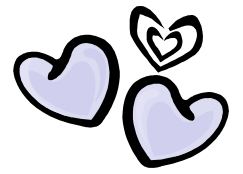


# ... Our Children



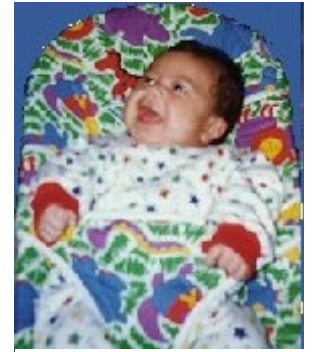
Zack Herkins



Emily Quan



TJ Hulme



Tristan Castellanos



Skyler Kirby Schmidt



Meghan George



Tara Ellen Young



Timothy Dakota Hollon



Isaiah Otto Bruce Williams



Shawn W. Scaturro



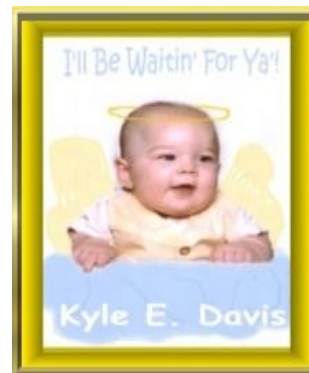
Mya Jozefa Nicolosi



Julia Marie Cheney



Sara Victoria Koski



# Thank you!

## General Donations:

Mary R. Fritz

## Our United Way Donors:

Banner Health Systems Employees  
Blue Cross Blue Shield Employee, Cindy Barber  
CIGNA Healthcare Employees  
City of Phoenix Employees  
Intel Employee, Doug Morlan  
Pfizer Corporation Employee, G. Milo Caskey  
United Parcel Service Employees:  
Carla Atencio  
Pam Binder  
Kim Bonnie  
Geoff Estevez  
Horace Hening  
Karin Stafford

## REMEMBER!

Tell your friends and relatives:  
The MISS Foundation is a write in agency (you can write us in the blank) for their employer's United Way Designee Program. Please ask them to choose us as their charity!

Dear MISS Foundation,  
I would like to thank you for your efforts for all of us who have endured the loss of our child(ren). The MISS website has been very helpful to me in the past 3+ months since my son died. It is heart-warming to know that there are websites such as MISS, where people want to hear what you have to say, and understand what you are saying when you talk about the death of your child(ren). Again, thank you.  
Mindy, Michael's mom

*Thank you so very much* for participating in our outreach to the families of New York- the firefighters, police, and other citizens have many children going to bed without their parents- You have enabled us to help reach out to them. Thank you so much for that. It means more than words can begin to say. We are a community who truly has come together to help others...

The MISS Foundation takes this time to remember the life of **Nicolas Gutierrez-Cantin**, the beloved son of **Dr. Guillermo Gutierrez**, MISS Foundation Board Member and volunteer. There simply are no words to express the sorrow that we share with Dr. Gutierrez at this time of incalculable loss. Nico was, and always will be, a beautiful young man with the spirit of his father's altruism and absolute love. He will not be forgotten. Dr. Gutierrez, we are so very, very sorry. We are here for you.

*"You are the bows from which your children,  
as living arrows, are sent forth." —Khalil Gibran*

The MISS Foundation would like to express its gratitude to the **Kimberly Deanne Orta Foundation** for its generous donation to our Family Services program. **Kimberly** died during birth on April 22, 1998. Her family, **parents Mary and Tony** and **sisters Cassandra and Kayla**, have been members since Kimberly's tragic death. In honor of their daughter and sister, they set up a foundation that would help to support the MISSion of our organization. On December 22, 2001, they donated \$3,000 and it was also matched with an anonymous donation of \$3,000 by a family friend wishing not to be acknowledged. This money will benefit our programs directed at those suffering the tragic death of a child. Thank you to the Kimberly Deanne Orta Foundation for their support, generosity, and compassion.

The story of life is quicker than the blink of an eye, the story of love is hello, goodbye.

