

A Peace of Their Minds: Attendees Share!

Dear MISS,
Congratulations on another moving, profound event...these events are far more moving and sincere than any... I've attended. The only thing that comes close was Tristan's funeral service. I forgot to fill out any evaluation, but Dr. Shamas was great, very interesting style. I can see why you connected with him for this event. Dr. Garcia was good too! She is definitely on the right track with her counseling and therapy. Dr. Gutierrez certainly had a wonderful, close relationship with his son. They evidently are still communicating as they both are able to see through the "door." When we got home Saturday, I put the candles we used at the service up on Tristan's shelf, on Sunday when we were talking about him and the kids. One of the candles came flying off the shelf. I told Jordyn and she immediately said 'Tristan is with us.' We all apparently have the ability to look beyond the "door," but few of us are receptive enough to make the connection. I hope to continue working on this connection. The journey has just begun.
Andy Castellanos, Father of Tristan

Dear Joanne,
I wanted to give you a week to catch your breath ... and decompress ... before even sending you an email to read! You all did SUCH a WONDERFUL JOB of putting together the conference. I heard SO MANY positive compliments ... and comments on all the good that people were deriving! Thank you for the opportunity to present!
Warmly, Dr. Marlene Shiple

I attended the 2002 Passages conference May 23-25...I would like to say that I am impressed with the wonderful accomplishments of the

M.I.S.S. Foundation. Your service work is so needed and carried out beautifully.

Thank you, Barbara J. Church

Dear MISS Foundation,
We both would like to thank you and each one of the volunteers for a wonderful experience. This conference has given us the chance to share a very special part of our lives with others who have lived the same loss. We learned from all of you that there is a "light" at the end of the tunnel. It has been a huge blessing from God, to put you all in our path to help us understand that we can "bring out" good things out of our pain and loss. It was an overwhelming experience, but we came out stronger from it. We will continue being part of this beautiful mission. Thank you once again to you and all.

God bless, Mark & Rebeca Baker

Dear MISS Foundation
Thank-you so VERY much for another wonderful conference this year! Dr. DeFrain was absolutely EXCELLENT! I didn't fill out a questionnaire so let me tell you I'm rating him the highest rating he could possibly get. I was very touched by his level of compassion and understanding for our losses even though he'd never had a loss himself. If you have an address for him I'd like to send him a thank-you note. I also liked Dr. Shamas and will rate him with very high marks too. You'll see me every year now! On the plane home I was thinking to myself what a difference there has been in my healing when I compare last year to this year. I know the MISS conferences played a huge role in that so I'm thanking you from the bottom of my heart! It was also nice to see other people that attended

last year's conference attend again this year and see how far they've come in a year also.

Kim Lotz
California MISS Facilitator

Good morning Joanne,
Congratulations on a fantastic MISS conference this year. Our employees who attended gained so much...What a powerful secret our culture has kept--until MISS blew the lid off. Thank you and God bless you and all your members for this life-changing work.

Lani Hickman, MSW
Donor Network of Arizona

Dear MISS:
I wish to congratulate you for the success of the Passages 2002 Conference. The pictures show people working hard for what they believe in. Although I regret to say that I have not been able to attend this time, I am sure all your efforts have been worth it and many parents are grateful for it. The power and inspiration I absorbed from last year's conference have lasted and flourished in me since then...I am hopeful that next year ...I can travel again for Passages 2003. I will be looking forward to that time. People like you help those who cannot find any meaning in their lives, thank you.

Marcela Eva López

Dear Joanne --
I was just talking about your work in Arizona to the Chinese Family Strengths Conference audience here in Shanghai. How genuinely moved I was by the good you folks are doing. I would like to help in any way I can in the future.
Dr. John DeFrain,
University of Nebraska

Kids Korner



Our Kids Conference at Passages 2002

by Pam Binder

Little did I know what a life-changing experience, the M.I.S.S. Foundation's Kid's Camp retreat would be for me. I didn't actually make a conscious decision to do so, but as a friend of Joanne's (founder of MISS), she asked me to help find some volunteers to work with the children during the 2002 Passages Conference. Joanne is one of those people I just can't seem to say 'No' to, so there began my journey.

Joanne quickly paired me up with one of the most delightful people I have ever met, Marty Carnahan. Marty and I conversed by email and cell phone and somehow put everything together in just a few short weeks!

