



M.I.S.S.ing Angels

MISS Foundation

A Sanctuary for Bereaved Families

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The Year of the Dragonfly

Barb and Mike Bolar

Reflections by Barb Bolar
Mother of Maggie Lynn



The dragonfly has worked its way into my existence. We were thrilled to be pregnant with our first together, a little girl. With great hope and the usual decorating excitement, I purchased our first item, her crib bedding. I didn't realize until I made the on-line purchase, that the fabric had ever-so-subtle images of dragonflies in it. Little did I know how much this creature would permeate our lives after losing Maggie Lynn on February 13, 2002.

Following our loss, I immediately purchased boxes of thank you cards with a dragonfly image to thank the many people who reached out to us in our time of sor-

row. In each card I mentioned how the dragonfly had become a reminder to me. I had no idea what I had started...the dragonfly gifts started pouring in. Friends told me that they no longer could pass anything with a dragonfly without thinking about Maggie. I have since received a multitude of dragonfly gifts from candles to jewelry to a tabletop waterfall. How could this creature, previously insignificant, come to touch my life so intimately?

Earlier this week, I waited at my step-daughter's school to pick her up. While waiting, I was intensely anxious. We had just found out we were expecting again. I was worrying incessantly that day - as I guess most would after a loss - about the health of this one. As I stood there, already emotional with anxiety, I heard a

(Continued on page 2)



Gifts, Garlands, and Grief

I remember our first Christmas after. It began the first week of November in 1997, three short months into our worst nightmare, but a lifetime into missing our child of eighteen years. He had died suddenly, one of those "in the wrong place at the wrong time" things, and he took our hearts with him when he left.

Summer screeched to a halt and autumn came and went without our participation.

Still standing in confusion at the threshold of grief, we were stunned when the stores replaced the gloomy ghosts and goblins with sparkling ornaments and cheerful decorations. Neighbors strung lights on their houses, friends sent cards wishing us joy filled holidays, and not one person mentioned Jason's name.

Closing our drapes, we huddled in our cocoon, waiting for his return.

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Take Note:

- MISS Chapters across the country! See page 22 for chapter information
- See Safe Arrivals on Page 18
- Our hearts go out to the families of these children for their recent losses Page 15



The Year of the Dragonfly

(continued from cover)

little girl hollering to her friend...
“Maggie, Maggie...” I immediately welled up and almost fell apart when, a mere two seconds past, my eyes traveled to another little girl walking right past me. She had a T-shirt on with, you guessed it, a dragonfly on the front. At that anxious moment, I was calmed. I felt like Maggie was there, telling me ‘I’m okay and don’t worry about this one either.’”

My Maggie will always be in my heart. Even though she’s gone, I had no idea I’d be “seeing” her as much as I have, thanks to a dragonfly.

*Reflections by Mike Bolar
Father of Maggie Lynn*

The dragonfly has worked its way into my existence. A year ago I often thought I was seeing a dragonfly when I was really seeing a damselfly. I didn’t know the difference then, but now I do. The damselfly is a common creature... you see a lot of them. They are found in beautiful places close to water. I have noticed a lot of people will call a damselfly a dragonfly. A very innocent mistake, but a dragonfly is different. A dragonfly is very seldom seen. Damselflies are seen often and they flit around like little children. A dragonfly is seldom

seen and when it is, it doesn’t let you have a good long look at it.

This year I have had many dragonfly sightings. Today while walking by the Missouri River on a business trip, I saw a dragonfly and, for a second, thought it was a bird. When my eyes focused on it, I saw two pairs of wings flying in the pattern of a dragonfly. Then it was gone. Earlier this year I saw a giant bronze sculpture of a dragonfly. Only because it was a sculpture, still and not moving, was I able to stand and stare and soak in its image.

I am sure neither of those sightings or others since would have stood out to me, had it not been for another sighting. The other sighting occurred over a year ago when my wife Barb purchased bedding for our daughter’s upcoming birth. The cloth had the subtle image of a dragonfly woven into its fabric. I wasn’t aware of its importance at the time, but somehow Barb knew a dragonfly would become significant to us.

On February 13, 2002, the most elusive Maggie Lynn was born. She was born almost four months before her time. She came when we did not expect her and she lived for only a min-

ute. Then she was gone. Fortunately, we were able to hold her for a while and soak in her image. Thankfully the hospital staff knew we would need to have those precious few moments to behold our Maggie.

Somehow to my wife, the dragonfly immediately became a symbol of Maggie. Barb made the connection due to the bedding. I did not. Unlike my wife’s immediate connection, mine was more gradual. First, many gifts with dragonflies started coming to Barb. I gave Barb a dragonfly pin for Mother’s Day. Today, I find myself seeking dragonflies in nature. When I’m in places where I might be able to see a dragonfly, I find myself looking for them. My mind immediately associates with Maggie. Through this experience, I’ve discovered that it is much more common to see damselflies and rare to see a dragonfly. They are seldom seen and, when you do, it’s usually brief, as though they cannot stay long. Their image has to live in your mind, like Maggie.



“For it was not into my ear you whispered, but into my heart. It was not my lips you kissed, but my soul”

Judy Garland

Living With Silence

I open my eyes in the morning and I think of you.
I wish I was wakened by your little voice crying for me.

Instead of this silence.

The silence is the most difficult part.

I was prepared to take care of you.

Your room is still set up.

Your clothes are still in the drawers

I awaited anxiously for your arrival.

But instead my house is silent.

The labor was what I expected.

It was worth every moment just to have you with me.

But then when I delivered you...you were silent.

Deafening silence filled my ears.

Screaming silence.

No cry, no breath, no movement.

Horrible silence.

My crying and screaming filled the room.

But your silence outweighed the noise.

It hung like a black cloud over my head.

And quickly enveloped my entire body.

Covered me in a cold, wet, chilling blanket of misery.

So now I am trying to live with the silence.

It will be forever there.

Haunting my days and my nights.

The happiest and saddest moment in my life.

All rolled into one fiery ball of silence.

by Lynne Barberian, in memory of Rachel

Thanksgiving passed. I recall the empty chair, the unbroken wishbone, and more turkey than three of us could eat. There was an unwatched football game and a failed attempt at gratitude. That was our day, and it was good enough. It was inconceivable that we would ever enjoy another holiday, much less be thankful for it.

Snow fell. Carols rang out, lights twinkled, church bells pealed. Our thoughts were of Jason, fixed more acutely on his departure than on his arrival eighteen years before. Memories of prior Decembers pervaded our present. Jason ice fishing. Jason sledding. Jason's birthday. Jason opening gifts. Jason throwing tinsel on the tree, on his brothers, and on the dog. Every memory brought tears but every tear brought Jason closer to us. We found him in the pain, the only place we knew how to get to. I believe that first Christmas had to be that way. Showing up was the best we could do.

But now it is six trees, six silent nights, and six collectable ornaments later. I've learned a few things about this path I'm on and found a few crutches for when the road gets too rough. Holidays can be disabling for those who grieve. I'd like to share some things that might help:

--Believe that your loved one is with you. Include them in your celebrations and in your sadness. Include them when you talk with others about old times and holidays past. If you don't mention them, no one else will.

--Talk to THEM. They hear your thoughts...and if you listen, you can hear their replies.

--Light candles. For six years now I have lit a special candle for my son. This year I will light five, one for each of us, living or not. Why perpetuate the myth of separation? Jason is still a part of this family.

--Do good things in celebration of your loved one's life (see MISS Foundation's Kindness Project) bring smiles to everyone involved. Buy anonymous gifts, scoop snow from a stranger's sidewalk, or light candles at unmarked graves.

--Connect with your loved one who has died. Buy yourself a holiday reading with a reputable medium, take a meditation class, create a special place to go to where you can feel their presence.

--Call a newly bereaved friend or neighbor and invite them to reminisce with you. Cry with them, listen to them, share your journey.

--Give to an organization that your loved one supported.

--Make a memory tree. Buy a small tree and decorate it with tokens of their life.

--Don't worry about what others will think. You are solely in charge of this journey. It's all yours.

Love someone who is grieving? Lost as far as how to help them through this upcoming season? Any of the above suggestions can be adapted (i.e. give money in celebration of their loved one's life and tell them about it, make them a memory tree, buy them a reading with a medium) to fit your needs. However, there are two gifts that you can give to a person deep in the pit of grief that will mean more than anything else:

1. Undivided attention
2. Unconditional acceptance of their journey, wherever it leads them

I won't end this article with a wish that you have your merriest Christmas ever. I know that for some of you that is not possible or even desirable. Instead, my wish for you is this: That you find a quiet moment during the sometimes magical but often horrendous season upon us and relax. That you take a few deep breaths, close your eyes, and envision your child, sibling, or grandchild. That you accept that dead doesn't mean GONE. That you send out a "Merry Christmas" and "I love you" and then BELIEVE when you hear his or her whispered reply of "I love you, too. Merry Christmas."

Sandy Goodman is the author of Love Never Dies (Jodere Group, 2002), and the founder and chapter leader of the Wind River Chapter of The Compassionate Friends. In 2003, Sandy will speak at the National Compassionate Friends Conference in Atlanta.



Ama me fideliter! Fidem meam noto: De corde totaliter Et ex mente tota, Sum presentialiter Absens in remota."

Latin: "Love me faithfully!/See how I am faithful:/With all my heart/And all my soul/I am with you/Though I am far away."

-Anonymous

Courage to Break the Silence

A letter to my daughter in memory of her 16th birthday

It's been sixteen years; why did this happen? Why couldn't my life go on as usual? Why would your death come back and turn my whole world inside out?

