaret Simon  
Justin Synan  
Teresa Wesley Hough  
Tara Ellen Young

### October

Christina Marie Aloï  
Luke Daniel Bauman  
Bradley Brown  
Collette Chang  
Angelica Louise Ciddio  
Brianna Clark  
Loren Cordes  
Gina D'Addieco  
Aiyanna Simmone Monique Daniels  
Brianna Oakleigh DeCarlo  
Jeremy Edwards  
Alejandro Ferrales  
Michelle Flowers  
McKaden Patrick Fowler  
Lola Serephina Sanchez  
Joshua Robert Garza  
Joel Albert Grayson  
Elizabeth Hall  
Henry Hall

### *To the families of these children, Our deepest sympathies for your recent loss...*

Allen Rivera  
Joshua G. Roberts  
Hillary Newton  
Melissa Godoy  
Bernice Celis  
Eian James Albin  
Dylan Margus Harris  
Serena Duncan  
Samuel Allen Kerner  
Ethan Alec Shirkey-Williams  
Devonnte Makail Johnson  
Tara Janean Smith  
Stephanie Rangel  
Magdalena Gajdecki

Kazman Gajdecki  
Christina Teran Gajdecki  
Cynthia Martinez  
Michael Andrew Rainey  
Tradhanna Morales  
Rexlee Bryant Oxley  
Isiah Daniel Young  
Nicholas Ervin  
Tyler S. Fields  
Julien A. Hartsook  
Hailey Elizabeth Scranton  
Madison and Madeline Wetterhan  
Jade Suzanne Cloud Ocevedo



# Remembering ...



Kody Stevens Rye



Luke D. Bauman



Trey Brayden Roper



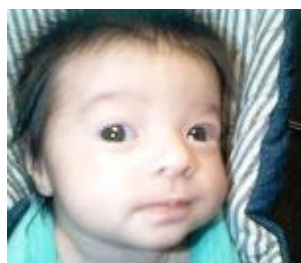
Jakob Detwiler



Cheyenne Autumn Smith



Helen Sayako Kaneshiro



Sierra Montano



Aaron Lee Farrier



Matthew Charles Dodge

  
**We  
love you**



Joel Albert Grayson



Lili Claire Resnick



Blake Cash



Adam Christopher Williamson



Kaylyn Rae Owen



Joshua Sullivan





# ... Our Children



Autumn Sarah Carmack



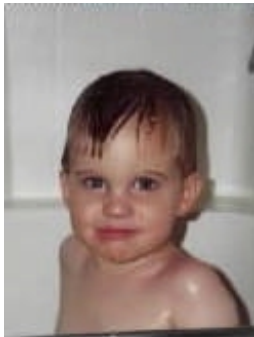
Nicholas Adams



Julia Cheney



Skyler Kirby Schmidt



Chadwick William File



Loren Cordes



Tara Ellen Young



Dakotah Rayne Dougherty



We  
MISS  
you



Lily Rowan Ogburn



Marisa Reyanne Botello



Ryan Spencer Dugan



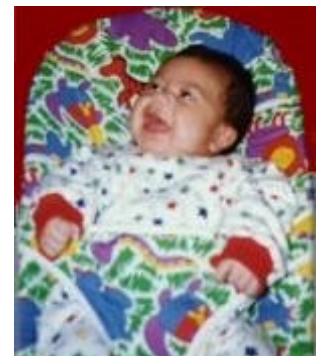
Hailey Lynn Scranton



Jared Kennedy



Carsen Manfull



Tristan Castellanos

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## Memorial Donations

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***Tyler S. Fields***

By Jeremy and Lisa Carter

***Marisa Reyanne Botello***

By her loving parents, Jaci and Jared  
Reyna and Taylor

***Logan Thomas Winton***

By his parents, Melody and Jay

***Hailey Faith Haimovitz***

By Larry and Tammy, her parents, and  
Hannah, her little sister

***Carsten Cole Buckley***

By his parents, Dave and Shannon and  
Brother, Connor

***Brittney Angelique Grace***

By Tammy and Joseph, her loving parents

***Cheyenne Cacciatore***

By an Anonymous donor  
Lynda Avner, From Heaven  
Kevin and Tracy Bohn

***Aaron Lee Farrier***

By Grandma Susie and Grandpa Mike  
By Grandma Ros Hurley

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## *In Loving Memory of . . .*

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***Kody Stevens Rye***

By Brooke and Rory, his loving parents and  
Little sister, Abbe

***Camille Rayana Olsen***

By her loving Aunt

***Karsten Voss***

By Daniel and Cynthia, his loving parents

***Dana Jane Franklin***

By Shaun and Kate Franklin

***Cody Bohn***

By Kevin and Tracy, his loving parents

***RyLeigh Denae Green***

By her loving Grandmother, Margie Green

***Joshua Davis***

By his parents, Cindy and Jerry Davis

**Living Honors Donation**

***Stan and Andi Chung in***

*Celebration of the safe birth of their son,  
Maverick*

In honor of the safe arrival of ***Sydney Schmidt***

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## Special Thank You . . .

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Pinnacle West and A.P.S.

Glendale Active 20-30 Club

Very Special Memorial Donation in memory of  
*Taylor Joy McClure* and in recognition of the  
efforts of her parents to raise money for the MISS  
Foundation. Thank you Kim and Jim! We  
appreciate your hard work!

