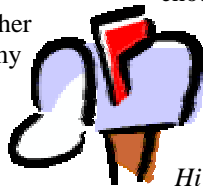


Letters From Our Mailbox . . .

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

Mailbox... (cont'd)

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

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 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:

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Street address: _____

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

Idaho - Boise

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

Ohio

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

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

Denver-Colorado

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

California—Ocean Side

For information on this group contact
760-806-9812 Alisa@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

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

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

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

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

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

Maryland — Westminster

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

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

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

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

Tampa, Florida MISS Group

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

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

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

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 glorious 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 acknowledges. I am a mom... Then I will acknowledge you every chance I get.

-By Melissa Delgado

In memory of her son Tyler

Shop and Support!

Shop for those special gifts at our MISS Store online! Visit our online store at www.missfoundation.org

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

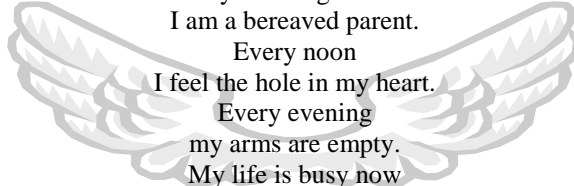
but not quite healed.

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.

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Email: info@missfoundation.org



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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...*