It was a beautiful day, October 31, 1986. The sun was shining and there was a cool autumn breeze in the air. Grandma Robinson and I went out for breakfast to celebrate her birthday. During breakfast I insisted grandma go on with her busy day, I would be fine going to the doctor's alone. Little did I know that day would change my life forever

I arrived at the doctor's office only to be rushed to the hospital in a taxicab. The hospital was only about twenty minutes away, but those were the longest and loneliest minutes of my life. I sat there in silence because I knew something was terribly wrong, I guess it was a mother's instinct.

The doctor arrived shortly after all the test had been reviewed. He walked into the room (as pale as a ghost) and said, "I'm sorry your baby is dead". Silence filled the room. I couldn't cry, I couldn't breath, I couldn't think. I was suppose to give you life, why couldn't I give you mine?

After hours of labor and no medication (until the very end) I suffered. I wanted to suffer. That's all I could do for you. I gave you life for nine months but couldn't give you life outside my body. On November 1, 1986, you were delivered stillborn at 8lbs and 3ozs. Because of the guilt, shame, and fear I was experiencing, your Dad, his Pastor, and I buried you alone. No family, no friends, no service- only a few words and then the silence. So I spent the next fourteen years in silence, only talking about you to your Dad and your brother Kyle.

Stephanie my love, for fourteen long years I've grieved for you silently. The silence was destroying my inner being, and I knew my struggle was not against flesh and blood, so I prayed and sought counseling. After months of prayer and counseling I began to regain my self -confidence, but the silence was still there.

But with a twist of fate, the MISS Foundation came into my life and the silence was broken. I can no longer be silent, I gave you life even if it was for only nine months. Your life

and death matter. While your death was a tragedy, the real tragedy was my silence. Please forgive me. How can I expect for society to acknowledge you as my daughter if I'm not willing to stand up and be your voice?

The silence was broken for me, but at what price? Because **I cannot and will not** go back to being silent, or go back to the way things were, I've found myself being isolated. Did I really think this would be easy? "He went to his own and his own received him not." I've been blessed with a servant's heart, so how can I not reach out and help another mother or family whose child has died? "Here I Am Send Me".

Stephanie because of you, my faith, and the MISS Foundation, I've found that inner peace and courage to put on the full armor. Once I was afraid of the silence but now through the silence I see your beautiful face and feel your presence. I can only image what you would be like, and one day we will have our quiet time together. But for now your mom will keep touching others through your love and your life.

Happy 16th Birthday Sweetheart --Love, Mom

*By Debra Brooks
in memory of Stephanie Denise Brooks*



"Life is hard, at times as hard as crucible steel. It has its bleak and difficult moments. Like the ever-flowing waters of the river, life has it moments of drought and its moments of flood. Like the ever-changing cycle of the seasons, life has the soothing warmth of its summers and the piercing chill of its winters. And if one will hold on, he will discover that God walks with him, and God is able to lift you from the fatigue of despair to the buoyancy of hope, and transform dark and desolate valleys into sunlit paths of inner peace.

Martin Luther King Jr.

Acceptance

By Jackie Nell

Over the last two years I've dreaded that word. I've had to accept things before, like the accident that occurred when I was 11 years old, the accident that almost took my life and left me severely scarred and broken.

I came through that with a new perspective on life and the realization that had it not happened I wouldn't be the same person that I am today. I could accept the pain that I went through and also the subsequent surgeries that I had to face. These were character building; I was a strong person.

I came through with a sense of purpose – I was alive so that I could make a difference in this world. I accepted

the accident as an event that helped to shape the person that I am today.

My life as I knew it came crashing down on August 26, 2000. Once again I had almost died from something unexpected – this time it was a liver rupture in my 30th week of pregnancy. I had lost a massive amount of blood and landed in ICU on a respirator.

Lying in a hospital room several days later, I knew all too well what the road of recovery would be like on my physical body. I knew that I could accept the physical pain and struggle to get well. Emotionally, however, I didn't know if I could face what had happened.

This time, it was more than just my body that was injured. My first born child, my precious little girl, was dead. After my body started to shut down, her little heart stopped beating. She died because I could no longer sustain her life.

This I didn't know how to recover from. This I thought could have no purpose, no positives, no light at the end of the tunnel. What good can come from the death of your own child?

Two years ago I thought that to accept Emily's death meant that I needed to
(cont'd)

My Wish for Your Fourth Birthday, Samantha

by LeeAnn Morlan

My Wish For Your 4th Birthday, Samantha
As your 4th Birthday quickly approaches,
I think of all we have lost.
Then I think to ask God if I could have your
first year back so you would be here with me.
Oh, how wonderful life would be!
Your first words and steps we would hear.
Little hands to wrap around my neck
and slobbery kisses on my cheek.
Our home would be so complete!
Then, I think to ask God if we could have you till
you turn two or even three.
All the pictures we would take,
All the places we would see,
I think I would never sleep as long
as you were here with me!
I wouldn't want to miss a second of
precious time given with you.
As your 4th Birthday approaches,
I know I would ask for one more.
This is the year you would start Preschool.
The "Shining Star" you would be.
Everyone would love you.
Your adorable giggles and charm would be
as contagious as can be.
What about Kindergarten?...I couldn't miss that!
Then I think all the way to 10.
You're becoming a little lady.

How pretty you would be.
"The fairest of them all"
What a sight it would be to see.
Maybe you would play dress up with my make-up,
Maybe we'd go shopping and do lunch.
What about "Sweet 16" and driving lessons with Daddy?
That's the part he's been waiting for.
Could you stay for that?
But wait, there's more...
As I think about your life and what there could have been,
There is never enough time to have you here again.
Life without you is endless.
Next would come Proms and boyfriends.
Then we would see your graduations.
Perhaps one day, we would see you walk down the isle.
What a beautiful Bride you would be.
Then I would hope to see you have your own baby.
A "Happy Ending", I would wish.
For I would never want to see you miss a day
Of absolute bliss.
I would wish you none of the heartache
I have experienced since
that day your soul was set free.
Not a day goes by that I don't wish
you were here with me.
We're remembering you on your 4th Birthday in Heaven,
Samantha Ashley Morlan
December 8- December 11, 1998

Acceptance

(continued from page 5)

reach a point I could reflect on how that event changed me for the better and I would feel that I was better off having gone through it. Because acceptance meant this, I was positive that I NEVER wanted to “accept” Emily’s death. With my childhood accident I could say that I would not change the events even if I could. How could I ever make that sort of statement about my daughter’s death? I would stop Heaven and Earth to allow her to live; to see her, hold her, watch her grow up. Acceptance just wasn’t in the cards.

I have come to realize that the requirements for acceptance I had two years ago were flawed. Acceptance is not the act of finding a greater purpose in an event. Acceptance is the silence that finally replaces your heart and mind’s continual scream, “Please God let this not be true! Let my daughter be alive!”

My energy is no longer spent on trying to change the unalterable reality of my daughter’s death. I’ve found ways to remember her life and to cherish the time I had with her. She is with me throughout each day, in everything that I do. Emily resides in my heart and speaks to me through the beauty of the world around me. I will never forget my

beautiful red headed girl. She is and will forever be the child of my dreams.

In memory of Emily Kathryn Nell, who entered this world silently on August 26, 2000. Happy Birthday sweet girl.

FOCUS

Painted ceilings, decorated walls
Spacious tile, gorgeous murals

FOCUS

Lush carpet, paved stone
Swirled Marble, colored glass

FOCUS

Tainted water, broken shells
wrinkled curtains, overgrown weeds

FOCUS

Flowerless vases, empty rooms
unfinished drawings, broken wings
My Heart

by Tara Marino

in memory of Mason James Marino

In Loving Memory of Cheyenne “Shawnee” Autumn

by Kym Smith

In a quiet hillside graveyard
Where the gentle breezes blow,
Lies the one we love so dearly
Taken from us four years ago.

Your resting place I visit and put pretty flowers there
No one knows the heartaches
When I have to turn and leave you there.

My heart still breaks with sadness
Tears continue to flow
Oh.... what it meant to lose you, no one.... will ever know.

Your music box reminds us, playing quietly throughout,
That you are ever near us, we never have a doubt.

They say time heals all sorrows and helps one to forget,
But time so far has only proved,
How much we love you yet.

Each time I look at your beautiful smile in pictures,
And see those beautiful blue eyes,
I still stop, and stare, cry and wonder why?

Forever my beautiful granddaughter, until we meet again.
This your "5th" birthday..... no kindergarten, or school
buses, no more hugs or butterfly kisses.

Your birthday, we will never forget.
Just barely 14 months, is all we had to share,
but I will treasure those
Months, my entire lifetime, until we meet again.

*Forever Loved, Forever MISSED,
Naa-Naa, Pap & Uncle Bub
Mommy, Daddy & Sister Sierriah.*

*Happy Birthday, Shawnee
October 11th, 1997 – November 30th 1998*



Our Story: Baby Allyson

by Cari Karpus

After the loss of my mother on August 6, 2001, we began trying to conceive a child. On September 1, 2001 my husband's mother died. Then there was September 11, 2001.

On October 30th we found out I was pregnant. Some good news amidst so much turmoil. In January of 2002, we were told that our baby was growing small and we were given a worst case scenario of many various congenital anomalies. We prayed and believed our baby was fine.

On April 3, at a routine growth ultrasound the doctor found that I was contracting. Monitoring discovered the baby was having heart decelerations. The cord was wrapped around her neck. I was admitted to Bridgeport Hospital. The next day she had unwrapped herself but they kept me for observation. This was how she got the name Amazing Allyson.