While there is no way to really prepare for a workshop like this, Marty began each day with a 'Children in Grief 101' kind of training. Before I knew it we were surrounded by some of the most incredible children I have ever met. We sang songs (lots of them!), drew pictures (hundreds!), made necklaces, played games, met firefighters and police officers, shared lunch, used more glitter than you can imagine, but most importantly we shared ourselves. We learned a lot about each other, dealing with death, and getting along with oth-



Pam Binder with Stevie Jo

ers, and some of our best teachers were less than 4 feet tall!

Another volunteer, Carly Atencio had this to say, "I met many very strong children and learned a lot about them as well as myself. I even learned how to fin-

ger-weave from two little girls and was able to take my newly acquired talent and teach a phenomenal little boy to weave! We spent lots of time on this project - he wanted to make the longest rope in the



Brandon Iverson had too much fun!

world! We used tons of yarn and lots of conversation as he managed to weave his way into my heart!"

I don't know about Carly, but I was exhausted, emotionally and physically, at the end of each day. Yet, somehow I was also renewed. These children renewed my spirit and gave me perspective I didn't even know was lacking. I came away from this event a changed person... a better person... and I have 21 incredible children to thank for it!

Yes, I am still finding glitter in strange places... what an appropriate reminder of my weekend.



Marty Carnahan, kids conference coordinator and Camp Paz volunteer, plays bongos with the children



Timmy and Jessa Dougherty having a hugging moment just before the conference

An Anonymous Kindness Project Story

One beautiful day this past winter- and by winter, here in Phoenix, Arizona, I mean a brisk 65 degrees-I was beckoned to the cemetery where my son is buried. I was at work when the strong thought/feeling came to me to get my lunch, go to the cemetery, and eat with my son. So I obeyed accordingly. After grabbing my usual from the Wendy's drive-thru, I settled on top of my son's land; where the cemetery doesn't bother growing real grass, has stupid 'visiting hours', just built themselves a massive brick office building, doesn't have a specific area for the burial of children, doesn't allow the purchase of a real headstone (only a 'marker', they're called. This basically means a flat stone the maintenance men can just drive the mower over), and every other month go through, swoop up every single item that has been left on the graves and throw them away. Alas, I digress.

Just as I settled in to my Junior Bacon-cheeseburger I heard voices approaching from behind. I turned to see three women walking towards me: a mother and her two daughters. I said hello and one of the daughters returned the gesture. They were heading right for me so I assumed either they wanted to tell me something or whomever they were visiting was buried near my son. I turned back to my food expecting them to walk by me, but they ended up stopping practically right on top of me.

Where my son is buried there is no one buried on either side of him. I have always been grateful for this seeing as how the cemetery buries our loved-ones three inches from each other. I dread the day when I show up and a fresh dirt mound is to my son's side.

The holidays were coming, and these women had a couple small bags of decorations for whomever they were visiting. The women sat in the empty plot next to me and began taking decorations from their bags. The mother began digging a small hole in the untouched ground to place a bouquet of silk flowers. I assumed they were decorating that particular area because the area they wanted to decorate, the next plot over, was already filled with decorations. It didn't take them long to finish what they set out to do. They sat there in obvious remembrance, only murmuring a couple words in Spanish here and there.

Not much time had passed when I heard the mother pronouncing my son's name; she was looking over to see with whom I was having lunch. Because you can't help but pick up some Spanish while living here in Phoenix for sixteen years, I looked up and said, "My nino." The mother shocked me by saying, in near perfect-sounding English, "My son, too" as she gestured toward ground beneath her. I was blown away by this information.

The mother went on to tell me the story of her 14-year old son whom had been shot four years earlier. It had been a scandal she will never know the answer to. The police ruled it a suicide while neighbors say the police were on site before the gun ever went off.

I asked why he had no headstone. She said the cemetery will not let her have one because she still owes money for his burial. Appalled by this, I asked why some sort of payment plan could not have been devised. She said they would not allow her the option, even though, according to her, she only owed \$700.

Suddenly, I knew why I had been called to the cemetery

that day.

I quickly finished my lunch, got into my car, and drove to the new multi-million dollar office <I assume>. I walked inside, absolutely furious as it was, to the sounds of Christmas music playing in the building. I almost threw up; I could not believe these people were That insensitive. After being ignored by the secretary for too long, I asked to speak to someone about paying off the debt for the grave of the person buried next to my son. I had obviously perplexed the young girl. She called someone else. A young man came to the front. I tried in as few words as possible, even stopping at one point to apologize for my rudeness but that I hated everything about that cemetery, including the service I had always gotten, to explain what I wanted to do. The first remark the boy made to me after I stated my case was, "We can't do that." I immediately informed him otherwise.