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Thank you to our many generous  
United Way Donor Choice Givers

*Lara Hollinger  
Raytheon Tucson Employees*

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*Special Thanks to everyone who gives their  
devotion and time to the MISS Foundation. We are  
changing lives in our community we are proud to  
be a part of this beautiful, loving family.  
Thank you all!*

# Safe Arrivals

## **Owen Robert Firstman**

Son of Blake and Jill Firstman,  
Brother of beloved **Kyle Robert**  
July 17, 2001

## **Sydney Joy Schmidt**

Daughter of Bruce and Linda  
Schmidt  
Sister of **Skyler Kirby**  
August 7, 2001

## **Caasi Lyric Apodaca**

Daughter of Tanya Apodaca  
Sister of Asiah, Jordin, Destiny  
and  
Big Brother **Esai** in Heaven  
July 22, 2001

## **Lindsey Autumn Carmack**

Daughter of  
David and Amy Carmack  
Sister of **Autumn Sarah**  
June 29, 2001

## **Yazmine Anelyse Cepeda**

Daughter of Marisa  
Sister of **Tea Elyse**

## **John Francis Barberian**

Brother of **Rachel Taylor**  
May 15, 2001

An especially chosen child:  
**Andres Hoffman Roel**  
To Carla Hoffman

## **Levi Zane White**

Son of Audra and Allen,  
brother of **Zane Allen**



### **My Beloved Butterfly**

*By Debra Scaturro (c) 1993*

My beloved butterfly passed by my window; He came to wish me Happy Spring. A smile embellished his brother's face, but his grieving father never noticed. By the end of the day the metal bars from the greenhouse carpeted the yard of his father's kingdom.

Only God knows what's going on inside his head. His sorrowful heart is throbbing, for death has robbed him of all his hopes and dreams for his beloved first born. He pounded away with such force, ignoring the beauty of the outdoors. When he stopped to catch his breath, he stood bewildered for he is a prisoner of grief. Devastation has soiled his spirit and buried his heart beneath layers of guilt. In the south, his sugar maples have been abandoned, his former English herb garden shamefully overgrown. Thyme is growing out of control.

He stood surrounded by all of the things that once brought him extreme pleasure- when he was the King of his castle.

My beloved butterfly made one last attempt to wipe the sweat from his father's brow

...And then he flew away

### **Arizona Peer Contacts**

We are here for you when you need to talk.

Carl and Heidi Brashears	623-412-3131
Juleigh Fullerton	623-587-1914
Lee Ann Morlan	480-963-9844
Kellie and Nathan Gatewood	602-866-3645
Tom and Traci Johnson	602-789-8068
Alan and Karen Wondra	623-412-9806
Andy Castellanos	623-780-9546
Linda Schmidt	602-362-8838
Anne Rumps (Tucson)	520-795-4712
Richard Olsen	602-216-6600

#### **(Toddler Death Contact):**

Heather Lewis 623-334-4044

#### **(Kids in Grief Contact):**

Jami Garrison 623-322-2798

#### **(Drowning/Accidents):**

Katie Hodge 602-571-8758

#### **(Spanish Speaking/Bilingual Contact):**

Alicia Cunningham 623-772-1358

#### **(Adult Child Death TCF Contact):**

Lynette and John Sarna 602-942-4208

**Support groups and contacts for areas outside of Arizona can be found on page 23 of this newsletter.**

### **During the Giving Season: Please Remember the MISS Foundation**

Please remember the MISS Foundation in your Christmas Giving this year! All your funds go directly to our family centered services to help us help our community! Memorial donations are acknowledged in our newsletter, both in print and online. In addition, acknowledgement cards are sent to the family members of those remembered or honored.

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# The Mail Bag

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**Dear MISS Foundation Volunteers:**

I thank you from the bottom of my heart and soul for all you do for so many dear parents who have to let their child go, perhaps out of sight but never far from heart or mind. I thank you for letting me be a part of the conference...Dr. Gutierrez is one of the finest people I know and I saw many parents there I had come to know and who are dear to me. One of the highlights of my life was your having Elisabeth Kubler-Ross there. Thank you so much!

Love to you all,  
**Sister Mary Ruth**

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**Dear MISS Foundation (and Joanne),**

I don't even know where to begin! Last night's session helped me more than is imaginable! First you made me see that there are other people that know how I feel, I'm not the only one. You opened a new world for me. I am deeply touched by you and your foundation. Thank you so much!

Love,  
**Paige Salzbrenner, Big Sister of Beautiful Gabriel**

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**Dear MISS Organization,**

There is no appropriate way to express to you in words what I am feeling right now, after having read the newsletter.

*"The faces of the children who live inside our hearts are like a field of wildflowers, dancing when the wind blows. In a field of Shasta daisies little girls run freely after little boys chasing butterflies. I hold each of them tight against my chest. I love each of them as my own. And my heart bleeds."*

What you have created is a holy place for all of us and I thank you for remembering our children.

Love,  
**Debra**

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**Hello,**

I was writing to you today to seek your permission to include a couple printouts from your website in our bereavement packets. I am a nurse at Boston Children's Hospital and we are working on our packets again. I hope that you will allow us to include this important information you've posted on your website so that it will point our grieving parents in the right direction.

On a more personal level, I just wanted to tell you that your site is absolutely amazing...Thank you for sharing with all of us.

I look forward to hearing from you. Take care.

**Jason M. Baker, RN**  
**Boston Children's Hospital,**  
**Cardiac ICU**

**Dear Jason,**

*Our wonderful MISS Foundation families, as well as our webmaster, Jami Garrison, and co-masters, Heather Farrier, Alisa Detwiler, and Jim Nibali, work very hard to keep up with the dynamics of our nonprofit corporation. So on behalf of them all, thank you for your compliments. We are happy to allow usage of our information. I will forward the required copyright information. Thank you for helping families in need!*

*Very Sincerely,*  
**Joanne Cacciatore-Garard**

# Announcements! Announcements!

## Teddy Bear Drive

We are again organizing a Teddy Bear Drive in honor of our son, Tyler David's, third birthday. All the bears donated go to either the Peoria Police Dept. or Peoria Fire Dept's teddy bear program, where they all end up in the arms of children in crisis. If you would like to donate a new or gently used stuffed animal, please contact Margaret Abarr at 623-872-8082. And remember to attach a kindness card with your child's name.