-- Jimmy Hendrix

## Safe Arrivals ...

**Katelynn Paige Hensley**  
*Sister of Brady, Stephanie, Taylor  
and big sister Makayla in Heaven  
Daughter of Kristina and Chad*

**Clayton Lawrence Kurtz**  
*Brother of Carina Loren  
Son of Barbara and Bill*

**Hannah Marie Lotz**  
*Daughter of Kim Lotz, sister of  
Tyler Brandon*

**Kathryn Elaine Adomaitis**  
*Daughter of John and Mary Beth,  
Watched over in Heaven by  
big sister Emily Irene*

**Christian Horacio Kemper Cortes**  
*Son of Emily Kemper Cortes and  
Nacho (Horacio) Cortes  
and brother of  
MacKayla Kemper Cortes*



# Announcements! Announcements!

## Help needed:

MISS Foundation member, Jama Carpenter, needs help with a pregnant woman with triplets. She is a single mother with a very low income. Call Jama at 623-386-1513 or her work phone 602-277-5551 ext. 5954, if you can help. She is in need of: Three car seats, Crib, Playpen, Changing table, 3 seated stroller, Baby Clothes, Diapers, Onesies

## MISS Washington D.C. Group meeting change:

The FIRST WEDNESDAY's of each month with 2 exceptions: June (due to Fairfax County Fair) and November (due to elections) The alt dates those months are: June 19 and Nov 13 -- still Wednesdays. (Still the same place and room.)

D.C. Group--  
contact jackie@misschildrendc.org

## Now announcing, joyfully, new groups and contact information for MISS Foundation Networks!

Boise, Idaho-  
Nancy and Peter Grayson, 208-861-2407  
email joelsmom@qwest.net

Westminster, Maryland-  
Lisa D'Argenio, Church of the Brethren on Bond and Green Street in Westminster, Maryland on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 P.M.cell. (443) 415-4445 or pager (443) 741-0026  
email myharley5@home.com

## News from Idaho...

Idaho's MISS Chapter officially started on October 8, 2001 - Joel Grayson's 2nd Heaven day. Joel's mom and dad, Nancy & Peter facilitate meetings. Kindness Project work is in full swing, the first MISS American Red Cross Blood drive nets 46 units of blood for the Boise area. Many Idaho Botanical Garden Winter Garden a-Glow tickets were given to families at the Ronald McDonald House, in memory of Cheyenne Cacciatore's Nana. The first public National Children's Memorial Day Program held in Boise was attended by more than 125 people. The MISS Foundation helped planned this program with The Compassionate Friends. Nancy & Peter also facilitate for TCF-Boise.

-Nancy and Peter Grayson, 208-861-2407  
email joelsmom@qwest.net

## Welcome and Thanks!

### MISS Foundation Fills Top Post



Long time member, Katie Hodge, will begin her volunteer position with the MISS Foundation as Director of Operations beginning 2002. Her volunteer duties will include volunteer coordination, family services/outreach, grants and acquisitions, and many education programs.

Katie's son, Blake, died after a woman ran a red light and struck Katie's car. Katie was in a coma for weeks. Blake, 18-months-old, lost his life that tragic day. Since then, Katie has volunteered to help other families through the MISS Foundation and has also led the "Red Means Stop Coalition" helping pass legislation penalizing red light runners.

We are proud to have Katie join us. She is kind, compassionate, and tenaciously determined to help change the world as she continues to honor her little Peanut, Blake!

Welcome Aboard Katie!

If you are interested in starting your own MISS Foundation support network and becoming a Certified MISS Foundation Facilitator, call the National Office at 623.979.1000 for more information on upcoming training opportunities.

Angela Iverson has just been elected Director of a new program called Families Affected by Fatal Birth Anomalies. Angela will coordinate a program to help families of children who are dying of a birth anomaly, either before or after their birth. Her third son, Cody, died during birth and had a fatal anomaly, anencephaly. To honor him, Angela saw the need to help families facing their child's death and the need for non-judgmental support of their difficult decisions. If you know someone who has been touched by this tragedy or would like to volunteer, you can contact Angela at 623-572-0334.