He then asked for the name of the person buried next to my son. "**I don't know.**" What is the name of the family? "**I don't know.**" "What is the exact location?" "**Next to my son.**"

He returned with the balance: just over \$1000.

I was able to pay off this debt for my son's neighbor because my son had given me a large monetary gift. The girl who caused the death of my son was driving a commercial vehicle, and the lawsuit with the company had just settled shortly before this day.

I was absolutely thrilled that I was able to do this. My heart was pounding and racing. I wanted the entire exchange to be anonymous, but unfortunately I had to make sure I could still catch the women at the site and have them confirm their address with the office. The deed would be mailed to them and then they could pick out the boy's marker. I didn't have a kindness card with me so I scribbled on a scrap of paper, "This random act of kindness done in loving memory of my son."

I raced back to the area and as I approached, the women were already packed up and walking towards their car. I yelled for their attention. I walked straight towards the mother and said, "I paid off your debt." It took a little more explaining for her to believe what I was saying. She fell into my arms crying. The girls also began crying joyfully and hugging each other. I told her she needed to go to the office and confirm her address so they could mail her the paperwork. She began asking for my phone number or address. I refused, wanting this to be a gift with no other reward other than her smile, and the joy of knowing her son's name was proudly displayed.

I thank my son for guiding me towards that gift, giving



me that amazing feeling. Several weeks later I arrived to see the brand new marker next to my son. Now there is no more digging to put the flowers somewhere.

From Cradle to Grave

*I once thought of my womb as evil
A killing place.*

*But, in truth, it is a place of love.
Tiny beings created here,
Out of love.
Nurtured by my blood
And the music of my heart.*

*Lying in the warmth and softness
Of my womb.
But also dying there.*

*Not alone though, never alone.
Still hearing the music
even as it fades away.
Still feeling the warmth,
For it will never grow cold.
Still feeling the love as they
Sit beneath my heart.
My womb
No longer a place of life.
A silken coffin
Cradling the quiet babe.
But still a place of love.*

Margaret Abarr
In Memory of Tyler David Abarr



*May the stars carry your sadness away,
May the flowers fill your heart with beauty,
May hope forever wipe away your tears,
And, above all, may silence make you strong.*

-Chief Dan George

Outreach Through NCNW Fair

On March 23, 2002, the MISS Foundation was represented for the first time at the Community Health Walk and Fair sponsored by the National Council of Negro Women.

This was an excellent opportunity to reach out to minorities and make them aware of the fact that there is support when you lose a loved one or if you need support to have a healthy baby through Baby's Breath: Healthy Baby Campaign. Deborah Brooks and Tiffany Bonelli are new members to MISS and attended the health fair in memory of their daughters Stephanie Denise (Nov. 1, 1986) and Brionna Baxter (6/16/01).

There were many different organizations represented at this fair that informed the public about health awareness. The 100 Black Men of America, Phoenix mentor to young black men who might not have a male

role model to become a productive citizen and stay out of gangs and drugs. Also represented there were MADD, Mother's Against Drunk Driver's, and Ebony House for males only for drug counseling and rehab. The fair provided free screenings for HIV and blood pressure. They had different activities for the children from jumping tent to making sun visors.

It was an excellent opportunity for everyone to learn more about what Phoenix has to offer to support you with getting a healthy body and mind.

We would like to thank Joanne Cacciatore of the MISS Foundation and Ramona Wright from NCNW for allowing us to represent the MISS Foundation at the Community Healthwalk and Fair.

