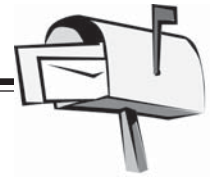


# Letters From The MISS Mailbox...



Dear MISS,

This is the 4th year without our little son. Friends and family are forgetting him...he is gone and forgotten. But thanks to your foundation we have a special place where we can always remember our sweet little son.



When we receive your newsletter in the mail it warms my heart. You can not imagine what a comfort you are to so many. I have shared your publication with friends whose older children have died and it consoles their broken hearts - for we all know that there is not greater pain in life to endure than that of losing your child. God bless you Joanne and all your wonderful volunteers for giving us hope and allowing us to always remember our children, when the world wants to forget them.

With Love & Gratitude,  
Brooke Backman Rye

Hello All,

As many of you know today is my 30th birthday. My birthday and the days before are quite dreadful due to my daughter's death falling just four days later. I did not want to get out of bed this morning, I did not want to hear the words "Happy Birthday" knowing that it would send me into a flood of tears. I did get out of bed however, and I did go to work, and yes, I did hear those words, and yes I did cry. I wasn't sure how I would make it through the day...but I did. My last interview, I had a drug addicted mother coming down and she ended up getting sick and vomiting and having trouble breathing. We had to call 911 to come and help her. While the paramedics were there we learned that her three small children were at home by themselves, needless to say the tears started again, and I was outraged. When the firemen



left I went back into my cubicle and they had left me a hand written letter that said "happy birthday Kelli, Love the Phoenix Fire Department"

I felt that was so nice, and yet again I began to cry. I was then called into my supervisor's office and I was thinking in my head WHAT NOW! Well, I walked around the corner and my co-workers had set up a display of brownies (knowing I don't eat cake) and fruit and ice cream with chocolate topping. They presented me with a gift that I would like to share with you all.

They hand wrote me a card on construction paper to match the clothes I was wearing (an inside joke because my nail polish always matches my clothes). The card reads:

"Happy Birthday to a very caring, encouraging, bright, sweet, thoughtful, loving, strong, devoted, special, powerful, considerate and most importantly wonderful Lady". And then on the inside..."We know this is a very rough time for you, but we want you to know that you are Loved! Please accept these donations in Honor of 'Jennifer' to The MISS Foundation for your birthday!"

Everyone had contributed and I know that state workers are not the best paid profession, but it was a gift from their heart.

I was and still am awstruck...speechless!

And they also made me a little framed picture of Jennifer that they took from my cubicle and attached is "Please know how much you are loved, and how much your loss is felt by all. And a poem :

I know how hard it is, to lose the one

you love

but look up in the sky, the cloud up near the dove

and you will see her face, just smiling proud at you

and you will know she cares, that you miss her so, too

and she will always be in your heart and in your head

For she's a white lily and you're a rose so red

For she'd have liked the things you do and keep on doing

and she'll be there just when your troubles are ensuing

and solve those troubles then for you, though a surprise

she sees through things you can't with soft caressing eyes

So miss her not TOO much

but cry your tears til dry for she is in your heart...she's right up there on high!

And then my mother, my sweet mother, sends me a bracelet, it has my birth stone with an Angel next to it and in the middle it says "I love my daughter". Thank you mom! I will wear it always!

I am so overcome with emotion from the outpours of remembrance at such a much needed time. I don't even know how to begin to say thank you.....I have dreaded this day for weeks and as bittersweet as this all is.....I feel so blessed!

Thank you all!

I love you!