*"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*



# **“Passages 2002”**

## **The Culture of Grief: When a Child Dies**

### **May 23, 24, and 25, 2002**

**Scottsdale Paradise Valley Doubletree Resort**

**5401 N. Scottsdale Road 1.800.222.TREE**

**Track A:** Creative– Healing Workshops

**Track B:** For Professionals and Families who Volunteer/Paraprofessionals

**Track C:** For Professionals– May be Sensitive Content

**Plenary:** All Attendees

Thursday, May 23, 2002

**“The Power of Compassion: A Phenomenological Approach to Child Death”**

**Speaker: Joanne Cacciatore**

**8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Breakfast and Luncheon Provided**

**(Optional 60 page manual available for additional \$25.00 for professionals)**

For professionals, educators, and para-professionals, this day long workshop includes the following topics: Professional and Business Ethics, Enhancing Crisis Communication Skills, Facilitation of the Bereavement Processes, Rituals and Ceremonies, Cross Cultural Diversity: How Other Cultures Cope with Death , Helping the Grieving Child, Community Resource Awareness, What Families have Taught us About Organ Donation, Gender Grieving Styles, and more. This class will help enhance awareness and sensitivity during a crisis situation.

**Thursday Evening Optional Reception for Conference Guests and Speakers**

Friday, May 24, 2002

7:30 a.m. Registration and Breakfast

**Dr. Victor Shamas, University of Arizona**  
**“Death: The Enigmatic Teacher”**

**Dr. John DeFrain, Professor of Family Sciences & Author**  
**“How Strong Families Endure the Death of Their Child: Research and Observations since 1975”**

Music by Paul Alexander: GriefSong

#### **Track A**

**Creative Expressions: Healing Thru Poetry**  
Kara L.C. Jones

**The Power of Meditation:  
Reconnecting Your Power**  
Paul Alexander

**Memorial Websites: Design and Maintenance  
of Your Child’s Memorial**  
Jami Garrison

#### **Track B**

**Grief in the Workplace: A Community Tragedy**  
Dr. Bud Leikvoll

**Crying with Crayolas: The Grieving Child  
The Grieving Child**  
Dr. Chip Finch

**Unspoken Connections: Intuitive Bonds  
Between Parent & Child**  
Dr. Victor Shamas

#### **Track C**

**Professionals Grieve, Too:**  
Judy Harmon, MS, RN

**Unknown Child Death:  
The Difficult Investigation**  
Sgt. Randy Force

**The Autopsy Scene  
(Sensitive Photographs)**  
Dr. Mark Fischione

**6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Messages Revealed in Our Dreams– Dr. Marlene Shiple**  
**7:30p.m. to 9:00 p.m. “Scrapbooking to Remember” Creative Workshop (Bring Photos)**

Saturday, May 25, 2002

**Breakfast 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.**  
**Sessions 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

**Track A**

**Transforming the Loss: Sharing Couples**  
**Paul Alexander**

**The Caring Physician:**  
**Dr. Guillermo Gutierrez**

**Track B**

**Child Death Investigation : Q&A Forum**  
**Sgt. Randy Force**

**From Idea to Law: Legislative Changes**  
**Richard K. Olsen**

**Track C**

**Caring for Critically Ill Children**  
**Lisa Burns, RN, BSN, CCRN**

**Suspicious Child Deaths**  
**Dyanne Greer, J.D.**

**12:30 p.m. to p.m. 2:00 Luncheon Provided**

**Honoring Our Heroes: Families Remember their Caregivers**

**Paul Alexander**  
**“The Healing Power of Song and Ritual”**

**7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**  
**Candlelight Children’s Memorial Ceremony**



**Children’s Program: For Grieving**  
**Children ages 5-17**

**Kids in Sympathy & Support**

**From 8-5 on Friday and Saturday During Adult Sessions**  
**In the Flagstaff Room**  
**During Regular Conference Hours**



**Activities include: Music Therapy, Writing and Art Expressions, Power Talk: Group Discussion, Visits from Phoenix Fire and Police Departments, Adventure Sam Magic Show, Play Time, Balloon Release to Remember**

**CONFERENCE RATES– INCLUDES BREAKFAST, BREAKS, AND LUNCHEON**

CHILDREN’S RETREAT:	ONE DAY \$30.00	TWO DAYS \$50.00
ONE DAY PER PERSON:	\$50.00	FAMILY MEMBER \$90.00 PROFESSIONAL \$100.00
TWO DAYS PER PERSON:	\$100.00	FAMILY MEMBER \$145.00 PROFESSIONAL \$150.00
THREE DAYS PER PERSON:	\$150.00	FAMILY MEMBER \$190.00 PROFESSIONAL \$240.00