Tiffany Bonelli-



MISS Foundation's Sacred Hearts Logo Pendant

A beautiful gift representing the eternal love between Mother and Child. This exclusive pendant is custom made of sterling silver and hangs on your choice of 20" or 24" chain. Now available with or without a birthstone. Orders for the Sacred Hearts pendant can be placed online in our store at www.missfoundation.org

or use the order form on page 17 of the newsletter. Be sure to indicate your options (i.e. birthstone month, chain size)

Pricing:	Pendant w/20" chain	\$60
	Add birthstone	add \$12
	With 24" chain	add \$5

*Grief is a tidal wave
That over takes you,
Smashes down upon you
With unimaginable force,
Sweeps you up
Into its darkness,
Where you tumble and crash
Against unidentifiable surfaces,
Only to be thrown out on
An unknown beach,
Bruised, reshaped...
Grief will make you a new person
If it doesn't kill you in the making.*

Stephanie Ericcson

Baby's Breath Healthy Baby Campaign

ARTICLE RECOMMENDS AN ECOLOGICAL APPROACH TO BREASTFEEDING

"Because cultural factors are cited by some as the major cause of low breastfeeding rates in the United States, . . . broader models are . . . needed that include sources of influence on breastfeeding beyond the mother-infant dyad," state the authors of an article published in the May/June 2002 issue of *Maternal and Child Nursing*. The authors point out that despite numerous studies attesting to the advantages of breastfeeding, the percentages of women in the United States who breastfeed are far below Healthy People 2010 goals. The purpose of this study was to elaborate a contextual, ecological model for breastfeeding and to test its goodness of fit with infant feeding data from postpartum women. An ecological model, according to the authors, takes into account societal/cultural, community, health-care-delivery-system, family, and mother-infant-dyad factors.

For the study, investigators conducted a telephone interview at 6 weeks postpartum with a convenience sample of 95 primiparous women who delivered in the mid-Michigan area between May 15, 1996, and September 15, 1996. The women were asked questions about how they were feeding their baby (breastfeeding, bottlefeeding, or both) during the first week and at 6 weeks postpartum, how prepared they were to feed their baby during the first week, and whether there was any topic related to taking care of their baby on which they would have liked more information. The authors found that the mothers' reported experiences fit the categories of society/culture, community, health-care-delivery system, family, and mother-infant dyad, suggesting a fit of the data with the proposed ecological model of breastfeeding.

Based on the women's responses, the authors recommend that

- Women should be taught to be more proactive problem solvers and should be helped to access information from a safety net of resources;

-Women should be asked to identify breastfeeding women known to them (for support);

- Hospitals should promote a more consistent breastfeeding protocol;

-Breastfeeding should become an integral part of the education of all health professionals;

- Lactation in the workplace should be supported by legislation; and

- Every community should have comprehensive lactation services funded by insurers or other sources.

The authors conclude that "although interventions may be focused at one of the layers (e.g., the individual or the community), they should not be singular, nor provided by one individual. Interventions to promote breastfeeding must occur simultaneously on many levels and at multiple intervention points."

Tiedje LB, Schoffman R, Omar M, et al. 2002. An ecological approach to breastfeeding. *Maternal and Child Nursing* 27(3):154-160.

MISS FOUNDATION'S JULY BLOOD DRIVE

Members of the community who have lost a child at any age and from any cause are invited to join in a nation wide blood drive. It will be held across the country throughout the month of July, 2002. The drive is sponsored by the M.I.S.S. Foundation to promote the Kindness Project. The M.I.S.S. Foundation's Kindness Project focuses on healing after a child's death by giving back to the community in memory of a special child. Family, friends, and community members who have been touched by the tragedy of a child's death are encouraged to participate. We invite all community organiza-

tions to participate including, but not limited to: PS: My Baby Died, Mothers Against Drunk Drivers, Compassionate Friends, the SIDS Foundation, Parents of Murdered Children, Survivors of Suicide, and city police and fire departments. Go to your local hospital or blood bank during the month of July and give blood to give life. Families who participate and who contact the MISS Foundation are encouraged to write and share their story for the Kindness Project forum board. If you are participating in this National Blood Drive, you may send a S.A.S.E. (self addressed stamped envelope) to:

The M.I.S.S. Foundation
National Blood Drive

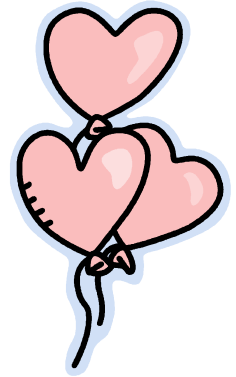
P.O. Box 5333
Peoria, Arizona 85385

Ten **FREE** Kindness cards will be sent to you to use at your blood donation or throughout the year. During the month of July, you can make an appointment with any Blood Bank or Hospital that has a Blood Center, and make a donation. You can make whole blood donations or platelet donations.

After your donation, leave your Kindness card with the name of the child you are honoring. You can get 9 other individuals to do the same... or do 9 other random acts of kindness in memory of the child you are honoring.