## Certified Training for MISS Foundation Facilitators

**When:** Saturday, September 22, 2001

**Where:** Heritage Presbyterian Library,  
5830 W Greenbriar,  
59th Avenue just north of Bell  
Road, Glendale

**Who:** The MISS Foundation,  
Facilitators, Joanne Cacciatore &  
Jana Vorhis, MISS of California

**Cost:** By Scholarship Only

**Time:** Begins at 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
*with one hour lunch-on-your-own*

This one day facilitator training program will help prepare you to become a future MISS Foundation facilitator for support groups. Topics will be covered to include: Family Dynamics, Cultural Considerations, Difficult Situations, Communication and Effective Comforting Strategies, Leadership Skills, Growing Your Group, And much more! **Seating is limited so you must apply and be registered in order to attend.** Applications are being accepted. Please call 623.979.1000 no later than Sept 16, 2001. Email for more information to [info@misschildren.org](mailto:info@misschildren.org).

If you already run a group, please plan on attending! If you are interested in beginning a support group in your area, sign up for this class! Become a MISS Foundation Certified Facilitator and help your community heal!

## MISS Couples Sharing Session Begins!

If you were at the MISS Foundation's Conference in June, you already know that Richard Olsen, father of Camille Rayana Olsen ([www.camilleolsen.com](http://www.camilleolsen.com)), volunteered to lead a **new couples sharing group** in the Phoenix area.

Don't let the name fool you. Singles are welcome at this group too, male and female. What we hope to accomplish having a couples group is to reach out to both parents and give each of them another perspective on dealing with their loss and the resultant grief.

Richard 60, and his wife Sharon 39, lost Camille at 41 weeks last summer. She was the first child either had ever had. Richard is a Phoenix real estate developer building a townhome project in central Phoenix and Sharon works 40 hours a week at Saks 5th Avenue. They live in central Phoenix in a home Richard designed and built in 1998. Prior to relocating to Arizona Richard had lived and worked in New York City where he was in the advertising business. He settled in Sedona in 1973 and moved to Phoenix in 1988.

In addition to facilitating the group Richard has volunteered the use of his project sales office for the initial meeting site until we locate a permanent site. It is located in Phoenix on Colter Street (north of Camelback) and just west of 15th Avenue. You can e-mail Richard at [rko@home.com](mailto:rko@home.com) or call him at 602-861-8985. The first meeting will be held October 2, 2001 beginning promptly at 6:30 and ending at 8:00 pm. We wish that we had never met Richard for the same reason we wish we had never met any of you. But here we all are and we are very fortunate to have Richard Olsen actively involved in MISS.

## Party 2001

Sponsored by the Glendale Active 20-30 Club at Mr. Lucky's in Phoenix on West Grand Avenue co-sponsored by Sands Chevrolet and Mr. Lucky's to benefit the MISS Foundation

**Sunday, October 21, 2001  
Bar-be-que from 1-6 pm**

Auction, bullriding, live music and dancing, and lots of fun!  
A family fun event including dinner for \$10.00 per ticket  
Send your check for tickets ASAP! Limited supply!

MISS Foundation Charity BBQ  
PO Box 5333  
Peoria, Az 85385

**\$10.00 per ticket includes barbeque dinner**  
Last year, Heidi and Carl Brashears won a car in the raffle!  
*Bring the kids and join us for lots and lots of fun!*

## Our Newest Kindness Project: Starfish International MISSIONS

by Debra Scaturro

By participating in SIM Kindness Project you will be joining a network of caring individuals who demonstrate their concern for children of the world by helping improve the quality of children's lives. Starfish International MISSIONS (SIM) is part of the MISS Foundation's Kindness Project. Through the MISS Foundation, SIM is a registered all volunteer, non-profit organization dedicated to helping orphans whose affliction exceeds the care giving ability of their community. The MISS Foundation is dedicated to helping families enduring grief following a child family member's death. The Kindness Project is one way the MISS Foundation helps empower families to heal from the overwhelming grief after child death.

Debra Scaturro's 18-year-old son, Shawn, was killed in a boating accident at the age of eighteen. Debra founded Starfish International MISSIONS last year. While the mission itself is fairly new, so new in fact that Debra has been doing most of the work herself. Debra has been involved in various volunteer efforts for a considerable amount of time, i.e., this isn't some fly-by-night impromptu endeavor. Starfish International MISSIONS was designed to improve the quality of life for orphan's one life at a time. The mission's theme, if you will, is centered

around the "Starfish" story posted on her website at: [www.hostmom.com](http://www.hostmom.com)

SIM has been asked by an adoption resource group to help these children find adoptive families.

Sasha, on the pictured below on the left, age 7 has asked (begged really) for a family and he is truly wonderful. He is gifted artistically, smart, and our coordinator says that he is one who will not do well if his life continues in the orphanage system. He is due to be transferred to the older boys home soon (this fall I think) and they are repeatedly asking us to find parents for him. We have lots of video on him, and I think he will be one of those who is grateful for a chance at life. Sasha is the most urgent need now.

The beautiful little girl pictured below on the right is Aida; she just turned 3-years-old. Aida has been diagnosed with Hep-B+. These are just two of the many, many orphans looking for somebody to love them. Please let us know if you can find room in your home and your heart for one of these beautiful children.

The Kindness Project that SIM is launching this year is called "Tee-Shirts for Tots". The point of this project is to send tee shirts to an orphanage in Kazakhstan.

During July, we will be collecting and/or purchasing 150 tee shirts for children, ages 1-4, who live in an orphanage in Kazakhstan. The tee shirts will be silk-screened with a logo exclusively designed for this project.



