



# M.I.S.S.ing Angels

A Publication of the  
MISS Foundation

A Sanctuary for Bereaved Families

Celebrating our Special Mothers and Fathers  
Mother's/Father's Day Edition

May/June 2003  
Volume 4, Issue 7

## “Crying Mother”



High above the Schuylkill River, above Kelly Drive, is Laurel Hill cemetery.

On the hill is a monument of a woman holding two babies; it is known as Mother and

Twins.

The story behind the statue is that at this spot on the river, two young boys drowned in 1855. Two years later the young mother died, heart-broken.

Her husband, Henry Domoghowski Samuels, a

world class sculptor, created this silent monument to his wife and children, then he immediately left for Poland never to return.

To the people who are familiar with this area, the monument is known as the "Crying Mother," and here is one story why:

In the spring of 1985, amateur photographer, Amy Morgan, was taking photographs of the numerous cherry trees that are along this part of the river. She had in tow her 5-year-old son. As she was checking out a shot through her view finder, Amy heard a woman crying. A figure passed through her view finder very brief and very quickly. When she looked up in the direction where she thought she had seen the figure go, there was nothing there. Then she noticed her son dangerously close to the dangerous river. One slip and he would have been in the river's swift current.

Is the weeping Mother keeping watch over children in that particular area, Amy thinks so. . .

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## One Year Later...

By Michele Detillier

*In Loving Memory of Celeste Elizabeth-Marie Detillier, born into heaven on March 9, 2002.*

**One year later...** I still remember the Doctor's words, "I'm sorry" and the long dreadful hours of waiting for delivery. I still recall the silence of the delivery room and the nurse announcing, "It's a girl." I can still feel my heart leap with the words only to remember you were born still.

**One year later...** I can remember my first glance at our beautiful baby girl wrapped

snugly in the blue and pink hospital blanket. I can remember feeling so much love and yearning to pull you close to my breast...to protect you from the world and to bring you home.

**One year later...** I relive the hours your Daddy and me held you and told you stories of what your life would have been like...how so many people loved you already. I remember touching and stroking your face and admiring your features from head to toe. Your long fingers, your Daddy's lip, a nose like Reid and your brown hair.

### Take Note:

- MISS Chapters across the country! See page 22 for chapter information
- See MISS Store order form on Page 21
- Our hearts go out to the families of these children for their recent losses  
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# One Year Later

(continued)

**One year later...** I still wish you had opened your eyes, if only for an instant, so that I could know what color they were. Or so I could gently whisper, "I love you" while you looked at me. I still remember trying with all my will to get you to move or make a sound, hoping this was all a mistake.

**One year later...** I shudder to recall having to give you to the nurse and leaving the hospital empty-handed. I remember the anguish I felt of abandoning you in some cold room. I remember the torment of coming home to an empty crib, all the while dealing with the aches and pains of a long labor. I still remember thinking that I felt your kicks and your hiccups when I lay in bed at night.

**One year later...** I still ache to hold you in my arms. I long to rock you to sleep in the same chair I cradled your brothers. I still daydream about your looks, your personality, and your milestones. I still wonder what kind of baby you would have been and what kind of woman you would have become.

**One year later...** Reid still talks about you and Gavin knows you, too. They draw me pictures of you and hang them above our bed. Every day, your Daddy still carries a lock of your dark hair and picture in his pocket. And people are still performing good deeds in your name.

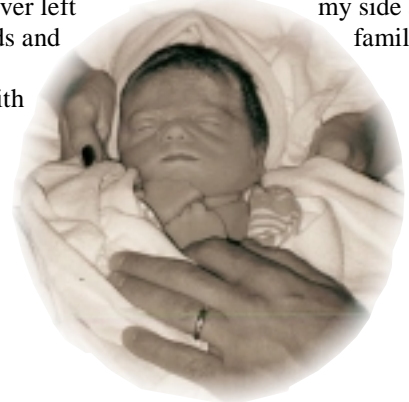
**One year later...** I still go to the cemetery to just stare at your

name and talk with you awhile. You are still the first thought of my morning and the last thought of my day. Every night, I still pray for my broken heart to be healed and for my world to seem right again.

And slowly, there are changes...

**One year later...** I am starting to see a glimmer of light... the fog has lifted, and hope is on the horizon. I find myself evermore grateful that God has never left my side and neither have good friends and family.

**One year later...** my faith is deeper, my compassion is greater and I am finding myself smiling... just thinking that our baby girl is in heaven and she is touching the face of God.



*"Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take but by the moments that take our breath away." -Unknown*

## A CONVERSATION

*"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.*

**Written by Dedet Reyes in honor of her son, Joshua Reyes**

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# Dearest Mommy: In Celebration of all our Beautiful Mothers

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*Because I do believe, I really do:*

Dearest Mommy,  
When you wonder the meaning of life and love  
Know that I am with you~

Close your eyes and feel me kissing you  
In the gentle breeze across your cheek.  
When you begin to doubt that you shall ever see me again  
Quiet your mind and hear me  
I am in the whisper of the heavens  
Speaking of your love.

When you lose your identity  
When you question who you are  
Where you are going  
Open your heart and see me  
I am the twinkle in the stars  
Smiling down upon you  
Lighting the path for your journey.

When you awaken each morning  
Not remembering your dreams  
But feeling content and serene  
Know that I was with you  
Filling your night with thoughts of me.

When you linger in the remnant pain  
Wholeness seeming so unfamiliar  
Think of me and know that I am with you  
Touching you through the shared tears of a gentle friend  
Easing the pain.

As the sunrise illuminates the desert sky  
In that breathtaking glory, awaken your spirit  
Think of our time together, all too brief, but ever brilliant  
When you were certain of your destiny  
Know that God created that moment in time, just for us.

Dearest Mommy, I am with you always.

By Joanne Cacciatore (c) 1997, 2001, 2002. An excerpt from the book "Dear Cheyenne"  
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# *A Father's Love: Stronger than Death*

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A father's love  
Is like a shadow gently  
Dancing  
Around you  
Protecting  
Guiding

Not too close  
He'll let you wander  
Learn  
Explore

But he's always close just in case

A father's love  
Remains  
Even if hidden through the years  
Behind determined eyes and stoic smiles

Even if Death has come for his beloved child  
And siphoned his world through  
The aisles of a sanctuary and a frail casket,  
ruby-red roses  
A father's love  
Like a shadow gentle dancing  
Remains  
Not too close, never touching  
But ever-present~

---

## **Truly a Miracle: A Father's Story**

*By Ron Herzog*

We thought it made sense to provide a little background on Makalie before you read her poem.

Makalie had a very rare chromosome disorder called Trisomy 18. That just means that Makalie had an extra 18<sup>th</sup> chromosome. Babies with Downs Syndrome have an extra 21<sup>st</sup> chromosome. We learned that Makalie had this disorder at five-months gestation, and the specialist that confirmed this disorder, advised us to terminate the pregnancy. He advised that our baby would be severely mentally retarded and basically a vegetable, if she lived at all. We were told that 90% of babies with Trisomy 18 don't make it to term or are still-born.

We came home the evening after learning Makalie's fate and searched for information on Trisomy 18 on the internet to learn that these babies had so many disorders and defects that it just added to the horror of learning about Makalie's fate. Regardless, it took Tracy and I only about 24-hours to agree that we were going to have this baby.

We named her Makalie Jane at 5 ½ months gestation because we weren't sure if we would ever see her alive, and wanted to call her by name in Tracy's tummy.

We were lifted up in prayer for the next four months in anticipation of the big day.

I remember walking into the hospital at 6:45 a.m. on April 3 and realizing this day would change our lives forever. When we walked in the hospital that morning, I remember wondering if we would walk out with her, and

the thought of leaving the hospital without Makalie was unthinkable.

We prayed to God to give us one hour with Makalie. We wanted to hold her and show her how much we loved her.

This is a picture of her. It is awesome.



We feel so blessed that God would give Makalie to us.

Makalie didn't have all of the defects that we were told. We then had to deal with the fact that of the 10% of Trisomy 18 babies that are born alive, 90% of those babies go home to Jesus within the first year.

We got to enjoy Makalie for almost nine glorious months. She was an amazing little girl. Makalie far exceeded our expectations in terms of interaction with our family and her happy demeanor. She wasn't anything like what the doctors or internet had indicated. She was a precious little baby that brought an incredible amount of joy to our family. Her brothers could not walk through the room without stopping and kissing her. I joke with Tracy that

she got more kisses than any nine month old baby ever had.