The next morning, my water ruptured. I stayed with normal fluid levels for 8 weeks. There was poor growth in the baby and the doctor felt that she might grow better outside the womb. She was born via cesarean on May 26, 2002 weighing 2 pounds 11 ounces, and was 14 inches long. We named her Allyson Sabrina Karpus.

The doctor knew something was wrong immediately. Her eyes were fully dilated and she did not respond to light. Her cry was weak. The first genetic test results showed normal chromosomes but she did have septo-optic dysplasia. Parts of her brain including the optic nerves were either missing or poorly developed. Still, we loved her and we prepared to bring home a baby with 'special needs'.

At two weeks of age, Fsh tests found a deletion in her 5th chromosome and confirmed Cri Du Chat. I spent all my days either preparing to go to the hospital or at the hospital with her. I was pumping my breast milk every 3 hours and I was exhausted but optimistic for my sweet tiny baby girl. She required oxygen and this concerned me. She also had severe acid reflux and only ate via a feeding tube for fear of aspiration.

Many tests were done and she had a couple of bad holes in her heart. She was sent to Yale Children's Hospital for surgery. All along, the neonatologists were telling us of our option to 'let her go' because of her 'quality of life'. We could not fully understand the enormity of that until more genetic test results, cardiac analysis, and neurologi-

cal information revealed the total picture.

I had researched Cri Du Chat and had three acquaintances who were raising children with it. But this was not just Cri Du Chat. Allyson had a rare genetic anomaly where the 5th chromosome was broken off and the 14th chromosome had made 3 and stuck onto the broken 5. This was causing severe brain abnormality and a serious heart defect. We were told she may never come off ventilation, never know anymore than that she was hungry or full, not be able to eat by mouth, and possibly never come home.

We had to make a decision that day whether to let her have heart surgery to prolong her life until she could grow enough for the surgery she needed to repair her heart defect. To compound the problem, the genetic anomalies caused growth retardation. She would probably require a tracheostomy for at least one year and most likely have it for life. She had already been on a ventilator for two days. I watched my beautiful, sweet baby girl suffering.

We cried, prayed, talked to family, and cried more. We went to the church and lit candles for her. We decided to let her go. We held her in our arms until she died. She fought so hard to breathe. It was so horrible for us to watch her die. She died after only one hour. It was July 10, 2002.

I miss her so much. I think of her before I sleep. While I sleep I dream of her and awake thinking of her. I cry everyday at some point. This was a genetic fluke but I had a c-section so I have to wait to even try to get pregnant again. I know another baby will not replace Allyson but I so want a baby to love and hold and nothing will ever bring her back so life must go on.

That is our story. I thank God for the 6 weeks we had to hold her, know her and love her. I will never forget her.

*In loving memory of Allyson Sabrina Karpus
May 26, 2002-July 10, 2002*

*"We are all born for love. It is the principle of existence, and its only end."
-Benjamin Disraeli*

Kids Korner



“The most honest, truth-telling in this world is done by children.” Oliver Wendall Holmes



ANG by Jullian Bernath (aged 10)

*I am an angel swift in the breeze
Searching and looking for anyone's needs.
I soar above the clouds and ease through the sky.
I keep track of any known lies.
Little ones cry out for help but don't worry,
I'll be about.*

Maria Shriver has written a book entitled What's Heaven? that has just been recently published. What follows is an interview she did explaining why she wrote a book that talks to kids about death.

Question: Ms. Shriver, can you tell us a bit about your book, What's Heaven?.

MS: It's a book filled with children's questions and answers about death. The questions are actual questions from kids and so are most of the answers. The book has beautiful illustrations and the questions are woven into a story about a little girl named Kate. My hope was that the book would enable families to begin talking about the very difficult subject of death.

Question: What inspired you to write a children's book about death?

MS: Well, I have four children and I spend a tremendous amount of time reading to all of them. I see how much they enjoy books and illustrations. I found that when I was looking for

a book that would explain this subject to children there was nothing available. That fact combined with my grandmother's death made me think that this would be a good idea.

Question: Do you bring faith and God into this book? How do you handle those difficult topics...especially to a non-believer?

MS: Yes, I bring faith and God into the book. But, this is a book that I hope appeals to all religions. I explain death as a process of your life being over here on earth and that you go to Heaven to be with God. I talk about the soul and I try to give answers to very basic questions.

Question: Would a two- or six-year old be able to understand?

MS: It is definitely a book a six-year old would understand and I think be interested in. It deals with what happens when your life here on earth is over.

Question: What age group would you say your book is for?

MS: Well, I wrote it with the hope that it would appeal to five- through ten-year olds. But several parents have told me that they have read it to two- and three-year olds, and that the kids stayed with it. What has also been great for me is to hear how many adults have loved the book. So many people have commented to me that the book takes them to places in their minds that they never imagined, or had not visited in years.

Question: Did you work with your kids on the book at all? Did you run things by them to see what they thought?

MS: Yes, in fact most of the book came from my kids. My daughter jokes that it should say written by her and not me. Ninety percent of all the questions in the book are real children's questions and the answers as well.

Question: Did you find it difficult to tell the story while trying to keep to language that would keep the attention of kids?

MS: Yes, I did struggle with how real to make it, how specific... But, I also really enjoyed the process. I love to write and the idea that families would read this together made it really worthwhile. Thank you and I hope you enjoy it.



THE ROSE by Steven Sutcliffe (aged 11)

*The new rose blooms
We see its lovely flower
Then dies in autumn*

Allen's Life Lessons

When my son Allen died earlier this year, I thought the world would end. The world did not end but kept moving on, faster than ever. I shared Allen's story with so many *and so few really wanted to hear*. My friend Devon Meyer was different though. She allowed me to be sad and didn't run anyway, no matter how painful it was. Instead she and I explored the depths of our souls and continue to find meaning in a life so short but so beautiful! About a month after Allen's death, Devon told me that she wanted to dedicate her next art show in memory of Allen. Devon's message was simple but oh so clear. Devon's art was going to capture the innocent beauty of life and nature as seen through children's eyes in memory of the short but amazing life of Allen.

"Through the death of Allen and other recent tragedies, I came upon the stark realization that those you love and life itself is truly a special gift. Through this show, I attempt to capture the moments in life that we so often take for granted.

A child's' perspective, so fresh and new, helps us to see things we no longer notice or don't stop to appreciate. Allen's short life helped me realize each moment is precious, and life is not to be taken for granted. Perhaps something good can be learned from something so tragic." Devon Meyer

Devon had a one night only art show as part of the First Friday Art Walk in downtown Phoenix on September 6th.



Left to right: Toby and Karen Crofford, Devon Meyer, Laura and James Curtis

My husband and I flew out Friday afternoon and were greeted by an intense dust and thunderstorm. The skies were beautiful and the winds provided a "cool" desert evening. A magical night for our little guy's show. We were such proud parents! The show was wonderful! The studio was full most of the evening with great energy. Other MISS parents who attended were Michelle and Hector Ruiz, parents of Kai Noa and Karen and Toby Crofford, Wesley Allen's parents, both from the Phoenix area. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to The MISS Foundation.

Included in Devon's show was a piece inspired by a poem that was written by a bereaved grandparent, Beryle L. Greenwald. Some of you probably know her as Dakota's Nanna Meemo. Her poem was written at the 2002 MISS Conference during the poetry seminar that I was attending. Little did I know, as I was writing my own words, that someone else in the room was writing her own magical words that would soon inspire a piece for Allen's show.

It is truly a small world and life, every day of it, is a gift!

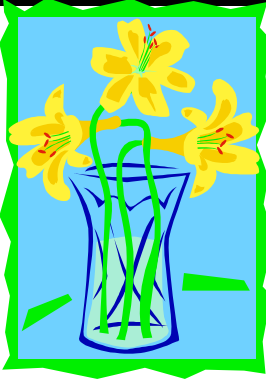
Devon also made a wonderful little book called "Allen's Life Lessons" with some of the great life lessons both she and I have learned through his life and death.

Laura Curtis - *in memory of Allen Robert Curtis*



Portrait of "Nanna Meemo,"
Beryle L. Greenwald

FLORAL DESIGN CLASS



Today is the fifth anniversary of my son's death.

I went to the cemetery to put new flowers in his vase. I do this every

couple of months. It's the only thing left to take care of for him; his grave. I keep his head stone brushed off, I pull the grass and weeds to keep them from encroaching, and I make sure his vase always has pretty flowers.

Since his death, I knew I'd have to take a floral design class, as this is not one of my strong points even though I am a pretty artistic person. Every flower arrangement is lopsided -always. Or worse, I buy the floral picks and just shove it in the vase and try to bend the flowers out. Like I'm fooling anyone, right?

So today, five years after his death, I made my first move to floral design class and I'd like to invite you to

come with me. **The class is Saturday, November 30 at 4:30 pm at Jo Ann's Etc. at Arrowhead Center.** Come on, we'll have fun, you'll see. We must rid the cemetery of lopsided vases and beautify our children's graves.

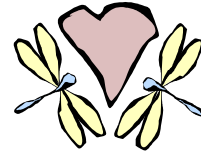
The cost is \$20 per person to register (plus the cost of supplies), with the proceeds going to MISS. We will be using the plastic cemetery vases to practice on. We will leave with a pretty, and hopefully, upright and un-lopsided vase...unless of course you like that sort of thing.

What: Floral Design Class

Where: Jo Ann's Etc.
SWC of 83rd Ave &
Bell Rd, Glendale, AZ

When: Saturday, November 30
4:30 pm to 6:30 pm

Registration and payment must be made in advance to me by November 20th. Please call Anna Kennedy at 602.439.9025 or email me with any questions at
Anna@missfoundation.org



Heart Felts

We would like to thank **Sheri Mayfield**, of Brownsburg, IN, and **Cynthia Donahue**, doctoral candidate, for their generous donations to the MISS Foundation. Everyone who donates time *and money* are truly the backbone of this organization.