While we cannot meet these children's many needs, we can provide a useful gift that will make him/her happy and show that we care. When asked why this project was chosen rather than a monetary donation to the orphanage or some other equally worthy project Debra replied by saying:

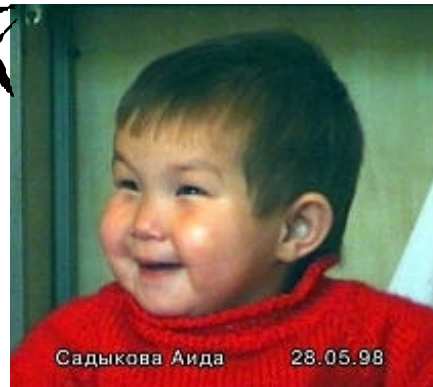
"SIM decided to pursue this particular project for a couple of reasons - the children need clothing and perhaps most importantly, to put a smile on the face of a child who is not accustomed to receiving gifts! Today a tee-shirt tomorrow a prosthesis or lifesaving surgery."

For more information about SIM's Kindness Project please contact:

Debra Scaturro at (973) 579-1448 or email us at [Starfish@hostmom.com](mailto:Starfish@hostmom.com)



Sasha, Age 7



Aida, Age 3



**I love the man that can smile in trouble, that can gather strength from distress, and grow brave by reflection. 'Tis the business of little minds to shrink, but he whose heart is firm, and whose conscience approves his conduct, will pursue his principles unto death. --Thomas Paine**

November 30th, 1998... That day dramatically changed my life. The date and time are etched in my heart forever. That day, I lost a part of me. A beautiful little blonde who shared my life for almost 14 months went "home" to heaven, taking a part of me "home" with her. I remember her smile....I remember the way she felt in my arms. I remember her little girlish giggle.....And the words she spoke still ring in my ears everyday.. "Na\_Na!" as she practically jumped from her Mommy's arms to mine.

The quote "When God closes one door, He opens another" seemed incredulous to me. My Granddaughter left this world so suddenly; there was no time for good-byes. And I grieved. I grieved for the beautiful little girl who adored her Grandmother, I grieved for the Grandmother, who adored her a million times in return, It took 2-1/2 years to begin seeing a light at the end of the dark tunnel.

In May 2001, the OHIO MISS Foundation became a reality. My goal? To reach out to other grieving parents and grandparents, so they should never walk this heartbreaking journey alone.

In June 2001, the MISSing Angels Memorial Quilt was created with love. On

July 2001, in a meeting held on July 19th with the Way Station, the Salvation Army and Our Local Red Cross Chapter, I introduced the MISS Foundation and myself. Donna Allison, Director of our local American Red Cross listened enthusiastically as I talked about the Foundation created to help families. Donna ask if we would be interested in working "hand in hand" with the Red Cross and if we'd be willing to be placed on the volunteer list. This commitment would mean that phone calls can come in at any time, early morning, late night.

Being placed on the disaster team would mean whenever this Red Cross was dispatched to a disaster site where children were involved, the MISS Foundation would go and work with families that had lost children in disasters. My answers were a very firm "Yes!"

Now, throughout all states, the MISS Foundation and the Red Cross will work together, along with other ancillary groups, like the Compassionate Friends, SOS, and POMC to help families in crisis. They would now have access to the MISS volunteers or facilitators, to support families at disasters. The services we would provide as a representative of the MISS Foundation would be direct

involvement with the families. What do the survivors need most? To feel compassion, empathy, kindness. To feel someone's arms around them for it may only be the arms of a support person that keeps us standing. The words 'I'm so sorry' and 'You must hurt so much' mean a great deal to a grieving family especially when they come from someone who truly knows the pain. Working "hand in hand" with the American Red Cross will create bonds that miles cannot separate.

In Donna's words, she prays "our meetings will be social only" because a call from her or another member of the American Red Cross Team means another child has died and another child, mother, father, grandparent, aunt, uncle, sibling, and community grieves.

*Ohio MISS Foundation  
Kym Smith, Facilitator  
<http://autumn101197.tripod.com>*

Whatever course you decide upon, there is always someone to tell you that you are wrong. There are always difficulties arising which tempt you to believe that your critics are right. To map out a course of action and follow it to an end requires... courage.  
- Ralph Waldo Emerson

## MISSing Angels Quilt

In the Spirit of Remembrance of Our Beautiful Children, We would like to invite everyone who did not have the opportunity to include a square on the MISSing Angels Quilt to participate in the addition to our quilt.

Directions for One square:

Front Only, a 6 3/4 inch/square washable material. Poly/cotton seems the easiest to work with. Design and material of your choosing, though. Photos (scanned or ironed on) Welcomed. Please include on your square: Precious child's, Name, Birth date, Heaven date. Leave a seam allowance of the 3/4 inches unsewn/unwritten on so that I may attach the squares to each other. Ship to: Kymberly Smith, 16195 St. Rt. 170, East Liverpool, Ohio 43920

Please feel free to include in your package, Your child's story/memories. As I still have the stories/memories of the children on the original quilt, I hope to "learn" to do a memory/scrap book. That will include each child. The MISSING Angels Quilt will be displayed at the next annual MISS Foundation Conference on May 23-25, 2002. Please have your quilt squares here to begin working in the Autumn season. Any questions, Please feel free to email me at [lighthouse\\_dreamer@yahoo.com](mailto:lighthouse_dreamer@yahoo.com).

## Kindness Project for Mya

Asena Nicolosi, Mya's Mom, will be doing a creative memory book for the MISS Foundation. If you'd like to have your child be a part of this book please provide the following to Asena:

- 6-8 photos (can be less, if you cannot spare that many) for each photo provide the names of all the people in the photos by writing the names on a piece of paper and attaching it to the photo.
- any additional information, like a favorite toy or surviving siblings' names, etc.
- Please also give details on any special graphics or colors you would like for your child's page

Mail to: attn: Asena's Angel Memory Book  
MISS Foundation  
PO Box 5333  
Peoria, AZ 85385



This late summer day the sunlight plays with the large fluttery leaves of a towering tree, the common name of this tree is, The Tree of Heaven. Cradled under the large branches of this Tree of Heaven stands Joel's Gate, a large metal framed gate, located in a beautiful children's garden between rows of whimsical weathered picket fencing. This joyful gate brings a smile to anyone's face. All hand forged creatively from metal, it has the shape of a house and opens wide in the center. The gate is covered in flowers, stars, two windows, and a little bunny in one corner. The rusty finish gate looks as if it has been swinging here for years. Proclaimed in the peak of the tall house shaped gate, in fun, swirly letters, are the words "Joel's Gate." Joel is our son, he died at six weeks old. The sight of Joel's Gate touches my heart, brings tears to my eyes, and then always a short time later a tender smile, I am Joel's mom.