Loving and missing my daughter  
Kelli Rivera

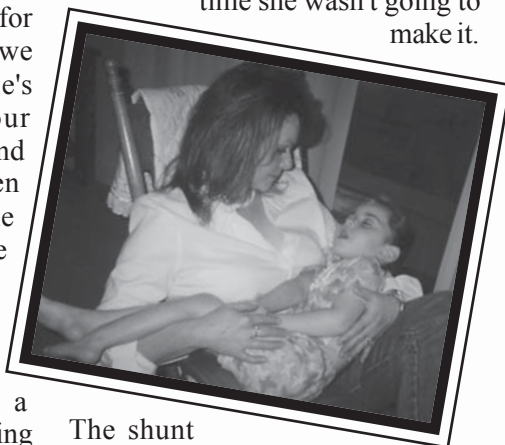
## Laura's Memories of Kylie: an RN's Perspective

in God's hands. The priest started with his blessing over Kylie, followed by anointing her forehead with holy water. He began to say the Lord's Prayer as we all reached to join hands and form a circle around her chanting the same words in harmony. About a half hour later, we took Kylie upstairs and waited for the outcome. As time passed, we were all surprised to see Kylie's improvement. God heard our prayers and saw the woven bond of love and happiness and then answered them with his divine intervention of amazing grace. We had all witnessed a true miracle!

I focused back on sorting through the box and picked up the lock of Kylie's golden brown hair, a teething ring in the shape of a spring flower, and then a couple of outfits that were worn by her not so long ago...

My memory goes on as months and years pass by as Dana continued to bring Kylie up to the hospital to visit with me and the rest of the nurses. Kylie would light up the unit as she looked at you with those big brown eyes and bright flirty smile. One look at her and she would make all our hearts a glow...it was love at first sight! Dana's face would radiate on how proud she was of her little girl. Kylie shared so much spunk and personality as each one of us would take turns talking, playing and tickling her. Seeing her was a pure delight! The power of prayer and faith in the Lord has brought our 'little

miracle child" to the age of 3. Then as the seasons change, so had the life of Kylie. It was in January when I had just come home from a vacation in Hawaii and heard the message that was left by her Grandma Sue. Kylie had been in a coma for a couple of days and this time she wasn't going to make it.



The shunt in her brain had begun to shut down. I immediately went over to see Kylie and to offer help and support to Dana, Sue and their family. During Kylie's final week, I was able to care for her and cradle her little body in my arms once again (it's a framed image I'll never forget). Kylie's respiratory pattern kept a peaceful rhythm of one deep breath, followed by three quick shallow ones. I knew this little angel was beginning her spiritual departure with one foot on heaven's door.

The last thing that I looked at in the box was a packet filled with poems and letters from family and friends. The song "In My Daughter's Eyes" goes through my mind as I read the 'letter from Dana to Kylie.' Tears

filled my eyes once again on how inspiring it was to see the deep compassionate love and nurturing relationship between a mother and daughter. The last letter was "My precious Kylie", by her Grandmother Sue. In it contained details of Kylie's final moments. Tears rolled down my face as I read about Dana dancing with her little girl, and the song "I Hope You Dance" played in my mind...

Kylie was the most beautiful angel I've ever seen and I will remember...

Her "gleaming smile" when the sun beams down from the clouds.

Her "twinkling eyes" when stars shine at night.

The essence of her soul, so sweet, innocent and pure when I see the petals of a pastel pink or white rose.

The wings of an angel dancing in streets of gold when I see a graceful butterfly pass by.

The halo upon her head when I see a rainbow in the sky - and the melody begins "Somewhere over the Rainbow..."

And finally, the "miracle of life" when I see a forget-me-not as her story will be shared for many years to come.

Dana, I cannot begin to thank you enough for your generous gift. Kylie's memories will be treasured forever.

Thank you so much,  
Laura Kinder, RN

# I Saw You Today

By Kara Newland

*I Saw You Today*

*I saw you today in the sunset.*

*You were a beautiful mixture of pink and orange.*

*I was amazed at your beauty.*

*All I could do was stare.*

*I saw you today in the clouds.*

*You floated and danced in the wind.*

*You briefly covered up the sun,*

*And I saw your shadow on the mountains.*

*I saw you today in a rainbow,*

*Through a tiny window of the airplane.*

*As we turned and you were gone,*

*Your brother reminded me that you're always with us.*

*I saw you today everywhere I went.*

*You were the little girl at the park,*

*You looked at me through Daddy's eyes at dinner time,*

*Your light burns brightly in the candle on our dinner table.*

*I saw you today.*

*I'll see you tomorrow.*

*I'll hold you in Heaven.*

*In Loving Memory of Maia Grace Newland  
January 17, 2004*

# Grief...

*Grief is a tidal wave that overtakes you,  
Smashes down upon you with unimaginable  
force,*