A special thank you to **Integrated Web Strategy** and **Wes Gullett** for allowing MISS to use it's facilities for our training sessions.

Our MISS members made the 2nd Annual MISS Foundation 2002 Children's Memorial Golf Tournament a huge success this year. Thank you **Tammy Haimovitz** for the hard work and effort and your extraordinary talents. And to all her volunteers, **Andy Castellanos, Angela Iverson, Paula Rauschkolb, Melissa Delgado, Rob Dalager, Cindi Nannetti, and Stevie Jo Cacciadore.** And, of course, to all the golfers who were there to make this year's tournament one of the best MISS fundraiser this year. Watch for our tournament report in the next issue.

The MISS Foundation would also like to thank **Leslie Clemenson**, Colorado facilitator, for helping set up the teleconference facilitator training sessions. Great job!



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 place 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

What It Is

It is madness says reason
It is what it is, says love
It is unhappiness says caution
It is nothing but pain, says fear
It has no future says insight
It is what it is, says love
It is ridiculous says pride
It is foolish, says caution
It is impossible says experience
It is what it is, says love.

-Erich Fried

Baby's Breath: *Because each breath is a gift*

Prolonged Stress For Crash Victims

In 90 percent of families with children injured in a traffic crash, the child or a parent will suffer at least one significant acute stress symptom, a study at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia reveals. Also, 25 percent of children and parents experience more pervasive symptoms that warrant clinical attention.

The study included 97 children who were admitted to The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia for traffic-related injuries between July 1999 and May 2000. The children had been injured in a traffic crash in which the child was a passenger, a pedestrian or a bicyclist.

"A key component to assessing acute stress is that pediatricians understand how both parents and children respond to a child's injury," the researchers said. "It is normal for parents to be very distressed in the aftermath of a child's injury, yet parents' own acute stress symptoms may influence a child's response to the traumatic event."

The findings should help physicians distinguish between normal reactions to trauma and reactions that require further care and follow-up, the researchers said.



"No Honey For You, Honey"



Honey should never be fed to infants younger than 12 months. Honey can harbor bacterial spores that can cause botulism (a form of food poisoning) in infants.

Adults and children older than 1 year are routinely exposed to, but not affected by these spores. Infants however are still building up immunity to them and can have serious health problems if exposed to it too soon.

Parents of young children should not:

- Add honey to baby's food, water or formula.
 - Dip baby's pacifier in honey.
 - Give baby honey as medicine.



Evaluation of System of Care for Women Experiencing Domestic Violence

"The finding that protocols were not used, and that education showed mixed results, is consistent with recent implications that current guidelines emphasizing training and protocols may require a systematic approach to behavior change," state the authors of an article about provider evaluation of a system of care for pregnant women experiencing domestic violence published in the January/February 2002 issue of *Women's Health Issues*. The Health Resources and Services Administration's Maternal and Child Health Bureau sponsored four demonstration projects in May 2000 to develop system-based interventions for domestic violence during the perinatal period; the focus of the projects is on culturally appropriate methods. This article describes and evaluates one of these projects, a multifaceted system of care located in an academic family medicine health center in a low-income area of the Bronx, NY. The authors report on the components of an intervention and evaluate medical providers' self-reported behavior changes and perceptions of the project.

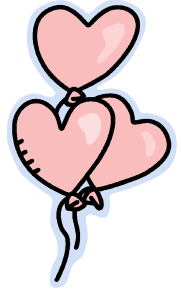
For the project, changes were made to existing systems of care for pregnant women experiencing domestic violence. These changes were based on national and local recommendations for implementing domestic violence interventions. The changes included (1) implementing staff training and a domestic violence curriculum for medical providers; (2) providing a domestic violence protocol, with written chart prompts; (3) launching a public health campaign; (4) eliciting medical provider feedback; (5) effecting quality improvement; and (6) providing an on-site domestic violence coordinator. Using baseline and follow-up provider surveys and qualitative assessment, the authors learned that

- * Providers did not use most protocol materials;
- * Providers relied on the support of a domestic violence coordinator to enhance their practice;
- * Chart prompts were useful for encouraging routine screening;

(cont'd on page 15)



Remembering Our November and December Children...



Happy Birthday

NOVEMBER

Tyler David Abarr
Guadalupe Arellano
Eloy Arevalo, Jr.
Brandon Kyle Ball
Brianna Raye Ball
Courtney Begay
Colby Lee Bellissimo
Samuel James Bercich
Wyatt Edward Boehly
Ethan Michael Bousquet
Toby Lee Boyd
Charlotte Fulton Brochhausen
Stephanie Denise Brooks
Carolyn Ann Burley
Serena Carlson
Jeremy Russell Chepeus
Peyton Doren
Aric Michael Dunn
Isiah Ellis
Daniel Engle, III
Sean Michael Evans
Hannah Fenstermaker
Nathaniel Fleeman
Christina Teran Gajdecki
Spencer Gallard
Joshua Girard
Kimberley Gratke
Gregory James Halinar
Hailee Miranda Karen Hildreth
Dylan Ryan Jackson
Phillip Thomas Johnson
Ryan Hudson Jones
Phillip Damien Leach
Megan Leach
Colten Loose
Saul Elian Guerrero-Lopez
Conner Brian Thomas Loughlin
Christopher Michael Masterson
Patience Mathieson
Kaylee Ranae McCully
Ian James McLoone
Hope Elizabeth Meek
Eric Christopher Mikkelson
Mercedes Lynn Miller
Manuel Andres Nunoz
Jordenn Polk
Emily Nicole Rauschkolb
Victoria Jenae Renteria
Allen Rivera

Kai Noa Ruiz
Jocelyn Ann Sanders
Taylor Louise St. Laurent
Harrison Lennon Thiergart
Brooke Hailey Thompson
Mirage Trujillo
Amanda Marie Truxell
Joshua Francisco Villabolos-Blanco
Collin James Watson
Damien Michael Webb
Bronson and Garrett Wetzell
Zane Allen White
Faith Caprice Wright
Jason E. Wynn, Jr.
Dakota William Young

DECEMBER

Brieanna Jo Andersen
Jaylee Angel
Michael Joseph Arias
Keathon Armstrong
Corrie Armstrong
Seachel Arnwine
Dennison Aston
Riley Simone Baca
Chandler Bailey
Michael Camerson Bartkus
Trevor James Blackburn
Lydia Jean Boettcher
Joshua David Brokaw
Ahlyjah Bryden
Brodie Myles Kehoe Nainoa Buchwach
Tyrin O. Callhan
Jacob Daniel Castaneda
Justin Anthony Castro
Sean Connelly
Elysia Isabel Contreras
Candace Correll
Justin Cox
Isaac Ryan Cruz
Ashley Lynn Daniel
Connor Jack Dicke
Vivian Ann Edwards
Jenalee Edwards
Dana Jane Franklin
Malcolm Issac Freeman
Magdalena Gajdecki
Kendra Charity Gidley
Darrell Pennington Givens
Brittney Angelique Grace
Adam Grosz



Rachel Ann Hage
Jessica Marie Hajdo
Ashleigh Marie Hargis
Aaron Hayes
Vanessa Denae Hong
Alexander Marin Johnson
Jacob Kisto
Macy J. Kelly
John Lafferty, Jr.
Sarah Lusk
Dylon James-Dean Marsh
Celine Martinez
Kelsey Mayo
Julia Marie McDonnell
Grace McVicar
Imogen Mighty Meagher
Blake Merrow
Tristian Rae Miller
Sydney Rose Mitchell
Emma Montgomery
Dalton Moretti
Samantha Ashley Morlan
Marcello Muller
Johnny Nichols
Michelle Villa Noriega
Daniella Palacios
Joshua and Shawn Peters
Colten Riley Pitsch
Mario E. Ramirez
Jhossiami Ramirez-Ruiz
Emily Ann Risberg
Megan Camille Rowley
Brittany Michelle Dawn Runyan
Nicholas Daniel Scott Runyan
Tristan Salamanca
Gabriel Salzbrenner
Michaela Danielle Samarripa
Bryce and Brianna Schindele
Abigail Bowers Steckler
Grace Nicole Steger
Jared Leonard Sullivan
Reese Taylor
Jeremiah Jadon Thomas
Sarah Jean Vnette
Bethany Vital
Angel Webb
Ethan Alec Shirley-Williams
Logan Thomas Winton
Brett Alan Wondra
Kamryn Rose York

In Memoriam

NOVEMBER

Tyler David Abarr
Guadalupe Arellano
Brandon Kyle Ball
Brianna Raye Ball
Andrew Ballantine
Colby Lee Bellissimo
Samuel James Bercich
Lisa Lee Billington
Steven Bolton, Jr.
Ethan Michael Bousquet
Toby Lee Boyd
Stephanie Denise Brooks
Carolyn Ann Burley
Nikolas Kodie Carlson
James "Jimmy" Carr
Xavier Carter
Cody William Charles
Isaac Ryan Cruz
James Aaron DeLaCruz
Peyton Doren
Avery Nichole DuBois
Eric Michael Dunn
Sean Michael Evans
Spencer Gallard
Emily Geitz
Joshua Girard
Joseph Robert Finnell-Glover
Scott Christopher Gomez
Nicolas Gutierrez-Cantin
Gregory James Halinar
Issac Harmon
Travin Jensen
Phillip Thomas Jonson
Ryan Hudson Jones
Phillip Damien Leach
Megan Leach
Amanda Nicole Lujan-Alvarado
Justin Mark Madison
Kaylee Ranae McCully
Eric Christopher Mikkelson
Mercedes Lynn Miller
Amber Cheyenne Murphy
Kailyn Ashley Noyes
Manuel Andres Nunez
Jennifer Lynda Perez
Kai Noa Ruiz
Jocelyn Ann Sanders
Cheyenne Autumn Smith