Everyday with Makalie was special for our family.

Makalie was beating all odds. She was thriving and developing beyond expectations. She was healthy, happy, and very aware of her surroundings and particularly aware of the people in her life. Even the specialists believed that she was doing well and would continue to do so.

Her very unexpected passing on December 28<sup>th</sup> 2002 was a shock to all of us.

Tracy and I want you to keep in mind that this story is a celebration of Makalie's life. It may tug at your heart strings, but remember that we got Makalies so much longer than what we had expected. We have some incredibly cute pictures and a motion video of our little girl.

We could not take Makalie into many public places because she was medically fragile, and we couldn't afford for her to get a virus of some sort. This story is our way of sharing our little Miracle from God, with you. We are convinced that she was brought to this world to glorify our Lord.

*Ron, Tracy, Cody, and Cardale Herzog  
Makalie's loving family.*

### **For Beautiful Little Makalie**

*Your life has touched my heart in so many ways.  
That is why it is so hard to let you go.  
Your sweet little smile has not only  
made me laugh,  
but it has reminded me of the blessings  
God bestows.*

*Your tiny little fingers that I've held so many  
times, remind me of how God holds everything in  
his hands...every life....every heart.....every soul.*

*Your precious feet and baby toes remind me*

*To always walk in God's ways,  
No matter how hard the winds of life blow.  
Your beautiful deep blue eyes remind me to seek  
God and to watch for his miracles  
that always show.*

*Makalie, you are one of God's precious and in-  
credible miracles,  
Like a little angel sent from heaven to bless our  
lives, and you have.  
In our hearts, your life will glow.*

*Written by: Holly Beech- 13 years old cousin  
to Makalie Jane Herzog.*

### **You ...**

*By Dan Butler*

*All my life I had never known  
Love so pure until I brought you home.  
It was the brightest day that I have been shown  
And I know I would never have to be alone.*

*We lived and laughed and I watched you grow  
I never seen such a miracle.  
I thanked my stars and the heavens above  
I thanked My God for sending me your love.*

*Then the sun set down on a beautiful day  
And quicker than you came you flew away.*

*I wish I could follow you to where you have flown  
But I'll wait down here till its time to go home.*

*It's hard You know just to carry on  
These days and nights they seem so long.  
The only thing that is my saving grace  
Is knowing that someday I'll see your face.*

*So for the rest of my life your memory  
Will have to be enough to carry me.  
And I'll live my life the best I can  
Until I find you in my arms again.*

*In loving memory of Mya Nicolosi*



# Stillbirth: What Every Woman Needs to Know

*This pamphlet is being introduced into the Baby's Breath and Family Outreach packets. We hope that this information may reduce some risks associated with stillbirth and that it will be another valuable tool that parents will use to cope with the immeasurable pain in the ensuing years to come.*

## **About Stillbirth:**

Stillbirth is the death of an infant in-utero and past 20 completed gestational weeks. It can happen before or during the onset of labor and can happen to any woman. About 1 in 100 pregnancies will end with the death of a baby to stillbirth or about 30,000 per year in the United States alone. Many full-term stillbirths occur to low risk mothers and **approximately 40% of stillbirths occur with no diagnosable cause of death.** These deaths are called Sudden Antenatal Death Syndrome, or SADS. This means that a baby has died at or near term for no explainable reason.

The most common diagnosable causes for stillbirth include:

- **Placental problems:** Women who smoke cigarettes have a much greater risk of placental abruption. High blood pressure (pre-eclampsia) also increases the risk of abruption. Other problems with the placenta, which prevent it from supplying the infant with enough oxygen and nutrients, may also increase the risk of stillbirth.

- **Birth defects:** Between 5 and 10 percent of stillborn babies have chromosomal anomalies. Others may have structural anomalies which can result from genetic, environmental, or unknown causes.

- **Intra-Uterine Growth Restriction (IUGR):** Infants who are not growing at an appropriate rate for their gestational

age are at an increased risk of stillbirth due to hypoxia (lack of oxygen) both before and during birth.

- **Infections.** Bacterial infections often cause no symptoms in the pregnant woman and may go undiagnosed. These infections increase the likelihood of stillbirth or premature birth.

## **Education + Awareness =Reduction.**

Scientists and physicians do not fully understand the causes of many stillbirths. We do know that at this time, stillbirth cannot be prevented or predicted. However, there are some helpful strategies for pregnant women to follow to help *reduce the risk* of stillbirth:

1. Around 26 weeks of pregnancy, begin doing daily "*kick counts.*" If you count less than 8-10 kicks during a two-hour period or if the baby is moving less than usual and you are concerned, contact your doctor immediately.
2. Do not smoke, drink alcohol, or use drugs (unless prescribed by your physician).
3. Report any vaginal bleeding, leakage, or sharp pain to your health care provider.
4. If you are post-term, be sure to discuss your options and concern with your physician. Pregnancies which last longer than 42 weeks gestation may be at greater risk of stillbirth.
5. It may be necessary to request a second or even a third opinion during your pregnancy to put your mind at ease. Your caregivers should be empathic and respectful of your concerns and you have every right to expect the best care for you and your baby.

**NOTE: This information is not intended to replace you doctor's advice . This is for informational purposes only. Please call your physician if you have any other questions.**

## **The Difficult Questions?**

### **What if it happens to me or someone I know?**

Though the chances of having a stillborn baby are decreasing in most states, it is helpful to know who to call for help. The MISS Foundation has volunteers who can help you or someone that you know who may be going through this tragedy.

### **Will I still have to go through labor if my baby dies?**

Most often, yes. Even if a baby is stillborn before the onset of labor, most women will experience labor and childbirth in the same way as a "live" birth. Having adequate pain control options, supportive family members, and birth assistants or doulas can help ease the overwhelming emotional and physical pain of stillbirth.

### **Will I get to see my baby?**

Yes. We encourage women and their families to see, hold, and touch their baby. You may participate in bathing and caring for your baby after his or her birth. Although it may difficult, most families are very grateful that they had those special moments with their baby. A volunteer with the MISS Foundation can help guide and support you during this time.

### **Will my baby get a birth certificate?**

Yes in certain areas of the country. Several states recently began offering this to parents. Call the Office of Vital Records in your state and tell them you'd like to obtain a "Certificate of Birth resulting in Stillbirth."

*If you can help us get this brochure out to physicians, midwives, and other health professionals, please contact [info@missfoundation.org](mailto:info@missfoundation.org) at the MISS Foundation website or call the MISS Foundation office at 623-979-1000.*

"Most of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people who have kept on trying when there seemed to be no hope at all."

-Dale Carnegie

# Kids Korner



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

## **Am I Still a Big Sister or Brother? The grief of children**

*By Joanne Cacciatore*

*"How many brothers do you have?" they ask her.*

*"I have three brothers," she says.*

*"Wow! And how many sisters do you have?" they ask again.*

*"I have one sister. But she's in Heaven taking care of us," she replies proudly.*

Those words filled my eyes with tears when I heard them. My daughter, then six years old, has always had a fearless strength that I often envy. Her "matter of fact" attitude about her younger sister's death and her honesty have often surprised me. I have always known that her outlook was healthy, despite the often-astonished looks she would draw from unsuspecting inquisitors. How do you help children through the grief process toward a healthy reconciliation after the death of a sibling?

In retrospect, I try to identify the things I have done 'right' to support my children when their infant sister suddenly died. The most difficult aspect was discussing her death and explaining the concept of "death." I was very cautious about specific terminology. Honesty is the best response. I never associated death with sleeping. I told them that their sister died, explaining that when a person dies, that person won't ever come back on this earth. I told them that they would not see her again. This may be a good opportunity to open dialogue about spiritual beliefs. Use discretion when discussing God and death. Avoid telling the children that God took the baby. It may create feelings of anxiety or anger toward God. Encourage questions and communication. Children may be too frightened to ask without assurance. Keep your answers honest and simple.

We shared an 'open emotion' policy. I allowed myself to cry, wherever and whenever I felt the need to. I set a stan-

dard for them. My openness validated their feelings of loss and despair. It reassured them they could come to me when they felt overwhelmed. I cried many times in front of them: And then I would let them see me laugh again. The expression of sorrow is nothing to be ashamed of. I encouraged them to cry, yell, punch a pillow, and accompany me on a walk or anything else they felt would help them through the difficult time. On several occasions, they were able to draw a picture or write a letter to their sister.