**THURSDAY EVENING OPTIONAL RECEPTION DINNER ADD \$15.00 PER PERSON**  
**CONTINUING EDUCATION PROVIDED FOR PROFESSIONALS**

**SOME SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE BASED ON FINANCIAL NEED**  
**CALL 623.979.1000 FOR FINANCIAL AID OR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

**Early Registration by**  
**March 1, 2002 take \$10.00**  
**off per attendee!**  
**CEU Provided for**  
**Professionals!**

**Registration Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Check Paid: Specify Day 1, 2, 3, or ALL DAYS Rate

Adult Name \_\_\_\_\_

Adult Name \_\_\_\_\_

Child Name \_\_\_\_\_

Child Name \_\_\_\_\_

Deceased Name and Date of Birth and Death \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment  Visa  MasterCard  Bill Agency

Check

Return to: MISS Conference Registrar  
P.O. Box 5333  
Peoria, Arizona 85385

Subtotal: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Thursday Optional Reception Add \$15/person \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ PROFESSIONALS: Add Manual \$25.00

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

# Letters From Our Mailbox . . .



*Dear MISS Foundation,*

Just a note to let you know how much last night meant! After Narsingh recited his poem at the National Children's Memorial Day Ceremony, we had to leave (Shanti couldn't stop crying and they were both very cold). It warmed my heart and despite the terrible loss we are all connected by...I felt such comfort. To know my baby is in Heaven with other angels such as the ones remembered last night. I feel so blessed. As I watched my children play "tag" with your children last night I knew with a certainty that in Heaven our angels were doing the same.

It also helped my children realize that they were not alone in missing their sibling. Since last night they have been asking a lot of questions about their brother Nadir. It has been nice reliving the precious moments that I cherish with them.

Thank you for all the hard work you put into the event!

"Glory Bound" sounded absolutely wonderful! Talk about being blessed with a gift.

Again.....THANK YOU! *Thoughts and Prayers.....Jodi*

*Dearest MISS,*

I know you must always be extremely busy, but I just wanted you to know how much your book and website have meant to me. I also really like the newsletter that I received when I purchased a drawing.

I am writing a book as well, because I find that to be my only effective way of releasing my frustration, and my pain. My son was not only the best thing I've ever done but he was the only reason I was born. I dedicate my life to embracing the memory of the purest love I have ever known, my happiness, my sadness, my angel, my son, **Damien Jose Todd**.

You do an awesome job. What a comfort to the families you serve. God bless each one of you.

*Robin Moffat, Chapter President  
Marin-Sonoma Counties Mother's Against Drunk Driving*

*Dear MISS Foundation,*

The School Based Program wants to thank you for your dynamic presentation on July 13, 2001 on Child Death in the Community. This training was beneficial and informative for the staff...your dedication, teaching style and enthusiasm...adds to the learning experience...for those who work with youth and families...Enclosed are the evaluations... as you can see the staff all felt this experience was an excellent learning opportunity as well as a personal experience. Again, thank you for your time and dedication.

*Sincerely,  
Zona Pacheco  
City of Phoenix*

**Joanne,**

I just wanted to let you know that I was deeply moved by the generosity of your organization on yesterday. My husband and our three children were having breakfast after church on Sunday at Coco's when we were informed that our meal had been paid for by an anonymous patron. This random act of kindness definitely restored my faith in the milk of human kindness and it also made me curious to find out more about your organization.

It is truly a great cause to be involved in easing someone's pain during the loss of a child. I commend you for your efforts. I will continue to review your website to determine how I can be of service.

Thank you once again for allowing me and my family to be the recipient of your kindness--the impact exceeded the value of our meal and touched my soul.

Thanks once again,  
*Christy Sholola*

*"What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us." --- Emerson*

*Dearest Christy,*

*Thank you for taking the time to email me...You cannot imagine the enormity of the bittersweetness for the families- hopefully, they have shared a brief glimpse of the love they have for their child, yet they miss their child so much. The Kindness Project empowers people and honors those who have died- and perhaps, it makes the rest of us think about our own, and our children's mortality, and helps us cherish each and every moment that we share with those we love.*

*Thank you again for your email. May you and your family share a lifetime of love, joy, and happiness.*

*Sincerely,  
Joanne Cacciatore-Garard,  
Founder—MISS Foundation*



*"That all our knowledge begins with experience there can be no doubt."*

*--Immanuel Kant*