It was just two years ago, August 27, 1999 when our baby boy, Joel Albert Grayson, arrived much too early and in critical condition. On October 8, 1999, Joel died peacefully in our arms. Peter, Joel's daddy and I were both very clear how we wanted to celebrate Joel's first birthday. The day was a quiet celebration at the Oregon Coast, with a tearful round of "Happy Birthday," over a cute Tigger-topped cake, softly we blew out the single birthday candle. The evening's sunset highlighted the words we had written in sand, along the beach, "Joel, We Love You." Without Joel, his first birthday was all I could have hoped it would be. In the back of my mind, I wondered how we would commemorate the first anniversary of Joel's death, just six weeks later.

After our son's death, Peter and I decided to move from Arizona. We needed a new place, we needed to feel safe, we decided to move to Boise, Idaho. October of 2000 came. We had not found a job, or a house in Boise, yet it was Joel's heaven day and we still didn't know what to do for Joel or

ourselves. Visiting Boise on a house and job search trip we discovered a local treasure the Idaho Botanical Garden.

Perhaps we could donate a tree for Joel's first heaven day? We met with Judy Ouder Kirk, the Gardens Director. Judy embraced us with heartfelt compassion for Joel and our wishes to remember our child. A drawing of a gate was on her desk. She asked us if we would like to donate this gate to the Children's Garden? It was perfect., It would be Joel's Gate! With a few minor additions to the gate by artist Tim Hysell, we had created a charming work of art for our son.

We now live in Boise and have a special place to go and think of our son Joel. During the winter holidays the entire garden, including Joel's gate, is filled with ten's of thousands of tiny lights for the Winter Garden Glow event. Together, as a family we make a winter wreath to decorate Joel's gate. As the seasons change in the Garden, Joel's gate is always there for us and for all the many Garden's visitors. A visitor may ask, "Who is Joel?" They are told about a much loved and dearly missed little boy.



Joel Albert Grayson  
dearly loved, sorely MISSED

Joel is our only child. His death is a tragedy, his life is God's blessing - our blessing. This garden gate tribute is perfect for our son, it is perfect for us. It serves as a statement to the world to remember and honor children everywhere, always.

All families of the MISS Foundation are invited to join Nancy & Peter Grayson in a dedication of Joel's Gate at the Idaho Botanical Children's Garden in Boise, on Saturday, September 15, 2001 at 11:00 AM/MSTA short service for their son, Joel Albert Grayson will be led and performed by Vashti and Chad Summervill of the Opendoor Studio. Please bring a child's garden tool, a book or art supplies as a MISS Kindness Project. All items will be donated to the IBG Youth Education Program. Join us for a very special morning in the Garden at Joel's Gate.

Nancy & Peter Grayson -  
*In memory of our son Joel and our two miscarried babies: Drew and Jess*



**Nancy Grayson operates the MISS Foundation Idaho Chapter in Boise, Idaho.** For information on support groups and other events at this chapter contact Nancy via email at [Joelsmom@qwest.net](mailto:Joelsmom@qwest.net) or via phone at (208) 861-2407



This artist's rendering of Joel's Gate by Christine Miller,  
[www.swirlygirl.com](http://www.swirlygirl.com)

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# Give Life In Memory of A Life

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## **A KINDNESS PROJECT: First Annual July Blood Drive**

The Kindness Project here in Northwest Arkansas was a huge success! We had 50 participants in this blood drive. This is a wonderful way for families to heal after a loss. This was the first time for this nation wide project. The blood that was donated here stays in this area and they do service for all of the area hospi-

tals. Blood is always in demand. And what a beautiful way to remember your child by giving life to someone else. We do have certificates and also the Kindness cards if you need any. Special Thanks to St. Mary's Hospital, Melanie Hill for organizing and printing our fliers. Also special thanks to the families who worked so hard distributing fliers and encouraging people to donate. For more information visit the M.I.S.S.

web site :[www.misschildren.org](http://www.misschildren.org).

*Editor's Note: So far, we have word that more than 200 pints of blood were donated nationwide during our 1st annual blood drive for the Kindness Project. Each pint can save 4-8 lives! Imagine that up to 1,600 lives will be saved because of the children who lived, who died, yet who still continue to matter to our world!*

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## From Heaven to Earth

Author Unknown

*Dear Mom and Dad,*

*I know this is a rough time for you, So I will be gentle as I can be. First of all, I Thank You for your many tears, Particularly those shared with another that you love. They are a gift to me, a Precious tribute to your investment in me. As you do your mourning, do it at your pace only. Don't let anybody suggest that you do your grief work on their timetable. Do whatever it takes to face directly the reality of what has happened-even though you may sometimes inertia is the only movement possible. Give your best to keeping a balance between remembering me and renewing your commitments to your life. Its okay with me if you go through minutes, hours and even days not thinking about me.*

*I know that you'll never forget me. Loosening me and grabbing hold of a new meaning is a delicate art. I'm not sure if one comes before the other or not-maybe it's a combination.*

*"Be with people who accept you as you are. Mention my name out loud, and if they don't beat a hasty retreat they are probable excellent candidates for friendship." If, by a remote possibility, you think that there is anything you could have done for me and didn't...I Forgive you as my Lord does. Resentment does not abide here-only love.*

*"You know how people sometimes ask how many children you have? Well, I'm still yours and you are still my parents, Always acknowledge that with tender-*

*ness-unless to do so would fall on insensitive ears or would be painful to you. I know how you feel inside. To be included as your child, Honors me."*