Remembering Our July and August Children...



Happy Birthday

July

Ben James Allman
 Kaela Summer Blancet
 Sadie Diane Brashears
 Noah Zachary Barrett
 Joshua T. Burke
 Ta-Neya Butler
 Cheyenne Cacciatore
 Dylan Wayne and Devin Paul Carlisle
 Tea Elyse Cepeda
 Gregory Clark
 Elijah Chase
 Raekwan Jones
 Alexis-Lucille Cooper-De La Cerda
 Loren Cordes
 Devon Cornell-Drury
 Bridgette Desire'-Victoria Scherr
 Skylar Marie DeLucia
 Dakotah Rayne Dougherty
 Shawn Christopher Mensing, Jr.
 MacKenzie Fitchett
 Cassandra Nicole Choquette
 Amber Cheyenne Murphy
 Zachary Isaac Gatewood
 Ryleigh Denna Green
 Anthony Froilan Albazony
 Jeffery Von Hayes
 Madison Adair Heaverin
 Jordan Ashley Heffley
 Makayla Mae Hensley
 Anouk Jaquier
 James Richard Jenkins
 Devonnte Makail Johnson
 Travis Taron Peters
 Carys Anne Kadell
 Loren Keil
 Tori Elizabeth Kuhn
 Christiana L. Kurtz
 Elijah David Lamore
 Cheyenne Bakken
 Anthony Griego
 Maclaine Elise Loomis
 Samantha Ann Lopes
 Justin Mark Madison
 Devin Jennings
 Elyse Audine Donovan
 Soren Dennehy Meagher

Abbygale Mary Miller
 Hayley Caitlin Mills
 Jonathan Navrat
 Jade Suzanne Cloud Ocevedo
 Kaylyn Rae Owen
 Tiger Paulson
 Matthew Spencer Peden Russell
 Thomas Mark Pitts
 Jennifer Lynda Perez
 Christopher Redmond
 Cienna Rae Valenzuela
 Jade Leilani Rickman
 Adam Rowells
 Justin Paul Saurey
 Walker Scott
 Jonathan Jay Shuy
 MacKenzie Jean Simmons
 Edward Lugo
 Gerard Smith
 Christen Bryce Terry
 Crystal Sheyenne Valentine-Gripp
 Kelly Lynn Wallisa
 James Anthony Weiss
 Benjamin Wood
 Brandon Soto
 Andrew George Bao Huy Zuong



August

Kayla Rose Battle
 Luke Daniel Bauman
 Marisa Reyanna Botello
 Kathleen Joy Brokaw
 Samantha Rose Bryan
 Autumn Sarah Carmack
 James "Jimmy" Carr
 Braeden Joseph Chamblee
 Alexandra Leilani Crespo
 John Devereaux
 Alexis Kay Kinsman
 Corbin Elyott Ackley
 Nicholas Ervin
 Ashlynn Etzenhouser
 Tyler S. Fields

Martin Garvan

Gomez
 Nicolas Gutierrez-Cantin
 Joel Albert Grayson
 Cassie Ann Hubbard
 Chelsea Renai Johnson
 Jared Michael Kennedy
 Braeden Alexander Krosschell
 Owen Paul Larsen
 Gabriel Anthony Lay
 Stephanie Maichel
 Francis Jason Meile
 Baily Rey Murry
 Emily Kathryn Nell
 Matthew & Zachary Noyd
 Camille Rayana Olsen
 Julian Andres Olvera
 Rexlee Byant Oxley
 Nerina Perez Stevens
 Alexa Perrone
 Alexis Victoria Rawley
 Joshua G. Roberts
 Raenne Ethelyn Russell
 Ian Martin Paul Sadler
 Reid William Drozd
 Nadir Nathaniel Shah
 Matthew Sinclair Standish
 Elizabeth Ann Byrd
 Joshua Sullivan
 Alejandra Tellez
 Dominick Chase Smith-Vega
 Ashleigh Rose Thomas
 Devyn Michael Van Houten
 Toni Velez
 Marissa Lorraine Valencia
 Jacob Winters
 Mckayla Ross
 Samantha Grace & Trevor Gearhart
 Mary Elizabeth Rowland
 Zachary Thomas Schwabe
 Odle Scott
 Maria Sierra
 Steven Thomas Terrien
 Brianna Janea Baxter
 Madison and Madeline Wetterhan
 Colin Edward Witcraft