Another helpful idea for siblings is to offer them a 'special' remembrance token of their sibling for them to keep. It is a tangible reminder of a love that will never be forgotten. Every Christmas, our children choose a special ornament in memory of their sister to hang on our tree. It is engraved with her name and the year. They know we have not abandoned her memory, nor will they. Reassure your children they are still a "big brother" or "big sister." Reassure them they always will be. Make time to reminisce together. Cheyenne's pictures still hang on our walls. They are a permanent fixture in our home. She is a significant part of our family. I want them to know their sister. Children have a simple discernment about grief. Everyday, I strive to become more and more like my children.

Note: If your child experiences:

- Extended periods of depression in which he or she loses interest in daily activities and events
- Inability to sleep, loss of appetite, prolonged fear of being alone
- Acting much younger for extended periods of time
- Withdraws from friends at school
- Sharp drop in performance or refusal to attend school

These are warning signs which indicate that professional intervention may be needed. Please seek a therapist who specialized in grief and trauma.

# Meet Our Newest MISS Facilitators



**My name is Tara Pitts.** I like to say I am the Mommy of three sweet boys... two who can run and play, one who can fly. My husband Steve and I are blessed to

the parents of Noah-age 7, Ethan-age 2 and my precious angel, Christian Samuel who was born Aug. 11, 1998. Christian was born a day shy of being 23 weeks. He lived for four wonderful hours. Only the love and comfort of his family's arms was known to him. I found MISS on-line early in my grief and it became a haven for me. I had finally found people who understood what I was experiencing. In early 2001, the DC MISS chapter was formed. Now, as our wonderful facilitator, Jackie Nell, moves out of state, I am taking over as a joint facilitator with Dionna Williams. I take solace in knowing that through this, I can help others. It is important to me to help those who are walking down this road too. I hope I can be a strength to families who need a friend that truly understands. There is no greater loss than that of a child. Christian's life was important – I can share him and honor him through the friends I meet through MISS.

**My name is Gina Carme,** from Arlington, MA. My whole world, and I think the entire world, changed on Sept. 11, 2001. I was 37 weeks pregnant and had 3 weeks to go until my due date. I went to the dr. for my weekly visit and after an ultrasound, she told us Lucia had died. Her heart had stopped. Our daughter, Lucia Francesca, died on Sept. 11, 2001 and was born on Sept. 13, 2001. After Lucia's death, people were so wonderful and supportive. I know there are a lot of families out there with similar stories to mine. Although my grief is still relatively short, I know in my heart I want and have to be a support to mothers, fathers and families that have had similar experiences. Even if it is only to give them a hug and to let them know they are not alone.

**My name is Lynne Barberian.** We live in Medford, MA. Our first child, Rachel, was born and died on Mar. 22, 2000. A few weeks after Rachel's birth and death I called my local city hall to get a birth certificate. I was told that I would not get one because she was stillborn. I was only able to get a "Report of Fetal Death". I was devastated. I felt like I was being told that Rachel was not born. This set me back in my grieving. I gave birth! How could her birth not be acknowledged? Throughout those hazy first months, I somehow stumbled across the MISS website. It quickly became a place for me to find both comfort and valuable information. I ordered "Dear Cheyenne" and read it in one sitting. From that day on, Joanne has been my mentor. She inspired and guided me to lead the way for Massachusetts to be the 4<sup>th</sup> state to pass the MISSing Angels Bill (November 2002). Parents of stillborn children are now eligible to receive a "Certificate of Birth, Resulting in Stillbirth." I also co-founded the Greater Boston Chapter of Project Linus which donates handmade blankets to children in need of comfort ([www.projectlinus.org](http://www.projectlinus.org)). Rachel's birth and death has shaken me to the core. I am a different person now. I am sure some of you can relate. My feeling is that I have to channel all the sadness, anger, love, loss, longing, etc. into something positive. That is how the Massachusetts chapter of MISS came to be. Gina Carme and I are here to share our experiences and help others on their journey.

**Marisela Angel** is the Spanish speaking volunteer for the Merced, California MISS Chapter. Marisela lost her son, Alejandro to stillbirth on August 12, 2002, at 35 weeks of pregnancy. Marisela knows that she could not have gone through the pain of losing a child alone and because of this she tries to help others that might need the support.

**My name is Dionna Williams.** I have experienced the tremendous, and at times overwhelming, loss of a child. We only have our daughter, Alexis Leigh who

was born to her grandparents on January 9, 2001.

Sometimes it is very hard for me to accept so much time has passed. Of course, it all seems like yesterday to me. Please welcome Dionna Williams, new facilitator in the D.C., Virginia Chapter.

**My name is Heather Marvin.** After a series of tests we were told my baby had a fatal birth defect and would not live more than two hours IF she survived delivery. She did and on March 22, 1993, Lara Christine Marsh was born. I had one blessed hour with her before she left my arms for her new home in heaven. My life is so full now and getting fuller all the time. I am still pursuing my education, only now instead of teaching small children I want to counsel them on grief. Besides helping with MISS, I help out in my kids classes, and take care of my husband who is a disabled veteran.

I am delighted to say that I am in the process of establishing a MISS group in London, UK. **I'm Cathie Shipton.** In November 2000 we were delighted to find that we were expecting. Happily, the pregnancy proceeded with all being well and the baby grew larger and larger. Around my due date, we were told that our boy was a very large baby. A whole day in labour was followed by so much constant pain and the knowledge that there was no way that I was going to be able to give birth naturally as I had wanted to. So finally, in the middle of the night we went into theatre for an emergency section. We now know that our son started to lose blood at this point as the obs unavoidably cut a major blood vessel connecting the placenta to the umbilical cord. As our boy was large, it took some minutes to get him out of me and all this time he was losing blood. After he was born, our boy collapsed and was rushed off to be resuscitated, then on to NICU. We called him Ivan as we signed the



(cont on page 10)

## Meet our Facilitators

(Cont from page 9)

consent forms for surgery to try to stop his internal bleeding for we wanted him to be strong and terrible. He lived for 4 heart-wrenching days - I never expected him to die, even when the prognosis was getting grimmer and grimmer. On his fourth night, we were told that he was dying and we chose to turn off all the equipment and hold him as he died. He was so beautiful and I miss him with all my heart. I have learned subsequently of all the things I could have done for him after death, but didn't and wasn't offered the opportunity to do. I will regret that until I die too. In my grief, I searched the Web in vain for somewhere I could share how I was feeling with other parents in the UK. I found nothing and nobody here. But did come across MISS and finally felt I'd

come home (despite you guys being mostly an ocean away). MISS helped me stay sane through the first months of grief and then through my sub-pregnancy. In Ivan's memory, I am now trying to establish a MISS group in the UK for others, like me, who need something which doesn't appear to exist in the UK currently. Wish me luck!



*Please welcome all our new facilitators to the MISS family. We look forward to getting to know them and in turn, them getting to know and help our newly bereaved families and those families who have been on the journey for a while. If you would like more information about our support groups or facilitators,*

### Quintin

From your tiny head to your tiny toe  
Quintin, we will always love you so.  
And even if you were here just a while,  
We will always remember your smile.  
Words couldn't express how much  
we really cared,  
But we still cherish the  
memories we shared.  
We know its hello, not goodbye,  
So please forgive us if we cry.  
You were only here for a short time,

But your face, laugh, cries echo  
in the back of our minds.  
Remember its not goodbye forever,  
Because someday we will all  
be there together.  
"From your tiny little head,  
to your tiny little toe,  
Quintin we will always love you so."