*If you can view my brothers and sisters as ever so gentle reminders-inviting you to continue on, when sadness is so pervasive-you will see them as a gift.*

*Sometimes they hold onto their grief, keep it inside, out of respect, for the burden they see you already carrying. Hug them and help them feel secure and valued. Read.....even though your tears anoint the pages. There is an immense library here and I have a card. In Henri Nouwens "Out of Solitude", he writes: "The friend who can be silent with us in a moment of despair or confusion...who can stay with us in a hour of grief and bereavement, who can tolerate not curing, not healing, and face with us the reality of our powerlessness...that is a friend who cares."*

*Mom and Dad, I don't know where you are spiritually now, but rest assured that our God is not gone. "The still small voice you hear in your heart is His Voice. The warmth that sometimes enfolds you, is him. The tears that tremble just beneath your heartbeat are Him, He is in you, as I am.*

*And to Dad particularly, I know you grieve differently than Mom does. Its okay-you grew up differently. If you run into any man who has seen the last ten minutes of Kevin Costner in the movie "Field of Dreams", share your reac-*

*tions. You'll touch your feelings and probably lose your aloneness. Crying is not weak. I also want you to both know I'm Okay. I have sent messengers to ease your pain-they come in the form of flowers blooming out of season, birds singing, voices and visions, and sometimes through your friends-and-even strangers-who volunteer as angels. Stay open but don't expect the overly dramatic. You will get what you need and it may be simply an internal sense of peace. You are Not Crazy. You have been comforted. Please seek out people bereaved longer than you. They are tellers of truth, and if they've done their work, are an inspiration and a beacon of hope whose pain has lessened dramatically. And one more wisdom before I close. There are still funny happenings in the world. It delights me to no end, when I hear your spontaneous laughter. That, too, will come in due time. Today, I light a candle for you, Joined with your candle, let their light shine above the darkness.*

*All My Love, Your Son or Daughter.*

*"P.S., I'll see You later!"*



*Submitted by Kym Smith  
in loving memory of  
Cheyenne Autumn Smith  
10/11/97—11/30/98*

The pregnancy was not normal to say the least. In my third trimester I was diagnosed with an Auto Immune Disease known as pemphigoid. Basically, the immune system starts attacking the skin as if it were a foreign invader. This malfunction causes severe itching and painful water filled blisters that formed from head to toe. My doctors decided to induce labor at 37 ½ weeks because of the discomfort I was experiencing. Then after 24 hours of labor and several other complications that I went into now, my precious baby Luke was born into this world on August 11, 2000 at 10:08 in the morning.

We were all so relieved to hear his cries, but as they placed him in my arms I could tell something was wrong. You see his blisters formed before my very eyes, I screamed for the doctors to please help him. Everyone was so surprised; his chances of having this were only 3%, the room turned silent for a moment. But all hope was not lost at that point. The experts that were consulted said that his condition should clear up on its own without treatment, other than supportive care (Mother's Love).

I was frightened at first to take him home but risk of infection was high for both of us the longer we stayed in the hospital. So his I.V.'s were disconnected and baby went to his new home with Mom, Dad and Big Brother Noah who was three at the time. Luke's nursery had been carefully decorated with a star

and moon theme. "May the force be with you," we joked, as if he were Luke Skywalker from Star Wars.

He was so beautiful to me I could not stop kissing him and the sores did not bother me a bit. Not to mention his whole bottom side was literally raw from the initial blistering at birth. Despite all of these setbacks he thrived like you would not believe. In fact his nickname was Munchie because all he wanted to do was eat. And after about five weeks of tender loving care every scar on his tiny little body started to disappear. Soon the entire world could see what a bright shining star he really was. At that point we felt like the scare had passed we were all relieved that he would finally be OK.

Also, during this 5<sup>th</sup> week of his life I had to return to work. My dear friend Paulette watched both my boys while my husband and I worked. He would drop the kids off at 7:30 A.M. and I would pick them up by 4:30 in the afternoon. Noah had already been attending this small private day care for the past 3 years and was more than happy to bring along his new baby brother. Weeks went by and our family felt full and happy.

Then everything we new changed...

It was a normal Monday morning, October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2000; we were so thrilled because the baby had slept through the night again. Although my 3 year old decided to wake us up at four in the morning to say he heard Luke make a noise, but we all dozed off again till the baby started to cry at five A.M. and then the daily ritual was about to begin. I'll never forget leaving him for the last time that morning. I was running late and he was tucked away sound asleep in his swing so I couldn't pick him up again, and I ran out the door with merely a kiss for my baby boy. It was 8:30 and I had only been at work for an hour when I received a hysterical phone call from my babysitter. She screamed your baby's not breathing! Time seemed to stand still at that moment.



Then someone rushed me to the hospital where my husband met me. We were furious because they wouldn't let us see him right away and that is when they gave us the news. Our son had gone down for his morning nap and stopped breathing, CPR was started immediately but nothing could save him.

"How could this be?" we thought to ourselves! Not Luke! He had fought so hard to come and stay in this world, it didn't seem right that simply closing his eyes would take his life away.

The next minutes, hours and days were a blur. The body seems to be on autopilot while the mind is somewhere else. Now that a year has past since his birth so much has changed. I have definitely become a more spiritual person mostly because I am longing to be closer to my son. Also because I believe there must be a purpose to all this grief how could it all be for nothing? I'm sure the answer will not come in this lifetime but I know some day my baby and I will be reunited. Faith has kept me strong for my family.

I do not know what the future has in store for us but we long to have another child some day. My illness is in remission now but the doctors tell me a subsequent pregnancy could most likely cause my condition to worsen. I am determined to have a positive attitude though and proper medical treatment to help me through it. Besides the end result is an absolute miracle.

To my bright shining star in heaven,  
mommy loves you!  
Happy birthday angel.