Alexis Brianne Stempien
Taylor Louise St. Laurent
Alexander Swartz
Jose Tierrablanca
Crystal Sheyenne Valentine-Gripp
Bronson and Garrett Wetzell
Faith Caprice Wright

DECEMBER

Corbin Elyott Ackley
Jesse Andrews
Jaylee Angel
Keathon Armstrong
Corrie Armstrong
Riley Simone Baca
Chandler Bailey
Michael Camerson Bartkus
Courtney Begay
Lydia Jean Boettcher
Joshua David Brokaw
Brodie Myles Kehoe Nainoa Buchwach
Cassandra Nicole Choquette
Ashley Lynn Daniel
John Devereaux
Connor Jack Dicke
Samantha Anber Dillard
Ryan Spencer Dugan
Vivian Ann Edwards
Isiah Ellis
Alec Ellson
Esmeralda Espinoza
Hannah Fenstermaker
Jacqueline Flores
Malcolm Issac Freeman
Malena Gallardo
Zachary Isaac Gatewood
Brandon Allen Gomez
Brittney Angelique Grace
Tyler Lee Grissom
Adam Grosz
Jessica Marie Hajdo
Ashleigh Marie Hargis
Kody Harris
Carlota Hoffman
Vannessa Denae Hong
Yapheth Ingram
Dylan Ryan Jackson
David Isaac Jacobs
Dawson Thomas Jones

Raekwan Jones
John Lafferty, Jr.
Erika Xioma Fajardo Ledesma
Sarah Lusk
Stephanie Maichel
Nathan Marimon
Patience Mathieson
Kelsey Mayo
Faith Arlene Burkholder-McDevitt
Julia Marie McDonnell
Grace McVicar
Hope Elizabeth Meek
Tristian Rae Miller
Sydeny Rose Mitchell
Dalton Moretti
Samantha Ashley Morlan
Marcello Muller
Regina Marie Munoz
Johnny Nichols
Joshua and Shawn Peters
Travis Taron Peters
Victoria Jenae Renteria
Emily Ann Risberg
Brittany Michelle Dawn Runyan
Nicholas Daniel Scott Runyan
Tristan Salamanca
Gabriel Salzbrenner
Michaela Danielle Samarripa
Bridgette Desire-Victoria Scherr
Bryce and Brianna Schindele
Nadir Nathaniel Shah
Tevita Siasau
Taylor Jordan Soucie
Abigail Bowers Steckler
Grace Nicole Steger
Jared Leonard Sullivan
Mirage Trujillo
Joshua Franciso Villabolas-Blanco
Sarah Jean Vinette
Bethany Vital
Angel Webb
Logan Thomas Winton
Brett Alan Wondra
Kamryn Rose York



"Time has been transformed, and we have changed; it has advanced and set us in motion; it has unveiled its face, inspiring us with bewilderment and exhilaration."

Kahlil Gibran

Memorial Donations

In Loving Memory of . . .

Clare Paula Faith

By Jennie and John Faith, her loving parents
You will always be in our hearts and minds,
Sweet angel.

Paul William Gopal Rao

By Gopal and Lisa Rao
Always in our thoughts and forever in our hearts.
Happy first birthday. We love you and MISS
You so much, our sweet little boy
Love, Daddy and Mommy
Peoria, AZ

Allyson Sabrina Karpus

By Mommy, Daddy and Matt
We know you had to go back and play in heaven.
Thanks for coming down to bring us some love
For a little while.
Beacon Fall, CT

Celeste Detillier

By David and Kathy Brennan-Haug
St. Rose, LA

Brittney Angelique Grace

By her loving parents,
Tammy and Joseph Grace
Flagstaff, AZ

Ella Rose Shelmire

By her loving family
Phoenix, AZ

Emily Kathryn Nell

By her Grandmother,
Marjorie Pierce

Hope Elizabeth Thomas

By Mike, Julie, Sheri and Steve Canada
We just wanted to let you know that
You are in our prayers and that Hope will
Never be forgotten.

Chase Montgomery Arthur

By his loving family
Gilbert, AZ

Joshua Davis

By his loving Mommy and Daddy,
Cindy and Jerry Davis

Alexandro Angel

By Kim Lotz

Ella Rose Shelmire

By the Schulman family
Scottsdale, AZ

Alyssa Rose Carroll

By Scott and Erica Marcinczyk
With our deepest sympathy

Emily Caitlin Jared

By Chris, Heather,
Jackson and Katelyn Lipari

Tristan Castellanos

By Charles and Nancy Brown
Scottsdale, AZ

Stephanie Denise Brooks

By Keith, Debra and Kyle
Forever MISSED

Someone asked me about you today.

It's been so long

Since anyone has done that.

It felt so good to talk about you,

*To share my memories of you,
To simply say your name out loud.*

*She asked me if I minded talking about
What happened to you...*

Or would it be too painful to

Speak of it.

I told her I think of it every day

*Speaking about it helps me to release
the tormented thoughts whirling
around in my head.*

*She said she never realized the pain
Would last this long...*

she apologized for not asking sooner.

I told her, "Thanks for asking."

*I don't know if it was curiosity
Or concern that made her ask,*

*But told her,
"Please do it again sometime...soon."*

by Barbara Taylor Hudson

- * Providers were excited about the project; and
- * Providers reported behavior change and a sense of self-efficacy after the curriculum had been completed.

provider behavior. The cost implications of providing accessible, dedicated personnel to providers, however, are significant and warrant further study.

In summary, the authors point out that "this project is unique in its use of six different systems of care to improve medical providers' responses, its support for providers to make changes in their practice, and in its assistance of women directly in the context of the health center."

Zachary MJ, Schechter CB, Kaplan ML, et al. Provider evaluation of a multifaceted system of care to improve recognition and management of pregnant women experiencing domestic violence. *Women's Health Issues* 12 (1):5-15.

Of particular note is the enthusiastic acceptance of the intervention by providers, a key factor in any effort to alter



My eyes used to see the joy in living. Now they only see the pain of death.
My hands used to reach out for the touch of another human being.
Now they long to feel the tiny hand of my son in them once again.
My heart used to beat with the joyful longing of a new day.
Now it barely beats at all. My ears used to hear the laughter around me.
Now it is only attuned to the cries of the son I can never get to, never find to comfort, in my nightmares.
My nose used to smell the sweetness of the rose.
Now it longs to remember the smell of my baby son just after birth.
My mouth used to speak words of happiness. Now it speaks a dead "I'm fine" and nothing else.
My mind used to long for the future, dreaming of all that is to come.
Now it reminds me daily of what I do not have and the dreams that died with my precious boy.
My spirit used to feel the presence of God and His promises.
Now I don't know that feeling any longer. It is foreign and far from me.
My friends used to call to say "How are you doing today?".
Now they are afraid to whisper his name, thinking that somehow it will upset me more.
Not possible I say, if they would only ask.
My life is so very different now, so very different.
I love you little Tyler, more than life itself. I am different because of you.
I am thankful for that difference for I was touched by an angel.

~Melissa Delgado
Mom to Tyler John

Soul flew to heaven 5/21/01, body born eternally sleeping to this world 5/23/01

To the families of these children, our sympathies for your recent loss...

Alexandro Angel
Kylee Nicole Berg
Kenna Leigh Coles
Grace Lynn Janssen
Jacob Kisto
Andy Montano, Jr.
Daisy Alexis Reyes
Karina Cruz-Robles



Erik Rocha, Jr.
Ella Rose Shelmire
Kayla Marie Williams
Trevon Young
William Cash Bagley
Kaleb Lopez
Sean Connelly
Kaleo Nicholas Notah



Kailey Rose Williamson
Jack Tudor
Dominic Felix
Slater J. Bollar
Bailey Ren Nash
Skyler Michael Trujillo
Matthew Daniel Mendez
Carlos Malanche



Remembering ...



Sarah Jean Vinette



Tyler David Abarrr



Cassie French



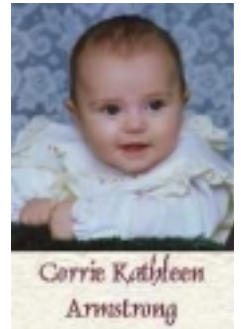
Aaron Michael Hayes



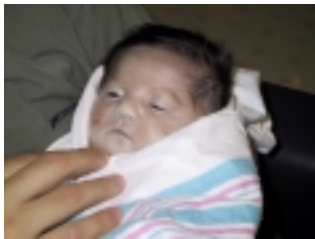
Megan Rowley



Danelle Mackenzie Fitchett-Farnsworth



Corrie Kathleen Armstrong



Andrew Zuong



Vanessa Denae Hong



Victoria Jenea Renteria



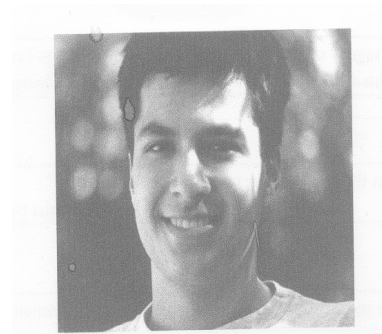
Rachel Hage



Sara Victoria Koski



Alexander Swartz

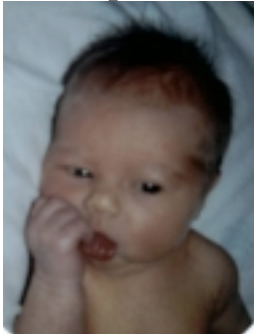


Nicolas Gutierrez-Cantin





... Our Children



Ryan Spencer Dugan

Zackary Shane Herkins

Samantha Ashley Morlan



Conner Laughlin



I remember when I used to talk to you and you'd listen.