*This poem was written by Amanda  
Carter, dedicated to  
Quintin Octavien Mathis*



## 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](http://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)

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



## Heart Felts

The MISS Foundation would like to thank **Kim St. Laurent** and **Katie Hodge**, two of our MISS California members, for organizing the Amazing World, Amazing Woman Day in Huntington Beach. Thank you to **Enterprise Car Rentals at Sands Chevrolet** for the free mini-van rental for the MISS California trip. We thank **Nicole Dougherty** for her work on the legislation pages of the MISS website. Thank you to **Asena Nicolosi** for her volunteer time answering phones in the MISS office. Thanks to **Lee Ann Morlan** for her work with East Valley funeral homes. A big and ongoing thank you to **Dr. J. Frederick Froen** and **Josie Trejos, MSW** for their guidance and replies to our new "Ask the Expert" forum board. Thank you **Rusty Chepus** and **Dean Synan** for making our newsletter a wonderful reality! Thank you to **Mary Orta** and **Trade Secret Salon** at Arrowhead Mall for your extremely generous product donation. Thank you to **Diane Jackson**, in memory of **Dylan Ryan Jackson**, for her help with the new MISS photo boards. Thank you to **Cynthia Engstrom**, in memory of **Spencer Christian**, for allowing MISS members the use of her home for conference planning. The MISS Foundation would like to thank all of these **MISS members** for the wonderful gift of themselves. We've also received many donations and would like to express our thanks to all of those who have made monetary contributions to our efforts. These are our United Way donors: **Marcia Boettcher** and **anonymous donor**, **Dillard's**, **Samantha Hiatt** and **anonymous donor**, **Phoenix Children's Hospital**, **Lisa Graika** and **anonymous donor**, **Shughart, Thomason**, **Kilroy/Goodwin Raup**, **Jacqueline Mitchell**, **Melissa O'Neal**, **Paradise Valley Hospital**, **Axiom employees**, **Banner Health**, **Susan Thiede**, **Blue Cross-Blue Shield**, **Cindy Barber**, **Capitol Bancorp**, **CIGNA Healthcare**, **Angelina Sparkes**, **City of Phoenix employees**, **Honeywell employees**, **Maricopa County employees**, **Pfizer Corporation**, **G. Milo Caskey**, **UPS employees**, **Pam Binder**, **Robert Callanan**, **John Comerford**, **Geoff Estevez**, **Horace Henning**, **Karen Stafford** and many, many anonymous donors. Thank you for donating through the United Way program.

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

## AHRQ AND AAP PARTNER TO HELP PREVENT MEDICAL ERRORS RELATED TO CHILDREN

20 Tips to Help Prevent Medical Errors in Children is a fact sheet intended to help parents and their children avoid medical errors. The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and the American Academy of Pediatricians (AAP) are working together to promote the fact sheet and will distribute copies to AAP's 57,000 member pediatricians as well as to groups representing children and parents. The fact sheet offers evidence-based practical tips on avoiding medical errors related to prescription medicines, hospital stays, and surgery. It is available on the **AHRQ Web site at <http://www.arhq.gov/consumer/20tipkid.htm>** or on the **AAP Web site at <http://www.aap.org/visit/qualityimp.htm>**.



## Suboptimal care implicated in many infant deaths in UK— *Mark Pownall, London*

Better care would "probably" or "almost certainly" have made a difference to the outcome in half of the cases of stillbirths and infant deaths in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland, suggested the annual report of the confidential inquiry into stillbirths and deaths in infancy, which was published this week.

The report analyzed the results of detailed investigations into the deaths of 573 infants, randomly selected as a "1 in 10" sample of the stillbirths and neonatal deaths reported to the inquiry in 1996-7. Selected cases were reviewed by a multidisciplinary panel of at least six specialists.

The panel judged that suboptimal care was provided in 28% of the cases and concluded that a different approach "might have made a difference" in the outcome of these cases. For a further 22% of the cases, suboptimal care "would reasonably have been expected to make a difference to the outcome."

The association between death and suboptimal care was found to be strongest for neonatal death, with the link being identified in 61% of the cases reviewed. The link was particularly strong for intrapartum deaths, and 73% of cases reviewed were judged to have been associated with

suboptimal care. The main cause of death was unexplained for 81% of stillbirths, while immaturity, birth related causes, and infection were the most important causes of neonatal deaths.

The panel identified the main problems contributing to the provision of suboptimal care in the cases of stillbirth as a failure to act appropriately, a failure to recognize problems, and a failure of communication. The report's authors warned: "Stillbirth ... is often thought of as 'unavoidable.' A review of these cases has shown that this is often not the case." The authors suggested that the most common shortfall identified by the review panel for stillbirth was in surveillance, in particular the interpretation of cardiotocograms.

The panel noted that poor record keeping had occurred in one third of the cases of stillbirth and neonatal death that they had reviewed.

*Confidential Enquiry into Stillbirths and Deaths in Infancy, 6th Annual Report is available from CESDI, Chiltern Court, 188 Baker Street, London NW1 5SD (tel: 0171 486 1191), price £6.*

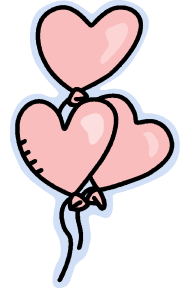


## \$25 Can Save Your Baby's Life

All states require that newborns be tested for three to eight metabolic disorders. A \$25 blood test called tandem mass spectrometry can check newborns for 30 additional inherited disorders not included in the state test. This supplemental screening is important for all babies, since healthy people can carry a hidden defect without realizing it. But it is critical if you or anyone in your family has previously had a baby with one of these conditions. Some researchers believe that up to 3% of deaths attributed to SIDS may actually result from undiagnosed enzyme deficiencies. Women who develop a pregnancy complication called HELLP syndrome (a potentially life-threatening liver disorder) are also at high risk for having a baby with a metabolic disease. If you're pregnant, ask your obstetrician if your state offers tandem mass spectrometry. If not, you can order a free test kit from Baylor University Medical Center by calling 1-800-422-9567. Bring it with you to the hospital, and give it to your doctor, who can take an extra blood sample when she performs the state-required test. For more information, visit [www.baylorhealth.com](http://www.baylorhealth.com).



# Remembering Our May and June Children...



## Happy Birthday

### May

Nicholas Foster Adams  
Tatum Diane Adkins  
Morgan Leigh Armstrong  
Brandon Baker  
Brandon Boddy  
Angela Quanterra Bullard  
Aaron Michael Burley  
Brandon Connor  
Nikolas Kodie Carlson  
Xavier Carter  
Charles Samuel Caskey  
Meredith Lynn Clemensen  
Erica Cohen  
Devin Oscar Craghead  
Jack Harris Crawshaw  
Aiyanna Simone  
Monique Daniels  
Harley M. D'Argenio  
Caitlin Marie Davis  
Tyler John Delgado  
Brock Eller  
Julia Eick  
Mariah Ethington  
Aaron Lee Farrier  
Danielle Farnsworth  
Cody Russ Foote  
Haiden Anthony Freeman  
Gabrial Kaye Fullerton  
Hope Gale  
Cody Shawn Gibson  
Hayden Angel Hall  
Robbie J. Harris  
Madison Brooke Haskett  
Mark Daniel Henderson  
Jacob Dane Hvizdos  
Creay Peter Jackson  
Josephine Mary Jay  
Joshua Nathan Johnson

Marguerite E. Johnson  
Allyson Sabrina Karpus  
Patrick Lanham  
Hattie Ann Lear  
Caleb William Lewis  
Anthony Ian Lewis  
Amanda Lujan-Alvarado  
Lillian Alena Malone  
Nicholas Aaron Mattingly  
Kristina Mary Meyers  
Mikel Moreno  
Josephine Faith Navarro  
Cameron Lee Newburn  
Aaliyah Amari Parker  
Garrett Christopher Pike  
Luke Brian Planert  
Dylan Politte  
Tyler Potts  
Ethan Allen Ralston  
Amy Anahy Renz  
Joshua Darcy Russell  
Nathan Thomas Schmidt  
Elizabeth Margaret Simon  
Lydia Simonson  
Jacob Hunter Smathers  
Tara Janean Smith  
Taylor Jordan Soucie  
Elizabeth Stewart  
Kristin Sunderlin  
Victoria Suttin  
Justin Synan  
Angel Lena-Tecce Hally  
Graham Ross Templeton  
Macy Thomas-Narcia  
Kaycie Shemar Titus  
Timothy Toomey  
Gareth Udall  
Hayden Vanderbloemen  
Angela Rose Villemez  
Abigail Elizabeth Waden

Jacob James Wesley  
Alexander Williamson  
Ryan Joseph Yancik  
Isiah Daniel Young

### June

Essa Jim Abdallah  
Christian Anderson  
Brianna Janea Baxter  
Vivian Bradley  
Andrew Isaac Burk  
Garrett Allen Carpenter  
Nicholas Collova, III  
Caroline-Marie  
Cooper-De La Cerda  
Amy Nycole Darland  
Hope DiDomenicantonio  
Samantha Amber Dillard  
Cody Dale Elder  
Steven Anthony Endieveri  
Kyle Robert Firstman  
Laura Yudir Fuentes  
Casey Funk  
Ariel Marie Gagliano  
Samantha Grace Gearhart  
Trevor Wayne Gearhart  
Veronica Aurora Glaude  
Benjamin Goedderz  
Duncan Joseph Grant  
Tyler Lee Grissom  
Hailey Faith Haimovitz  
Devin Russell Hession  
Tracey Lee Hudson  
Julia Hurd  
Morgan Anne Hutchinson  
Sabrina Rose Hutterer  
Samuel David Inlow  
Leah Alyssa Johnson  
Shannon Grace Johnston  
Jeret Steven Johnston

