

# 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

### **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.

### **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.**

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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:

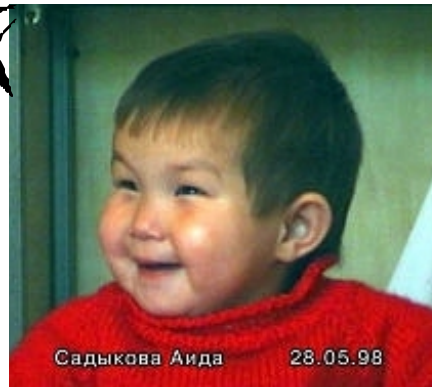
"SIM decided to pursue this particular project for a couple of reasons - the children need clothing and perhaps most importantly, to put a smile on the face of a child who is not accustomed to receiving gifts! Today a tee-shirt tomorrow a prosthesis or lifesaving surgery."

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)