I remember when I would come home from a long day at school and you'd give me the biggest hugs and smiles I've ever known.

I remember when we used to play together in your room and laugh at the silliest things.

God gave me a gift, and that is you, Amanda. But he has given me an even greater gift, and that is; I am the person today because of you. Your spirit lies within me everyday. I will carry you with me for the rest of my life. To have known you is a gift in itself. Even though you were born blind, now I know that you can see me and that you are definitely watching over me.

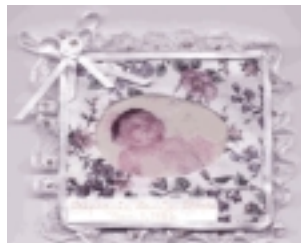
My little angel, Amanda Nicole Alvarado



Stephanie Maichel



Zane Allen White



Stephanie Brooks



Annika Lindroth



Eric Christopher Mikkelson



Jessica Marie Hajdo



Dana Jane Franklin



Zachary Gatewood



A CONVERSATION

I always wondered what Joshua was thinking in the last few seconds of his life... today I tried to put that picture into words, to flesh out how it must've felt to become an angel. Here's what I wrote:

"It's time to go now."

That voice. I had heard it before. I opened my eyes, and saw Him: radiant, pulsing, beautiful. He had held me, once-when He led me to my mother, and told me that He had chosen her to teach me what it meant to love. I was frightened then. "But the world looks so scary. And this love...it sounds so painful. I don't want to feel pain." But He had smiled-oh, that mysterious smile!-and said, "She will make you understand." And then He had left me there, under her heart. It seemed so long ago. But He was right. Love was so wonderful-radiant, pulsing, beautiful-like Him. But why was He calling me now? "Come," He said, reaching for my hand. But I shook my head. "I can't leave her. She needs me. She loves me. It will hurt her.it will hurt me." I remembered everything she had told me: the games we would play, the dreams we would share. I wanted to be with her. I wanted to tell her that I loved her, too. I think He understood how I felt. He had had a mother too. "Remember what it felt like when you were inside her?" He said, very gently. "You couldn't

see her, but you could hear her heart, and everything inside it. You knew how much she loved you. You knew how much she wanted you. So even if it was very dark, you always had her light to keep you company." I nodded vigorously. Yes, yes.that was how it was. I was very happy, growing under her heart. So much love. She had taught me well. "Well, now you will hear her heart again. But you won't be underneath it.you'll be inside it. You'll keep her company, with every breath and with every thought, and teach her what you learned about love. You will show her that it doesn't matter what you look like, or where you stay-your love will shine into all the corners of her life, no matter how dark it gets." He was right.He was always right. But I was so sad. I didn't want to go. "Can't I stay a little longer?" I begged. "We had so little time." "But you have the rest of eternity to love her. Just in different ways, my child, just in different ways." And with the same gentleness that He had placed me in her womb, He led me away into the Light. I looked back at my body, so cold and still. I seemed so small. "How could so much of that love fit into that frail little shell?" I asked. He smiled. "You are learning again. It cannot fit. Now you will love her with your soul. The soul she helped Me shape-the soul that she has taught to love." I sighed. "I just wish I could've said goodbye." But He shook his head. "You never will." And with a tiny flick of His hand, he led me into her heart, and slowly walked away.

-by Dedet Reyes in memory of Joshua



Safe Arrivals ... We Celebrate our Rainbows

Waverly Grace Lafferty
Daughter of Fran and John Lafferty, and little sister to John Lafferty, Jr.

Gavin Connor Winton
Son of Jay and Melody, and little brother to Logan Thomas and Jade

Jocelyn Grace Watson
Daughter of Angelique and Vince, and little sister to Collin James.

Jack Robert Dutton
Son of Mimi and Chad, brother of Lucas Darley Dutton

Gillian Faith McCall
Daughter of Jim and Louise, and little sister to Savannah and Maddie.

Channing Collins
James Fieselman
Son of Lesli and Jack, brother of Benjamin and Grace

Chloe Noelle Grant
Daughter to Tisha and Stan, and little sister to Madison Elyse and Duncan Joseph

The grand essentials of happiness are: something to do, something to love, and something to hope for."

-Allan K. Chalmers

Arizona Peer Contacts

If you need one on one support and friendship contact one of our Peer Contacts. Because we understand your pain. **Call us** if you need to talk.

Linda Schmidt	623-362-8838
Angela Iverson	623-572-0334
Tim and Nicole Dougherty	602-923-1630
Lee Ann Morlan	480-963-9844
Andy Castellanos	623-780-9546
Tom and Traci Johnson	602-789-8068
Anne Rumps (Tucson)	520-795-4712
Debra Brooks	623-487-4275
Heather Lewis	623-334-4044
Ed and Robin Kennedy (Kids)	602-547-1244
(Subsequent Pregnancy/Family Planning):	
Anna Kennedy	602-439-9025
Margaret Abarr	623-872-8082
(Drowning/Accidents):	
Asena Nicolosi	602-367-4626
(Spanish Contact):	
Alicia Cunningham	623-772-1358
Mindy Runyan (Kingman)	928-757-2348

Support groups and contacts for areas outside of Arizona can be found in back

Announcements! Announcements!

Huntington Beach CA. Chapter Meeting Schedule
8161 Taylor Drive, H.B. 92646, Katie Hodge's home, off of Beach and Ellis, phonenumber is 714-585-3614.
FIRST THURSDAY of every month around 6:30 pm.
If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call or e-mail me, katie@missfoundation.org.

New Minnesota Support Group
Will meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30-8:30 p.m. Meetings will be held at the First Congregational UCC Church at 221 7th Ave., West in Alexandria, Minnesota. Please contact Heidi Ciepielinski at 320.859.5660 for further details.

4th Annual "Sleepers from Samantha"
Baby Sleeper and Blanket Drive
When: October 8th through December 8th, 2002
In memory of our daughter and sister, Samantha Ashley Morlan, 4th birthday in Heaven. This will benefit Phoenix Children's Hospital Nursery and NICU, as well as, three Samaritan Hospitals here in Arizona. These donations have also been made available to families who have experienced the loss of a child and have nothing to bury their precious child in. This event has become a very heart-warming cause for our family since there is a true need for help in our communities.

The hospitals have a need for **Size: Preemie and Newborns**

If you would like to donate, please contact:
Lee Ann Morlan at 480-963-9844, lamorlan@cox.net
Or mail to: Lee Ann Morlan, 669 E. Estrella Dr., Chandler, AZ 85225.

Please attach a Kindness Card.

The MISS Foundation is a WRITE IN AGENCY for the United Way!

Please ask family and friends to choose the MISS Foundation as their donor agency. All our funds go directly into services for families such as our children's programs, family packets, conferences and kids camps, and other free programs. Please write in: MISS Foundation, PO Box 5333, Peoria, Az 85385 when the United Way asks you who you want to choose! Thank you for giving to us!

Washington, DC /Northern Virginia
-- **Memorial Candlelighting Service and Reception**
December 15, 2002, 7 pm
at the Woodbridge First Church of the Nazarene
14001 Smoketown Rd, Woodbridge, VA
The service includes live music, poetry readings, and candle-lighting. Please bring a plate of finger foods to share at the informal reception in the fireside room. Children are welcome to attend. Candles, flowers, drinks and plates provided. Please call Jackie Nell to reserve seats at 703-961-8400


NEW DROWNING SUPPORT GROUP
Will be held the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at Albright United Methodist Church
2242 E. Campbell Avenue in Phoenix
602.954.9092
Starting in October
For more information, please contact asena@missfoundation.org

Thank you to Kathy Collins and the Boeing Mesa Employees' Community Fund for their grant to the MISS Foundation. Their ongoing support is so needed by all our families.

National Children's Memorial Day

NCMD is on **December 8th, 2002, this year.** Because of limited available space in the newsletter, please check with the group leaders in each of your states for information regarding NCMD services in your area.

This is a national day for all of our children to be remembered!



If you don't have a candlelight service in your Area, maybe now is the time to get involved!

"The conference was the single most healing thing I've done for myself since (his) death..."

Would you like to volunteer to help with our 2003 Conference? We need frontline and behind the scenes help as well as volunteers for our children's grief retreat!

Please contact Angela at 623 572 0334 or Joanne at 623 979 1000 and we'll tell you how to get involved!

Letters From Our Mailbox . . .

Hello MISS,

I wanted to compliment you greatly on the MISS Foundation's website, especially the Spanish language resources you've provided. In my research, I have found sufficient information in English and almost nothing in Spanish to help women who have lost pregnancies or infants. So, thank you! I am a health educator and outreach worker at a medical clinic in Oregon, near Portland. One of my jobs this year is to develop a grief support network with special focus on perinatal loss. I work directly with women in the migrant camps, those who have come from Mexico or Guatemala to work in Oregon's agriculture and who are often here with no family or friends to support them through the crisis of losing a child. Since your organization has done such a great job in developing Internet resources for Spanish speakers, I wondered if you minister directly to the Latino community. I was also hoping you might be able to point me in the direction of more Spanish resources. It has been my experience that Latina women are not always eager to open up to one another in support group settings. I wonder if you have found that to be true in your support groups and what techniques you or your facilitators use to help women feel comfortable enough to share. Any information you can offer to help me as I try to get this program off the ground will be great.