Ja'niah Cheyenne Jones  
Jordan David Klapprich  
Noah Jungling-Klein  
Victor Philip Kish  
Madison Louise Kondro  
Michael B. Kurtz  
Riley Ann Lanza  
Gabriel Joseph LeCompte  
Timothy James Lewis  
Jackson Lipari  
Simon de Miguel  
Andrew McBreen  
Makayla McMurtrey  
Carlos Meneses  
Hillary Newton  
Claire Patricia Nibali  
Blake Andrew Nicholls  
Anne Norgard  
Grace O'Hara  
Brandon Keoni Ovalles  
Colt Justice Pechac  
Jesse Quinonez-Perez  
Jesse Peterson  
Bryant Michael Porter  
Kalli Elaine Laray Reed  
Kayla Kamito Robinson  
Mary Elizabeth Rowland  
Jason Michael Saulmon  
Zachary Thomas Schwabe  
Odle Scott  
Allison Shutt  
Maria Sierra  
Quintin Octavien Sly  
Hope Marie Sorrelman  
Naomi Spencer  
Kevin Austin Staggs  
Steven Thomas Terrien  
Madison and Madeline  
Wetterhan  
Colin Edward Witcraft

## *In Memoriam*

### *May*

*Essa Jim Abdallah  
 Daniel Andrews  
 Cody Bohn  
 Carsten Cole Buckley  
 Angela Quanterra Bullard  
 Kayden Robert Burda  
 Andrew Isaac Burk  
 Elizabeth Ann Byrd  
 Tyrin O. Callhan  
 Charles Samuel Caskey  
 Jacob Daniel Castaneda  
 Gregory Clark Charlton  
 Meredith Lynn Clemensen  
 Brandon Connor  
 Jack Harris Crawshaw  
 Azaria Daniels  
 Peter Dannerbeck  
 Harley Michael  
 D'Argenio  
 Levi Mattherw Dejong  
 Tyler John Delgado  
 Max Alexander Dingus  
 Reid William Drozd  
 Austin Earick  
 Johnathan Edwards  
 Julia Eick  
 Spencer Engstrom  
 Mariah Ethington  
 Nathaniel Fleeman  
 Cody Russ Foote  
 Gabriel Kaye Fullerton  
 Casey Funk  
 Hope Gale  
 Stephanie Gayosso  
 Jess Asher Grayson  
 Hayden Angel Hall  
 Chance Michael Harris  
 Robbie J. Harris  
 Brooke Leilani Hodgson  
 Ruben Paul Huerta, Jr.  
 Jacob Dane Hvizdos  
 Tyler Ilerdi  
 Josephine Mary Jay  
 Alexander Marin Johnson*

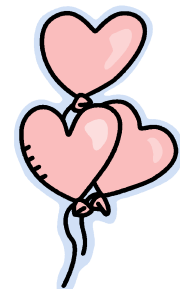
*Marguerite Elizabeth  
 Johnson  
 Loren Keil  
 Patrick Lanham  
 Antoinette Leon  
 Westin Letter  
 Caleb William Lewis  
 Anthony Ian Lewis  
 Colten Loose  
 Edward Christian  
 Lunsford  
 Lilliam Alena Malone  
 Baby Matthews  
 Kristina Mary Meyers  
 Josephine Faith Navarro  
 Cameron Lee Newburn  
 Darrell Pennington  
 Jesse Peterson  
 Luke Brian Planert  
 Dylan Politte  
 Michael Qualls  
 Ethan Allen Ralston  
 Amy Anahy Renz  
 Trey Brayden Roper  
 Megan Camille Rowley  
 Scott Michael Jessie Ruble  
 Joshua Darcy Russell  
 Nathan Thomas Schmidt  
 Lydia Simonson  
 Jacori Cobi Staten  
 Kristin Sunderlin  
 Victoria Suttan  
 Angel Lena Tecce Hally  
 Adam Thompson  
 Timothy Toomey  
 Bobby V. Tripodi  
 Edgar Vargas-Hernandez  
 Toni Marie Velez  
 Angela Rose Villemez  
 Abigail Elizabeth Waden  
 Jacob James Wesley  
 Alexander Williamson  
 Gabriel Zeyer*

### *June*

*Eloara Sky Aldana*

*Hope Christine Barker  
 Brianna Janea Baxter  
 Shawn Taylor Bennette  
 Brandon Michael  
 Boettcher  
 Vivian Bradley  
 Aaron Michael Burley  
 Garrett Allen Carpenter  
 Nicholas Vincent  
 Collova, III  
 Alba Cuevas  
 Amy Nycole Darland  
 Caitlin Marie Davis  
 Michelle E. Dickerson  
 Hope DiDomenicantonio  
 Nicholas Ervin  
 Brandon Lee Fayer  
 Tyler S. Fields  
 Kyle Robert Firstman  
 Ariel Marie Gagliano  
 Magdalena Gajdecki  
 Kazman Gajdecki  
 Christina Teran Gajdecki  
 And their beloved mother  
 Samantha Grace  
 Gearheart  
 Trevor Wayne Gearhart  
 Angel Geitz  
 Robert Geitz  
 Aiden Gibbs  
 Veronica Aurora Glaude  
 Benjamin Goedderz  
 Michael Dwane Hall  
 Hailey Faith Haimovitz  
 Julien A. Hartsook  
 Ashley Hawthorn  
 Devin Russell Hession  
 Tracey Lee Hudson  
 Julia Hurd  
 Morgan Anne Hutchinson  
 Sabrina Rose Hutterer  
 Samuel David Inlow  
 Esai Edward-Michael  
 Jacques  
 Logan Lillian Jepson  
 Leah Alyssa Johnson  
 Shannon Grace Johnston*

*Noah David Jungling-  
 Klein  
 Jordan David Klapprich  
 Victor Philip Kish  
 Madison Louise Kondro  
 Carina Loren Kurtz  
 Hattie Ann Lear  
 Timothy James Lewis  
 Jackson Lipari  
 Brittany Michelle Martin  
 Andrew McBreen  
 Claire Patricia Nibali  
 Blake Andrew Nicholls  
 Grace O'Hara  
 Elijah Ortega  
 Brandon Keoni Ovalles  
 Garrett Christopher Pike  
 Bryant Michael Porter  
 Mario E. Ramirez  
 Kayla Kamiko Robinson  
 Carlos Roel  
 Shawn William Scaturro  
 Odle Scott  
 Hailey Elizabeth Scranton  
 Allison Shutt  
 Maria Sierra  
 Shannon Lory Smith  
 Hope Marie Sorrelman  
 Naomi Malilah Spencer  
 Benjamin James Swanson  
 Graham Ross Templeton  
 Steven Thomas Terrien  
 Jacob Edward Thiede  
 Hayden Thomas  
 Vanderbloemen  
 Madison and Madeline  
 Wetterhan  
 Colin Edward Witcraft*



# Memorial Donations

# In Loving Memory of . . .

**Kelly Luciano**  
By Lisa Luciano

**Fallon Nicol Rhodes**  
By her loving mother, Alison Rhodes

**Emily Elizabeth Szidik**  
By her loving mother, Michelle Baird-Szidik

**Kayla Hathoway**  
By Carl W. Strohl

**Taylor Joy McClure**  
By her loving family,  
Kim, Jim, Tanner and Skylar  
Peoria, AZ

**Ian Thomas Mizgalski**  
My precious angel in inspiration and light,  
And a reminder to always be kind first  
By Anna Strem

**Tristan A. Castellanos**  
By Gregg and Lori Rickert and family

**Cody Elijah Iverson**  
By anonymous donor

**David Lawrence Baker and  
Cheyenne Cacciatore**  
In honor of Joanne and her work  
By Linda Schill

**Helen Sayako Kaneshiro**  
By Patti Kaneshiro

**Callie Drew Castleman**  
We miss you very much Babygirl.  
You are always in our hearts  
By her loving mother, Gypsy  
Ardmore, OK