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# Baby's Breath Healthy Baby Campaign

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## BREASTFEEDING BENEFITS BABY

Breastfeeding is good for the baby's health and should not be ended prematurely, researchers say. A study of 220 mothers in the Dominican Republic points to a possibly overlooked reason women terminate breastfeeding early. Past studies have asked women why they stopped nursing, but the new survey also asked why they thought other women ceased the practice. The answers were revealing, the author reports in the Pan American Journal of Public Health. Dr. John McLennan of the Canadian

Centre for Studies of Children at Risk at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, found that not a single woman listed loss of figure or breast shape as her own reason for stopping to breastfeed. But that was the "community" reason cited by 29 percent of the women who had ceased nursing in less than a year for why they thought others had stopped breastfeeding. Understanding the "real reasons" mothers stop nursing should prove useful in devising effective breastfeeding counseling programs, researchers said. In May, the World Health Assembly extended its recommendation for exclusive breastfeeding from the first

four to the first six months of a child's life.

*Editor's Note: The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends a minimum of six months exclusive breastfeeding and the continuance up to at least one year of age. Beyond one year, they recommend that women continue to breastfeed as long as they are able. Please breastfeed your subsequent baby! If you are having trouble with breastfeeding or feel you are not producing enough milk, do not give up! Contact a lactation consultant or the La Leche League at (847) 519-7730 and they can help you!*

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## ZINC DURING PREGNANCY MAY HELP NEWBORNS

Adding zinc supplements to the diet during pregnancy may help reduce the risk of health problems faced by low-birthweight children. Infant malnutrition and death rates are high in less-developed countries,

especially among low birthweight infants. In these areas, low birth weight babies account for a third of all deaths in children age 1 or younger. Medical scientists looked at more than 400 infants from Bangladesh whose mothers were randomly given either zinc or a harmless placebo starting the third or fourth month of pregnancy up to delivery. The researchers found birthweight remained

low among both groups. However, children in the zinc group had a 64 percent reduced risk of dysentery, were nearly half as likely to suffer from the skin disease impetigo and had a 16 percent lower risk of suffering from acute diarrhea, as compared to the other children six months after birth. The researchers presented their findings in the medical journal Lancet.

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## SLEEP GENE HAS SNOWBALL EFFECT

The presence of a certain gene makes people twice as likely to suffer sleep apnea, a dangerous nighttime breathing disorder that affects 10 percent of Americans. The Stanford University Medical Center researchers who made the discovery said the gene also predisposes carriers to the development of Alzheimer's and cardiovascular diseases. The research suggests complex interactions exist between breathing patterns during sleep, cholesterol metabolism and mental status, the scientists said. "What's interesting is that this gene is a marker for dementia and cardiovascular risk," said Dr. Emmanuel Mignot, director of the Center for Narcolepsy at Stanford's Center for Human Sleep Research. "On top of that it also predisposes a carrier to the development of sleep apnea. Since sleep apnea is also linked to cardiovascular disease, there is a snowball effect. This is a marker you really don't want to have." The results appear in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

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## NATIONAL ALLIANCE OFFERS INFO ABOUT PTSD

The Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Alliance is offering free educational resources as part of a national public service campaign to inform the general public and health care professionals about PTSD, a common yet frequently undiagnosed or misdiagnosed condition. As many as 70 percent of American adults have experienced a traumatic event at least once in their lives, and up to 20 percent of those people go on to develop PTSD.

Women are about twice as likely as men to develop the disorder. In all, PTSD afflicts roughly one of every 13 Americans, yet it is still widely misunderstood. It can affect anyone who has experienced extreme trauma, has been a witness or victim of a violent act, or has repeatedly endured life threatening situations. Once properly diagnosed, PTSD can be treated with psychotherapy, medication, or a combination of the two. People who want more information about the alliance can visit its Web site at [ptsdalliance.org](http://ptsdalliance.org), or call 1-877-507-PTSD.

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***"A great idea I had for Christmas cards is to ask people to remember our son by donating money in his memory to the MISS Foundation for the family services programs! It helps a great organization and it helps me to know that they will remember him in a very special way!!!"***

## Support Our MISSION!

ITEM DESCRIPTION	SIZE	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL
Kindness Cards, please indicate quantity and price: 10 card set for \$1.00 50 card set for \$6.00 100 card set for \$10.00 250 card set for \$25.00  Circle Type of Card: For Parents - or - For Everyone Else		circle: 10 50 100 250	\$1.00 \$6.00 \$10.00 \$25.00	
MISS Foundation "Angel" T-shirt Avail sizes: Childs Size, or S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL			\$15.00	
<i>Kaleidoscope of Grief</i> —Children's Grief Workbook	English	Spanish	\$5.00	
<i>What Color is Death, Daddy?</i> - Children's Grief Workbook	English	Spanish	\$5.00	
Angel Pin			\$5.00	
Newsletter Annual Subscription DONATION	n/a		\$13.00	
<i>Dear Cheyenne</i> Book or <i>Passages Memorial</i> Angelic Book	Circle one		\$8.00	
Sacred Hearts: <i>MISS Logo Sterling Necklace and 20" Chain</i>	(Birthstone	Add 12.00)	\$60.00	
<b>ADD \$4 SHIPPING TO ALL ORDERS</b>				<b>\$4.00</b>
<b>TOTAL ORDER</b>				<b>\$4.00</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>I would like to include an additional donation of \$ _____</i>  <i>My donation is in memory of _____</i>  <i>Please send a memorial card to: _____</i> _____ _____				

For a larger selection, please visit our online store at [www.misschildren.org](http://www.misschildren.org)

Send order form along with  
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P.O. Box 5333  
Peoria, AZ 85385

The MISS Foundation is an All-Volunteer,  
Non-Profit 501c(3) Organization  
All Donations are Tax Deductible!