Thanks in advance,

Sally Moyce

Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center
Cornelius, OR

Dear MISS,

Just wanted to say thank you from the bottom of my heart for your sweet card I received in the mail today. I have been on the verge of tears all day with Noah's birthday tomorrow. It was such a nice surprise to find that in my mail box. I went and ordered his cake and balloons today for his party tomorrow. The boys love to do that every year. Again, just wanted to let you know how special you are!

Gentle Hugs,
Melissa Barrett

Dear MISS,

Please send us 4 tickets to the Mr Lucky's BBQ.

Thank you,

Anna Kennedy

P.S. Cowgirl up! I don't know what that means but I saw it on a bumper sticker. P.P.S. The closest I want to be to a cow is sittin' on my sofa eatin' a cheeseburger.

Dear Anna,

Thank you for causing me to laugh out loud for several hours. I don't find too much humor in my schedule.

Joanne

P.S. If your sofa is leather, then you're real close to that cow!

To Whom It May Concern,

On April 26, 2002 my son Benjamin Conner Arkins was stillborn

due to the cord being wrapped around his neck. Since that time we have received countless mailings about welcoming our new baby. I have contacted several of these companies individually with unsatisfying results. Is there a master list to get these mailing stopped? If there is not, could one be started? We reside in Indiana and was the first person that the Marion County Health Department in Indianapolis had seen to get a birth certificate for my son. It was a great law that was passed. I work as a paramedic in Indianapolis and have said I'm sorry to so many people so many times and it had just became words. To actually hear those words said to you just knocks the breath right out of you. I am working on taking a proactive stance in the Emergency Medical Services community about handling stillbirths and SIDS children, educating my peers on what to say, what not to say, and how we can help. If your organization has any suggestions I am open to whatever may help.

Thank you, Tom Arkins

Dear Tom,

I am SO very sorry to hear about your precious son! What a tragedy! There are no words to describe the experience of losing a child. Here is the info you requested:

To have your name removed from mailing and or phone lists which may help decrease the amount of baby-related mail you receive and telemarketers who contact you, send your request of removal to:

**Direct Marketing Association
Mail Preference Service
P.O. Box 9008
Farmingdale, NY 11735
AND**

**Direct Marketing Association
Telephone Preference Service
P.O. Box 9014
Farmingdale, NY 11735**

Both addresses must be notified.


Include your name (in all its variations, ie. Mr. and Mrs. John Doe, Mary Doe and John Doe, Parents of Baby Bonnie Doe, etc.), address, and phone number (if you are requesting deletion from the phone solicitation list.)

For more information, contact: (212) 768-7277.




Support Our MISSION!

ITEM DESCRIPTION	SIZE	QTY	PRICE	TOTAL
Kindness Cards, please indicate quantity and price: 10 card set for \$2.00 50 card set for \$7.00 100 card set for \$11.00 250 card set for \$23.00 Circle Type of Card: For Parents - or - For Everyone		circle: 10 50 100 250	\$2.00 \$7.00 \$11.00 \$23.00	
MISS Foundation "Angel" T-shirt Avail sizes: Kids, S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL			\$15.00	
<i>Kaleidoscope of Grief</i> —Children's Grief Workbook	n/a		\$5.00	
<i>Kaleidoscope of Grief</i> —en espanol	n/a		\$5.00	
Angel Pin (please specify boy or girl)			\$5.00	
Newsletter Annual Subscription voluntary DONATION	n/a		\$15.00	
<i>Dear Cheyenne</i> New, 5th Edition, 165 pages!	n/a		\$11.95	
<i>Passages</i> — Memorial book of Angels			\$10.00	
<i>Sacred Hearts</i> —MISS Foundation Logo Necklace	20" chain		\$60.00	
ADD \$4 SHIPPING TO ALL ORDERS				\$4.00
TOTAL ORDER			0	

I would like to include a holiday donation of \$ _____ 

My donation is in memory of

Please send a memorial card to: _____



For a larger selection, please visit our online store at www.missfoundation.org

Send order form along with your Check or Money Order to:

The MISS Foundation—Volunteer Store
P.O. Box 5333
Peoria, AZ 85385

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

information about you:

Name: _____

Street address: _____

City: _____

State/Province: _____

Zip/Postal Code: _____

Phone: () _____

MISS Foundation Chapters Outside of Arizona

Merced, California

Facilitator, Kim Lotz
Kim.Lotz@missfoundation.org
First Tuesday of every month
7pm -8:30pm at St. Luke's Episcopal
350 West Yosemite Avenue

Arcadia, Ca. **NEW LOCATION**

3rd Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m.
Church of the Good Shepherd, Lounge
400 W Duarte Rd (Holly & Duarte)
626-357-4816 Jana Vorhis
626-963-9120 Kristin Jared

California—Ocean Side

760-806-9812 Alisa@missfoundation.org

New West Hills, California group

HeatherL@missfoundation.org

Illinois— Chicago

Mary@missfoundation.org
1st Monday each month
130 W Pine in Roselle
And 3rd Monday in Wheaton
Call 630 582-0874

Illinois—Sandwich

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

Huntington Beach—California

1st Thurs of each month, 6:30 p.m.
8161 Taylor Drive, Huntington Beach
Info: Katie Hodge 714-585-3614
Katie@missfoundation.org

Idaho - Boise

3rd Wednesday of month, 7:00 pm
The Cathedral of the Rockies Church
Nancy and Peter Grayson
(208)861-2407 Nancy@missfoundation.org

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

2nd Wed of the month at 7:30 pm
Grace Lutheran Church Dawes Ave. and
Shore Rd in Somers Point NJ
Kathy Evans 609-601-0563
Kathy@missfoundation.org

New York— Yonkers

(Call or email for times/dates)
The Plymouth House
1730 Central Park Av, Yonkers
Jennine@missfoundation.org
914-378-1613 Jennine Jo Shull

Maryland — Westminster

1st Monday of month, 7:00 p.m.
Church of the Brethren in
Westminster, Maryland
Info: Lisa 443-677-5904

Alexandria-Minnesota

2nd Tues of each month, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
First Congregational UCC Church
221 7th Ave, West in Alexandria
Info: Heidi Ciepielinski 320-859-5660

Ohio

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

Kentucky

First Thursday of each month, 6:30 p.m.
Heartland Worship Center
4777 Alben Barkley Drive, Pacucah
Kelly Nicholls (270)395-7668
Knicholls@missfoundation.org

Virginia, Wash DC and Maryland

First Wednesday of the month, 7:30 p.m.
Fairfax County Government Center
12000 Government Ctr Parkway
Fairfax, Virginia
Jackie@missfoundation.org

Washington—Vashon Island

3rd Monday of each month, 7:30 p.m.
Call for info
206-251-6706 Kara Jones
Kara@missfoundation.org

Tampa, Florida MISS Group Coming!

Monique@missfoundation.org
Monique Moya, Facilitator

New Denver, Colorado Group

Leslie@missfoundation.org

New Connecticut Group Coming Soon!

Heather@missfoundation.org

The MISS Foundation has helped thousands of families enduring the death of a child family member since 1996.

If you and your family are able, *please consider a memorial gift to the MISS Foundation this year.*

To those who have given throughout the many years, thank you. We could not continue our very important work without your support. Send your memorial gift to: PO Box 5333, Peoria, Az 85385



Arizona MISS Foundation Chapters

NEW LOCATION Northwest Group!

NW Phoenix Monthly Meetings

3rd Thursday of each month, 6:30 p.m.
Community Church of Joy
623-979-1000 (24 hours)
21000 N 75th Avenue, Building Three

Subsequent Pregnancy Support Group

2nd Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m.
Church of the Beatitudes - meets in nursery
555 W Glendale Ave (7th Av/Glendale)
Babies are welcome at this group!
602-439-9025 Anna@missfoundation.org

Prescott

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

Drowning Only Support Group

2nd Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m.
Albright United Methodist
2242 E. Campbell Ave, Phoenix
Contact Asena Nicolosi at
Asena@missfoundation.org

KISS—For Kids in Grief NorthWest

3rd Thursday of each month, 6:30 p.m.
Community Church of Joy, Building Three
21000 N 75th Avenue, behind the bell tower
Call Robin Kennedy, 602 547-1244

KISS—Kids In Sympathy & Support

2nd Saturday of each month, 2:00 p.m.
Dayspring United Methodist Church
1365 E Elliott, Rooms 201 and 202
480-814-7013 Jim Nibali

Tucson, Arizona

Last Weds. of each month at 7:00 p.m.
102 N. Plumber, Early Childhood Office
Call Anne Rumps(520) 795-4712
Anne@missfoundation.org

Central Valley Infant Death Meetings

2nd Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m.
North Hills Church
15025 N 19th Ave, bldg C
Nicole 602 923 1630

East Valley Infant Loss Support Group

1st Thursday of each month, 6:30 p.m.
Day Spring United Methodist Church
1365 E Elliott Rd, Room 201
480-963-9844 Lee Ann Morlan

For You

You've gone ahead,
And left me behind.
Thoughts and memories are what I find.
Consumed by what I should have done;
God, why couldn't I have been the one?
Peace is there and then it is not.
I'm shaky, cold, and then I am hot.
Food is no comfort, nor is the wine.
You are now His, but once you were mine.
I'm left in a world that is bittersweet;
For here live two earth angels my heart keeps.
Christian and Madelyn, your big sisters,
Who were there to meet you when you were delivered!
How they were amazed by your tiny fingers.
Oh God! I pray all the memories linger.
Your daddy is strong and hides his emotion,
But inside I know he is like the ocean.
Tossed and swept and thrown about,
Because you we now have to live without.
We have seen the wonders of God's grace...
But, oh, how we long to see your face.
You've gone ahead,
And left me behind.
Thoughts and memories are what I find...