**Casey James Overacker**  
By his loving mother, Rhonda  
Tonganoxie, KS

**David Isaac Jacobs**  
By his loving mother, Lori Dunwoody

Indianapolis, IN

**Bridgette Frye**  
I was privileged to have met Bridgette  
By Sheri Turner  
Hingham, MA

**Oralee and Julian**  
By S. Williams

**Lily Rowan Ogburn**  
By her loving mother, Donna Lanclos  
Albany, CA

**Brittney Angelique Grace**  
By Tammy and Joseph Grace

**Danielle Heddlesten**  
By Megan Heddlesten, her loving mother  
Ladera Ranch, CA

**Abbi Grace Kontra**  
By her loving mother, Suzie  
Costa Mesa, CA

**Kenneth James Butts**  
In honor of my son  
By his loving mother, Laura Butts  
Searcy, AR

**Daniel Spadafino**  
By Gary and Jenny McSpadden

**Geneva Elaine Hedman**  
By Janet Peirce Hollett

**Megan Wondra**  
By Gary and Jenny McSpadden

**Elizabeth Christena Swader**  
By Richard and Melinda Krissingner  
Elmhurst, IL  
And by Nancy and Jack Taylor  
Redmond, WA

**JD Moeschl**  
In honor of your two year birthday..two  
years of love, memories, tears and being a  
family. We miss you, Kupaianaha

By Malia, Joe, and Jessi Moeschl,  
his loving family

**Abby Cunningham**  
Happy 2nd Birthday!  
By the Moeschl Family  
Glendale, AZ

**Samantha Jo Shull**  
By Connie V. Sforza,  
her loving grandmother

**Dylan Michael Jones**  
Happy 1st Birthday  
By his loving family,  
Ron and Gillian Jones  
Woodbridge, VA

**Allison Grace Powell**  
By Twyla Powell  
Montpelier, VA

**Daniel Armstrong**  
By Janine Armstrong

**Bailey Sher**  
By Bev, Jeff, Laurence and Sam

**Amy Jo Treadway**  
By her loving mother, Lisa  
Fairmont, WV

**Samantha Ashley Morlan**  
By Marcia Minnihan

**Taylor Jordan Soucie**  
By her loving mother Kalisha

**Lucas Darley Dutton**  
By his loving family  
Boise, ID

**James Edward William Burmeister IV**  
By Joleen Burmeister

**The MISS Foundation Children**  
By Frans Kontol

“There is incredible power in testimony. Every time you share your story...you help to heal yourself.”

~Joanne Cacciatore-Garard

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# Are We Different? *Parenting Practices Study*

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## *Update on MISS Member, Mei Zhou's Doctoral Thesis:*

The purpose of the study was to investigate parenting practices of those mothers who have previously experienced perinatal death.

Two research questions were addressed: 1) what are the differences in parenting practices between those who experienced loss and those who did not, and 2) within the loss group, do the following factors have any relationship to overprotective parenting: age of the subsequent child; age of the mother; the number of living children a mother has; and gestational age at the time of loss?

Participants of the study were 43 mothers of preschool or school age children who experienced pregnancy loss/perinatal death. The sample of the participants was obtained through the use of a national organization. The child born immediately subsequent to the lost child was the target child in the study. .

A self-report instrument was used in the study. Participating mothers responded to a three-section questionnaire concerning their parenting beliefs and practices. The following measures were adapted and used in the study: Parent Opinion Form and Parental Bonding Instrument (PBI) Protection Scale developed by Parker (1983); and the parenting dimensions measure designed by Robinson et al. (1995).

Two sets of comparisons were conducted to address the research questions. The first set of comparisons was related to the differences in parenting practices between the loss group and the comparison group (i.e., the norm groups established by the makers of the instruments used in the study). *t* tests were used to examine the differences between the two groups.

A second set of comparisons was related to differences within the loss group. Simple linear regression analyses were used to test differences associated with age of the subsequent child, age of the mother, the number of living children, and gestational age at the time of loss.

Differences were found in reported parenting practices between mothers who experienced pregnancy loss/perinatal death and the norm group of mothers. As far as overprotective parenting belief and behaviors are concerned, mothers in the loss group reported a decreased tendency to make decisions for their children and more difficulty in allowing their children to be independent. They also reported behaving in a more overprotective fashion toward their subsequent children

As far as authoritarian parenting is concerned, mothers in the loss group were less likely to engage in non-reasoning or be directive, however, they were more inclined to argue when their children disagree or misbehave.

When it comes to authoritative parenting, mothers with a history of loss reported a greater tendency to have a warm and pleasant relationship with their subsequent children, and to use reasoning and democratic strategies to discipline their children.

In regard to permissive parenting, mothers with a history of loss reported more of a tendency to ignore misbehavior, and to have low self-confidence in parenting.

Differences also were found within the loss group. Mothers who had more living children reported exhibiting less overprotective behaviors and younger mothers rated themselves as more overprotective.

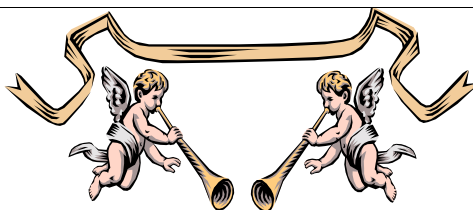
*For more information, email [info@missfoundation.org](mailto:info@missfoundation.org)*

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

---

*Tatum Diane Adkins  
Emily Elizabeth Bloomquist  
Harrison Campbell  
Gabriel Michael Foltz  
Joseph Funk  
Jasmine Gonzalez  
Faith Gregory  
Kayla Hathaway  
Brandon David Lane-Mullenax  
Alyssa Lintner  
Elajha Moreno*



*Kamille Ortega Colinajo  
Daniel Rangel  
Baby Boy Richards  
Keleb Lee Scanlon  
Benjamin Thompson Green*

*Jamond Thompson  
Angelique Hall  
Devon Weidauer  
Dean Weidauer  
Dylan Wright  
Kayla Lynn Stead  
Everett Joseph Orr  
Jessica Anni Clorice Christianson  
Ian Campbell McNeil  
Josephine Duran  
Connor Rocha-Peterson*



# Remembering ...



Aaron Lee Farrier



Allison Shutt



Amber Elise Pullin



Carina Kurtz



Colin Edward Witcraft



Megan Rowley



Danielle Mackenzie Farnsworth



Claire Nibali and Her big brother



Gabrial Kaye Fullerton



Garrett Allen Carpenter And his big brother



Hope Christine Barker



Harley Michael D'Argenio





# ... Our Children



Jacob Thomas DeAngelo



Caleb Lewis



Hailey Lynn Scranton



Shawn W. Scaturro



Jenna Marie Zanger



Jacob Edward Thiede



Robert J. Harris



Trey Brayden Roper



Amanda Nicole Alvarado  
And her Mommy



Carlos Roel



Brandon Boettcher



# Announcements! Announcements!

## The East Valley Chapter Of Kids In Sympathy & Support Will No Longer Be Meeting

We regret to inform you that we will no longer be holding Kids In Sympathy & Support group meetings in the East Valley.

These are the meetings that were formerly held on the 2nd Saturday of each month at Dayspring United Methodist Church in Tempe, AZ.

If you have any questions or need someone to talk to about Kids grief feel free to call **Jim & Tish Nibali @ 480-814-7013**, or **LeeAnn Morlan @ 480-963-9844**. For information about other Phoenix area KISS Meetings please check the MISS Foundation website.

## MISS Foundation Idaho - 2nd Annual Family Picnic!

Municipal Park, Boise - June 14, NOON Family social, honoring Father's Day and memorial balloon release.

208-861-2407

**The MISS Foundation** is putting together a few scrapbooks and photo boards to be displayed at support groups and MISS events like this year's conference. If you would like to include your child's picture in either the photo board or the scrapbook, we will need:

For the photo board:

1 photo

For the scrapbook:

3-4 photos

Please make copies of the photos. We would rather have a photo then sending them via email because of the quality.

Be sure to include your child's name and birthday and/or angel date.

Please send them to the MISS office at:

P.O. Box 5333

Peoria, AZ 85385

## Helping Families Facing Death

Please visit our new forum board conference, "**Ask the Experts**," on the MISS Website.

<http://www.missfoundation.org/cgi-bin/dcforum/dcboard.cgi>

A place where you can ask very difficult questions about your child's death. Scientific, medical, investigative, and psychology experts will help respond to your questions. Please allow up to 72 hours for a response.