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Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State/Province: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip/Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (        ) \_\_\_\_\_

# MISS Foundation Support Groups

## Arizona

### **Phoenix Monthly Meetings**

#### **Infant Death Support Group**

3rd Thursday of each month, 6:30 p.m.  
Heritage Church  
5830 W Greenbriar Road  
(59th Ave, North of Bell Rd)  
623-979-1000 (24 hours)

### **Phoenix Christian Support Group** **Term Stillbirth thru 2 years of age**

Meets every 6 weeks  
Pure Heart Christian Fellowship  
17855 N Black Canyon Hwy  
*Pre-register with Kellie Gatewood*  
602-866-3645

### **East Valley Infant Death**

1st Thursday of every month at Dayspring  
United Methodist Church at 6:30 p.m.  
1365 E Elliot, Rm 201  
Lee Ann Morlan 480-963-9844

### **Tucson**

Call *Anne Rumps, Tucson Coordinator*  
(520) 795-4712 Or email *Angel Dugan,*  
*Tucson at info@misschildren.org*

### **Subsequent Pregnancy Support Group**

2nd Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m.  
North Hills Church  
15025 N 19th Ave, bldg C  
(19th Ave and Greenway Rd)  
*Babies are welcome at this group!*  
602-789-8068

### **KISS—Kids In Sympathy & Support** **For Kids in Grief NorthWest Valley**

4th Saturday of each month, 10:00 a.m.  
Heritage Church  
5830 W Greenbriar  
(59th Ave, North of Bell Rd)  
623-322-2798 *Jami Garrison*

### **Central Valley Infant Death Meetings**

2nd Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m.  
North Hills Church  
15025 N 19th Ave, bldg C  
602-841-4114 *Terri Flowers*

### **Prescott**

3rd Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m.  
Prescott Public Library Mtg Room  
*BJMARI@yrmc.org Bonnie Mari*

### **KISS—Kids In Sympathy & Support** **For Kids in Grief SouthEast Valley**

3rd Saturday of each month, 2:00 p.m.  
Dayspring United Methodist Church  
1365 E Elliott, Rooms 201 and 202  
(between McClintock and Rural)  
480-814-7013 *Jim Nibali*



### **JOIN US FOR GROUP**

#### **Couples Sharing Session**

**1st Tuesday of every month**  
**beginning October 2, 2001 from**  
**6:30-8:30 p.m. at 1606 W. Ore-**  
**gon. Call Richard Olsen for di-**  
**rections at 602-861-8985 or**  
**email rko@home.com**

## Other States

### **California—Riverside**

2nd Monday of each month, 6:00 p.m.  
Hunt Park Community Center  
4015 Jackson St  
909-686-2686 *Mia*

### **California—Arcadia**

3rd Thursday of each month, 6:30 p.m.  
Arcadia Congregational Church  
Prince Erick Hall  
626-357-4816 *Jana Vorhis*

### **California—Ocean Side**

For information on this group contact  
760-806-9812 *Alisa Detwiler*

### **Illinois—Sandwich**

4th Monday of each month, 7:00 p.m.  
Salem Lutheran Church  
Lower level dining area  
1022 Main St, Sandwich  
*Angie@thefarleys.com Angela*

### **Idaho**

For information on this group contact  
208-853-1846 *joelsmom@qwest.net*  
*Nancy Grayson*

### **Missouri—Hannibal**

Last Wednesday of each month, 7:00 p.m.  
Holiday Inn Express, Meeting Room  
4000 Market St, Hannibal  
*Tscscorpio@homestead.com Tamela Cole*

### **New Jersey—Galloway Twp**

1st Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m.  
Galloway Twp  
Municipal Building, Historical Room  
609-601-0563 *Kathy Evans*

### **New York—Yonkers**

(Call or email for times/dates)  
The Plymouth House  
1730 Central Park Av, Yonkers  
*Sammismom917@aol.com*  
914-378-1613 *Jennine Jo Shull or*  
*Suzanne DiMarzo*

### **Ohio**

1st Thursday of month, 7:00 p.m..  
16195 State Rt 170  
East Liverpool, Ohio  
(330) 385-8774 *Kym Smith*

### **New Baytown, Texas group forming now!**

### **Virginia, Wash DC and Maryland**

2nd Tuesday of each month, 7:30 p.m.  
Fairfax County Government Center  
12000 Government Ctr Parkway  
Fairfax, Virginia  
*Carmack429@aol.com Amy Carmack*

### **Washington—Seattle**

3rd Monday of each month, 7:30 p.m.  
Interfaith Community Church  
206-297-1012 *Kara Jones*

**The M.I.S.S. Foundation**

P.O. Box 5333  
Peoria, AZ 85385  
Phone: 623-979-1000  
Fax: 623-979-1001  
Email: [info@misschildren.org](mailto:info@misschildren.org)



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• *When a Child Dies...* •

**We're on the web!**  
[www.misschildren.org](http://www.misschildren.org)

**The Compassionate Friends and  
the MISS Foundation bring you**

**National Children's Memorial Day  
Public Candlelighting Ceremony**

**Sunday, December 9, 2001  
Downtown Phoenix, Patriot's Square Park  
Beginning at sunset  
Mark your calendars**

**Children and Families welcome!  
Bring blankets and dress warm!**

**Volunteers needed for our Community  
Outreach Program!**

We need people in Prescott, Tucson, Chandler, South Phoenix, Tempe, Mesa, Scottsdale, and Phoenix! Please call Juliegh Fullerton at 623.587.1914 for more information!

**Shop and Support!**

Shop for those special Christmas gifts at our MISS Store online! All proceeds directly benefit the MISS Foundation. Visit our online store at [www.misschildren.org](http://www.misschildren.org)

The MISSing Angels newsletter is published bi-monthly by the MISS Foundation, a non-profit organization. Letters, articles and photos may be submitted to the MISS Foundation, P.O. Box 5333, Peoria, AZ 85385. **Please send on disc in word document or email in word or works to [info@misschildren.org](mailto:info@misschildren.org).** For address changes write to the address above or email us at [info@misschildren.org](mailto:info@misschildren.org).