*Alison Rhodes
For Fallon, my beautiful daughter
December 26, 2001*

Thank you to all the MISS members, newly bereaved parents and the bereaved parents that have been with us for many years. Thank you to all the members on our Board of Directors. To all our support staff and the countless people who do so many things that most don't even know about. And to those of you who are an inspiration to the rest of us.

We wish you all the most gentle of holiday seasons. It's a painful time; full of memories of children that should be here celebrating with us.

Instead, we decorate our trees with angels in the hopes of somehow capturing our babies in the faces of the cherubs. And wishing the whole sad season were done and over. All the tinsel packed away and no more masks of fake good cheer to be worn on our faces.

Back to the business of grief.

Instead, we wish for you a new year.
A year of hopes and dreams realized.
A year of pain eased and grief explored
And finally quieted.
A new year.

So, dear families, we wish you all of these things;
Gentle holidays and a new year for all of us.



Peace
Love
Hope
And Dreams of Angels
The MISS Foundation



Don't
MISS
this one!

When A Child Dies...

MISS Foundation



Passages 2003:

"From the ashes...

Therein lies the strength"

May 22-24, 2003
La Posada Resort
Scottsdale, Arizona
Continuing Education Credits Provided



*Register by January 15, 2003 and take 10% off registration fees!
Deadline for registration is May 15, 2003
After deadline, please call for space availability*

Presenters

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Registration 7:00 a.m.

Joanne Cacciatore-Garard
MISS Foundation

8:00-5:00
Pre-conference Workshop
*"The Power of Compassion:
A New Attitude in Healthcare™"*

(Optional manual available. See Registration Form)

A *powerful*, one-day workshop covering the model of the grieving family, practical applications, cultural issues and ritual in death and dying, effective psychosocial intervention techniques, strengthening communication skills, multi-disciplinary approaches, grieving children, complicated grief, and more. A workshop that will benefit any professional, para-professional, or civic volunteer seeking a more comprehensive knowledge base of thanatological theory.

Luncheon Provided from 12:00-1:00

5:30 p.m.– 7:30 p.m. Fiesta Hors D'Oeuvres Reception

Friday, May 23, 2003

Registration and Continental Breakfast 7:00 a.m.

Welcome and Conference Begins 8:30 a.m.

Dr. Guillermo Gutierrez
Neonatology Associates, Ltd.

9:00– 10:30
*Nico's Gifts: Quietening your Mind and Opening Your
Heart to Miracles*

Dr. Peter Barr
Royal Alexandria Hospital for Children of Australia
Featured in "Some Babies Dies" Award Winning
PBS Documentary

10:45– 12:30
*Perinatal and Child Death:
An Existential View from Down Under*

Luncheon 12:30– 2:00

WORKSHOPS A

2:00-3:30

Movie and Discussion: "Losing Layla"
Vanessa Gorman's poignant and touching documentary

Dr. Peter Barr
and **Joanne Cacciatore-Garard**

3:45-5:15

*Preserving and Strengthening Your
Relationship:
The Grieving Couple*

Dr. John DeFrain
Author, University of Nebraska

WORKSHOPS B

2:00-3:30

*The High-Risk Model vs.
Unexpected Deaths*

Sgt. Randy Force,
Phoenix Police Dept.

3:45– 5:15

*Personality Proneness to Guilt,
Shame, and Grief Intensity One Year
Later*

Dr. Peter Barr

WORKSHOPS C

2:00-3:30

*The Personality of Support Groups:
A panel discussion for facilitators*

**Moderators: Kara and Hawk
Jones, Katie Hodge,
and Nancy Grayson**

3:45-5:15

*Fatal Diagnoses:
Preparing Families for a Child's
Death*

**Angela Iverson, FABA Director
and Dana Southworth, L.P.N.**

6:00– 8:30 p.m.
Special Event

Optional Dinner and Comedy Theatre Show
Boston circuit comedian, Jennifer Ruelas, and Los Angeles comedian, Claude Stewart join us for a wonderful and light event for our professionals and families! A great event to attend!



Saturday, May 24, 2003

9:00 a.m.

Joanne Cacciatore-Garard
And Randy Force

Sorrow Expressed: A Grief Documentary Portrayed in Art Throughout History

Richard Obershaw, MSW

9:15-10:45

*Cry Until I Laugh, Laugh Until I Cry:
The Healing Power of Humor*

Dr. John De Frain

11:00-12:00

*Cultures and Families:
Examples From Around the Globe of How Strong
Families Endure Child Death*

Luncheon Italian Grande Buffet and Speaker **12:00– 2:30**
Charting the Uncharted Darkness: Discovering the Gifts of Your Child
Richard Obershaw

WORKSHOPS A

2:30-5:00

*Parent Support Group Session
"Why We Hurt So Much"*

Moderator:

Dr. Peter Barr

WORKSHOPS B

2:30– 3:45

*Stress Management:
Managing the Meltdown During
Life's Crises*

Richard Obershaw

WORKSHOPS C

2:30– 5:00

*Finding Answers in Difficult Child
Autopsy Cases*

Dr. Mark Fischione

**Maricopa County Medical
Examiner's Office**

*Parent Support Group Session
Session Continued*

3:45-5:00

*Trapped by Grief:
Body-Mind Relaxation Techniques
to Help You Cope*

Richard Obershaw

*Finding Answers in Difficult Child
Autopsy Cases*

Session Continued

7:00 p.m. Candlelight Memorial Service
8:00 p.m. *Festival of Chocolate Reception*



Kids! Come to Our Kids in Sympathy & Support Retreat

Some things we do at the Friday and Saturday Kids Retreat

- ☺ We get to hang out with Phoenix Fire and Police Departments
- ☺ We do a lot of arts and crafts
- ☺ We play music, sing, and dance
- ☺ We have sharing time
- ☺ We make lots of new friends

We hope to see you at our KISS Retreat! But Hurry and Register! Space is Limited!

Mini-massages offered by Katie Hodge, LMT, will be available in the foyer area throughout the conference



MISS Foundation

Some full and partial scholarships available based on income. To apply please contact us at 623.979.1000 or email info@missfoundation.org

EVENT:	Professional	Family	Column Total
<input type="checkbox"/> All Three Days Conference Attendance	\$240.00	\$175.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday Conference & Fiesta Reception	\$90.00	\$60.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Friday Conference— Choose A, B, or C	\$90.00	\$60.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Friday Optional Dinner /Comedy Theatre	\$50.00 Individual	\$75.00 Couple	
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Conference— Choose A, B, or C	\$90.00	\$60.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Friday/Saturday Kids Retreat, Ages 4-14	Friday/Saturday	\$20.00 per day	
<input type="checkbox"/> Power of Compassion Manual	\$25.00	\$25.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor-a-Family of Three to Attend	\$330.00		

Method of Payment

Total: _____

- Check
- Agency Billing: PO
- Visa
- MasterCard
- Low Income Scholarship Application Request

Names of Attendees _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email Address _____

Deceased Child's Full Name and Dates of Birth & Death _____

Credit Card # _____

Exp. date _____

Signature _____

Vegetarian Meals Check Here



"The conference was the best thing I ever did for myself. I came away learning so much about "me" and about the grief experience. Thank you all so much!"

Nonprofit Org
US Postage
Paid
Phoenix, Az
Permit 4081

P.O. Box 5333
Peoria, Arizona 85385

Phone: 623.979.1000
Fax: 623.979.1001
Email: info@missfoundation.org
www.missfoundation.org

Hotel Information

La Posada Resort
4949 East Lincoln

1.800.ROOM.TREE
for Reservations
602.952.0420
Conference Rate
\$89.00 per Night

May 22-24, 2003

**Register by January 15, 2003 and take 10% off registration fees!
Deadline for registration is May 15, 2003**

Shop and Support!

Shop for those special gifts at our MISS Store online! We now have wonderful children's t-shirts available with the quote, "If children are old enough to love, then they are old enough to grieve." Visit our online store at www.missfoundation.org

**Visit our New Fine Art Gallery Online!
Featuring the Amazing Spiritual Art of Rassouli!**

SAD DECEMBER DAY

My world crashed in around me
on that sad December day.
The day the doctor told me
that you had gone away.

I heard the words he said,
and sat in disbelief.
He must be wrong I thought,
there must be a heartbeat.

But tragically it was true,
You were gone forever from our lives.
The doctor wrote his diagnosis,
those awful words... "fetal demise".

I've never known such devastation,
I've never known such pain.
My life has been forever changed
I'll never be the same.

Four years ago you left me,
how I wish you could have stayed.
My world crashed in around me
on that sad December day.

*-by Debbie Vinette
In loving memory of
Sarah Jean-Dec. 10, 1998*

The MISSing Angels newsletter is published bi-monthly by the MISS Foundation, a non-profit corporation. Letters, articles, and photos may be submitted to the MISS Foundation, P.O. Box 5333, Peoria, AZ 85385 in word or jpg format. **PLEASE DO NOT SEND HANDWRITTEN STORIES OR ORIGINAL PHOTOS FOR PUBLICATION.** Please let us know if your ADDRESS HAS CHANGED call 623.979.1000 or email us at info@missfoundation.org.

MISS Foundation

P.O. Box 5333
Peoria, Arizona 85385
Phone: 623.979.1000
Fax: 623.979.1001
Email: info@missfoundation.org



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● *Because all the Children Matter...* ●

There is one thing stronger than all the armies in the world,
and that is an idea whose time has come."

-Victor Hugo