*\*\*\*By posting and reading there, you acknowledge and understand the following: The information contained in this forum is not intended as legal, medical, or professional advice. If you have further concerns or doubts, you should consult a local attorney, physician, therapist or other professional who can help\*\*\**

## Arizona Peer Contacts

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

Angela Iverson	623-537-0139
Linda Schmidt	623-362-8838
Tim and Nicole Dougherty	602-923-1630
Lee Ann Morlan	480-963-9844
Andy Castellanos	623-780-9546
Anne Rumps ( <b>Tucson</b> )	520-795-4712
Debra Brooks	623-487-4275
Heather Lewis	623-334-4044
Ed and Robin Kennedy ( <b>Kids</b> )	602-547-1244
Mary Orta	623-580-0539
Heather Marvin ( <b>Chino Valley</b> )	928-636-9327
Mindy Runyan ( <b>Kingman</b> )	928-757-2348
<b>~Subsequent Pregnancy and Family Planning~</b>	
Anna Kennedy	602-439-9025
Patrice Hedman	480-857-9792
Gennie Contreras	602-999-0226

**~Drowning/Accidents~**

Asena Nicolosi	602-367-4626
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**~Spanish Contact~**

Alicia Cunningham	623-772-1358
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*Support groups and contacts for areas outside of Arizona can be found in back*

## Safe Arrivals ... We Celebrate our Rainbows

<i>Conner Joseph George</i> Son of Dawn and Stephen, and little brother to Meghan Elizabeth	<i>Hunter Mark Madison,</i> Son of Sherri and Mark, and little brother to Justin Mark.
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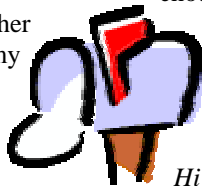
<i>Carly Kathleen Overacker</i> Daughter of Greg and Rhonda, and little sister to Casey James and Griffin.	<i>Jacob Wesley Crawford,</i> Son of Karen and Toby, and little brother to Wesley Allen.
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## Letters From Our Mailbox . . .

**Dear MISS,**

Just had to tell you the neatest story. I bought the Fisher Price Little People farm (a favorite in my family as my sister and I used to play with the 30+ year old versions) and took it to Ronald McDonald House yesterday evening. I'd spoken with Carol on the phone early yesterday and she let me know she had the perfect little boy in mind for receiving this toy - a little 18 month old boy whose infant sibling is in the hospital with breathing problems. Anyway, I caught Carol at the end of the day yesterday when I dropped off the gift and asked out of curiosity what the name of the boy receiving our gift in memory of our Luke would be. She looked in the book and found that the recipient is also named Luke. Wow-did my eyes well with tears! Thanks for inspiring us to once again do something to "connect" with our sweet son. What a wonderful feeling!

*Mimi Dutton*



enough to know about her brother who did not live. We'd appreciate any advice you might have. Thank you for all you do through the MISS Foundation. I hope you and your family are well.

*Jaye Zessar*

*Hi Jaye,*

*We don't really have any suggestions specific to a "cause of death" - the whole basis of our philosophy is on the idea of KISS- keep it simple and short- by short, we mean direct. Children are concrete until adolescence when abstract thought develops. Subsequent children should be told from very early ages about the MISSING family member, how they died, and respect for their 'place' in the family is appropriate to facilitate. Have you read the section on children in the MISS site? There is so much helpful info there! Thanks!*

*Joanne Cacciatore*

**Dear MISS,**

At a Compassionate Friends' meeting, I picked up the book "Dear Cheyenne". It is such a beautifully written book, I would like to buy a copy for myself. I also would like to buy a few more. The copy I read is a soft-cover book "Edition IV"... You have no reason to remember me, but I moved here six years ago from Los Angeles County and felt completely lost without my grief support group which I attended in Orange County (they were originally Compassionate Friends, but changed to Bereaved Parents). One day I read a story on you and your friend in the local paper. I had trouble locating a group here and considered following up with you, but from reading your story, I thought I would feel uncomfortable telling you that my daughter died at age 32. You see I know how lucky I am to have had her that long and lucky that she left us two grandchildren. After meeting you, I realized how silly my thinking was because you are truly a compassionate person: when I spoke to you, you said to me "She was still your baby". I love your book --- now I have a pretty good idea of what it feels like to have a stillborn baby. It was something I just couldn't grasp. Thank you so much for writing this book. I look forward to your response so I can decide how many books I can buy.

*Ellen's mother,*

*Alice Marshall*

**Dear MISS,**

We have corresponded before, I believe, as I am a national director of the NSS. I'm wondering if you might be able to offer some suggestions or recommend an appropriate source for suggestions. Most of what I've found about telling siblings about stillbirths, etc. is in connection with telling an older child at the time of the stillbirth. I haven't found any suggestions for telling a sibling born afterwards. Today our first grandchild would have been 6 years old. His parents, our daughter and son-in-law, have since had 2 healthy babies. The oldest, Haley, is almost 5 and her parents feel that she is old



**Dear MISS,**

Thank you for your recent emails. Please know that I was proud to add my name to the Senate version of the stillbirth certificate bill, S1771, after being sworn in as Senator in January. I have sent formal posting request letters to the co-Senate Chairs of the Senate Health, Human Services & Senior Services Committee, Joseph Vitale and John Matheussen. Your organizations have been very effective in getting New Jersey residents to send letters and can only ask that you continue to work to inform legislators, particularly committee chairs, as to the importance and significance of this initiative. Thank you for your continued advocacy.

*Senator Thomas H. Kean*

**Dear Joanne,**

I saw you on Leeza, Feb. 17th and I can not express just what your words meant to me. You see, I lost my baby, Barbara Susan, 34 years ago, on Feb 15th, 1966. Barbara lived just 16 hours, was full term, actually 11 days over due. I was in the hospital, in labor for 37 1/2 hours. I know they should have done a C-section, but I was a clinic patient, and was told all 5 doctors had to agree, and they could not get all 5 together. My husband I were young, knew no better and in those days, more than trusted a doctors word. There were no bereavement groups, I had asked for a priest, as this was a Catholic Hospital, yet none ever came to try to help me through this horror. When communion was distributed, we had to go into the hallway. I was so torn from the stitches of a breech birth, could barely walk also from the weakness. I went into deep depression, and although I had my first daughter, she was not yet 3, to take care of and hold and love, it did not help. By September, my husband finally took me to the doctor, who put me on anti-depressants, that were so heavy, I could barely lift my head, much less take care of my little girl. She was going through a terrible time as she was told she had a baby sister, and then had to be told the baby was ill, could not come home and finally went to heaven. No three year old could comprehend this. I

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## Mailbox... (cont'd)

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have never gotten over my loss. My arms still feel so empty, and I never got to see Barbara. In my mind, I picture her either in the room with tubes and machines or in a tiny white casket, dressed in her christening outfit that my brother bought for her. When I heard you say it does not matter if the baby passed away shortly after birth, I cried, as I knew I found the place to talk, and hopefully begin to heal. You see Joanne, I could not ever tell my story in the newer Infant Loss groups, as I feel I would discourage the families that had recent losses. I do not fit into "Loss of Child" as there is a difference in infants lost at birth. I want to thank you for creating and sharing your work. I will be going into the chat room, if you think it appropriate for me, with all the years gone by. Like you, with the story of the shoes for the children, I have always related to buying two of everything for my little girls: dolls, carriages, dresses, toys, etc. I hope to be able to give to others, especially now, as I feel it was "divine intervention", as I had let the tape run through Montel when I left the house, on the 17th. Leeza follows him, here. I will delve into the rest of your site shortly and am looking forward to being part of your group and hope to help others here also. I lost my husband 5 1/2 years ago, to cancer with many terrible complications. It took me awhile, but found I could help others through becoming a Hospice Volunteer, even though we did not have Hospice. It was my way of making his and Barbara's lives not to be for naught. God Bless You!

Ann

### Madam,

I am doing meditation regularly. I am also reading books. I have great interest in book reading. I read both English and Telugu (native language) books. Collecting the information, visiting and knowing about different places, people, countries, cultures, religions, civilizations, wild life and forests, etc., is my hobby. I have been doing correspondence with Tourist Offices, Museums, Research Institutes, etc., of worldwide and receive 500 letters from 50 countries since 1990. Madam, I belong to middle class Indian family. So, it is not possible to me to purchase books/magazines from foreign countries. I got rare old English books from old books shops of India. Till now I received 10 books from different persons across globe as gift. Similarly, I also received various spiritual magazines/catalogues etc. also from various organizations. I am having hope you understand my zeal/enthusiasm in other cultures/spirituality etc. I am having hope you understand my economic position and my spiritual quest and encouraging me by sending me your "Dear Cheyenne" book. It was a request only. For your kind information I give below some of inspirational messages about books etc. from various persons which I received. Madam, I sent these message to you because I hope after reading them encouraging me by sending me your "Dear Cheyenne" book to me like others. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,  
Dokka Srinivasu.



### Dear MISS Foundation,

It was so wonderful to meet your organization today at the Women's Expo. I could not stop talking about the amazing things you are doing in the community. I am so passionate about providing appropriate support for families in crisis situations, especially when there are so few resources. This is why I have been doing what I can as a mother and a counselor for postpartum women. I run a free support group in the east valley with another mother who is also a doula. I am hoping to get one started in the Scottsdale/N. Phoenix area too. I also provide individual and or family therapy. I am looking forward to the conference in May and working with you in some capacity. I am just so impressed with what you are doing from something so painful. Thank you so much for your time today.

Michelle Lacy

### Dear Ms. Cacciatore,

As you may recall, in September of last year, MISS presented its viewpoints and submitted a manuscript to the Institute of Medicine committee that is studying palliative, end-of-life and bereavement care for children who die and their families. The committee received your manuscript *The Power of Compassion...* may we use selected short quotes from the manuscript with citation? Again, we thank you for the presentation and manuscript to the committee.

It was both moving and helpful.

Best regards,

Marilyn J. Field, Ph.D.  
Senior Program Officer  
Institute of Medicine

### Dear MISS,

I borrowed (from *The Compassionate Friends* chapter) and read *Dear Cheyenne* a few months after our daughter passed away. (I can't use the "D" word in connection with Jen; to do so would deny that she remains ever-present, but in another form. Jen was much older, 27 and now is 28, than your Cheyenne, but I found your feelings, the sense of loss, to echo my own. It's not the length of time the kiddo was with us; it's the fact they left too soon. I marked the page where you wrote about the holiday memorial card that you sent out the first year, and wondered if I might borrow that idea, and send out a substantially similar message in Jen's memory this season.

Thank you for your consideration, and THANK YOU for your book.

Sincerely,  
Carolyn Edlund

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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	
<b>ADD \$4 SHIPPING TO ALL ORDERS</b>				<b>\$4.00</b>
<b>TOTAL ORDER</b>			0	


*I would like to include a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_*


*My donation is in memory of \_\_\_\_\_*

*Please send a memorial card to: \_\_\_\_\_*

*\_\_\_\_\_*

*\_\_\_\_\_*





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

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

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

Phone: (        ) \_\_\_\_\_

## MISS Foundation Chapters and Global Peer Contacts

### 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)  
626-963-9120 Kristin Jared

### California—Ocean Side

For information on this group contact  
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

### London England **\*NEW\***

2nd Sunday of each month (starting May  
2003) from 1:30-3:30 pm  
Northfields Community Centre  
71A Northcroft Rd., Room 4  
London W13 cathie@missfoundation.org

### Idaho - Boise

1st Monday of month, 6:30 pm  
New Heights Christian Fellowship  
Nancy and Peter Grayson  
(208)861-2407 Nancy@missfoundation.org

### Denver-Colorado

First Tuesday of each month, 6:30 p.m.  
Stonegate Community Center, Parker  
Leslie Clemenson 303-841-4152  
Leslie@missfoundation.org

### 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  
914-423-5204 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

### Indiana **\*NEW\***

3rd Wednesday of each month (start Apr.  
2003) at 7-9 pm  
IU Campus, Ruth Lily Medical Research  
Library, 4th floor atrium  
Crissy Tohm & Katie Irby

### 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

For one-to-one contact  
Call 206-251-6706 (cell) Kara Jones  
Or leave message at 206-463-5511 X 601  
or email Kara@missfoundation.org

### Washington-West Seattle **\*NEW\***

Delridge Library Meeting Room  
5423 Delridge Way, S.W.  
From 1-3 pm on these days in 2003  
April 19, May 17, July 19, Aug. 16, Sept. 20,  
Oct. 18, Nov. 15, Dec. 20

### Tampa, Florida MISS Group

Email and phone contact only  
Please call 813-545-6737 or email  
Monique@missfoundation.org  
Monique Moya, Facilitator

### New Connecticut Group Coming Soon!

Heather@missfoundation.org

### New Massachusetts Group Coming Soon!

Lynne@missfoundation.org

**Global Peer Contacts to help you. Please call, we are here to listen.**

#### Connecticut

Heather Farrier-203-895-2138

#### Maryland

Lisa D'Argenio-410-833-2592

#### Indiana

Crissy Tohm-317-826-7913

Katie Irby-317-878-4937

#### California

Kim Lotz-209-725-9241

Maricela Angel-209-723-1010 (Spanish)

Alisa Detwiler-760-414-1302

Kristen Jared-626-963-9120

#### Minnesota

Heidi Ciepielinski-320-859-5660

Trina Charles-320-763-6317

#### Missouri

Greg Carder-816-690-6273

#### Mexico City

Carla Hoffman-(52-55)5570 1327

#### UK

Cathie Shipton-07932 812931

## Arizona MISS Foundation Chapters

### **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  
Contact *Angela Iverson*  
*Angela@missfoundation.org*

### **Drowning Only Support Group**

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

### **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*

### **Spanish Speaking Support Group**

Beginning Jan. 9, 2003!

2nd Thursday of each month,  
Immaculate Heart of Mary church  
909 E. Washington  
West side entrance of church hall  
*Alicia & Steve Cunningham*  
*LICHITA31@aol.com*

### **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*

### **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*

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

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

### **Prescott**

1st Monday of each month, 5:00 p.m.  
Mudd Hole Expresso  
239 N. Marina-intersecting w/Sheldon St.  
*Heather Marvin*  
*heather@missfoundation.org*

### **East Valley Subsequent Preg. Group**

1st Saturday of each month, 2 p.m.  
Day Spring United Methodist Church  
1365 E. Elliot, Room 201  
Contact *Patrice Hedman at*  
*480-857-9792*

### **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*

"You will find as you look back upon your life that the moments when you have truly lived are the moments when you have done things in the spirit of love."

**-Henry Drummond**

### **My Precious Son**

My little boy, so quickly you came  
into my life.

Too quickly you left. It seems like just  
yesterday and a lifetime ago all at  
once. I never heard you cry, your  
voice was silent before you reached  
the air.

My head plays new games with me,  
dark in the night. Sometimes it is a  
cry, other times a giggle, a sweet  
"mama", a breeze of air by my face  
from precious angel wings.

I never saw your precious smile. I  
imagine in my mind what that glori-  
ous look may be. I see it in my  
dreams, in a flower, in the sky.... in  
my heart.

I never heard you breathe as you  
slept on my chest or in your room.  
You slept without breath far too  
soon. I know you were at peace... in  
a place where your breath is life.

Each day I wonder if you know how  
much you are loved. My spirit is with  
you. My love, my heart, my being. I  
know that you are just a whisper  
away and hear each and every "I love  
you".

I died with you that day, my precious  
Tyler.

My heart beats a rhythmic pattern, a  
mothers love beating despite the pain.  
Expressing my love for you in acts  
for others.

Each breath I take seems painful to  
my body, to my soul.

I held my breath that day, in hopes  
that you would take it and use it for  
your own. I know that you couldn't,  
and my breath is not mine to give.

My soul will never be the same.

My heart is still broken, my eyes still  
filled with tears, my arms are empty.  
My strength somedays is present,  
others not. The process is cruel.

I will never be the same, I miss you  
beautiful angel.

I am a mom... and no one acknowl-  
edges. I am a mom... Then I will ac-  
knowledge you every chance I get.

**-By Melissa Delgado**

**In memory of her son Tyler**

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

#### No Vacation

There is no vacation from your absence.

Every morning I awake

I am a bereaved parent.

Every noon

I feel the hole in my heart.

Every evening

my arms are empty.

My life is busy now

but not quite full.

My heart is mended

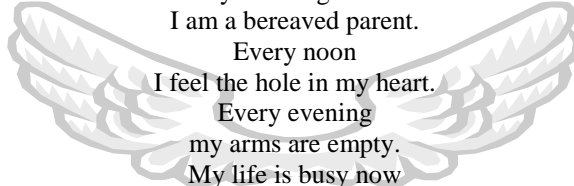
but not quite healed.

For the rest of my life

every moment will be lived without you.

There is no vacation from your absence.

*By Kathy Boyette*



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](mailto:info@missfoundation.org).

A Publication of the  
MISS Foundation

P.O. Box 5333

Peoria, AZ 85385

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

*This newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Laci Peterson and her son, Connor.  
You will never be forgotten...*