*Sweeps you up into its darkness,*

*Where you tumble and crash against  
unidentifiable surfaces*

*Only to be thrown out on an unknown beach,  
bruised, reshaped.....*

*It is the ashes from which the phoenix rises  
and the mettle of rebirth.*

*It returns life to the living dead.*

*It teaches that there is nothing absolutely true or  
untrue...*

*Grief will make a new person out of you,*

*If it doesn't kill you in the making.*

*-Stephanie Ericsson*



## **International Contacts:**

### **Mexico City**

FUNDACIÓN ESPERANZA's Support  
Group, 2nd Tuesday of each month,  
9:30a.m. Contact Carla at  
(5255)5579 1327 for location  
[carlah@missfoundation.org](mailto:carlah@missfoundation.org)

### **Ireland**

Sinead Williamson  
email [sinead@missfoundation.org](mailto:sinead@missfoundation.org)

### **London England**

2nd Sunday of each month, 1:30 p.m.  
Room 4, Northfields Community Centre  
71A Northcroft Road, London W13  
Phone: 07932 812931  
Contact: Cathie Shipton 07932 812931  
[cathie@missfoundation.org](mailto:cathie@missfoundation.org)  
*more to come...*

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

*Alyssa Jean Jackson  
Donald Ray Ambler, III  
Jhalia Kay Mayberry  
Nicholas William Lopez  
Asdit Shankar  
Zander Aiden Mora  
Nicholas Comon  
Emil Brouwer  
Samantha Jane Taylor*



*Natalie Rose Baker  
Ethan Lee Trujillo  
Makenzie Trinity Bennett  
Nia Murphy  
Sarah Elizabeth Barclay  
Bella Grace Wagoner  
Tehuitzin Enrique  
Dimitri Kekoa Page  
MacKenzie Grace Petroff*

# MISS Foundation Chapters & Global Peer Contacts

## **Arkansas**

Camden  
Karen Loomis  
[karen.loomis@missfoundation.org](mailto:karen.loomis@missfoundation.org)

## **California**

Arcadia - Kristin Jared 626-963-9120  
[kristin@missfoundation.org](mailto:kristin@missfoundation.org)

Huntington Beach - Katie Hodge  
714-585-3614  
[katie@missfoundation.org](mailto:katie@missfoundation.org)

Merced - Kim Lotz 209-725-9241  
[kim@missfoundation.org](mailto:kim@missfoundation.org)  
Tricia Lencioni 209-384-7381 and  
Sheryl McAllister 209-383-3392

San Diego - Keny Marie Leepier  
619-521-1891  
[keny@missfoundation.org](mailto:keny@missfoundation.org)

West Hills - Heather Lipari  
818-999-5888  
[heather\\_lipari@missfoundation.org](mailto:heather_lipari@missfoundation.org)

## **Connecticut**

[heather@missfoundation.org](mailto:heather@missfoundation.org)

## **Colorado**

Denver - Leslie Clemenson  
303-841-4152  
[leslie@missfoundation.org](mailto:leslie@missfoundation.org)

## **Florida**

Trenton - Valerie 352-463-3986  
[vlgsml@missfoundation.org](mailto:vlgsml@missfoundation.org)

Palm Beach - Rusti 561-642-6464  
[rusti@missfoundation.org](mailto:rusti@missfoundation.org)

## **Idaho**

Boise - Nancy & Peter Grayson  
208-861-2407  
[nancy@missfoundation.org](mailto:nancy@missfoundation.org)

## **Illinois**

Roselle - Mary at 630-582-0874  
[mary@missfoundation.org](mailto:mary@missfoundation.org)

Sandwich - Angie Farley  
815-786-6873  
[angie\\_farley@missfoundation.org](mailto:angie_farley@missfoundation.org)

Wheaton - Mary at 630-852-0874  
[mary@missfoundation.org](mailto:mary@missfoundation.org)

## **Indiana**

Crissy Tohm & Katie Irby  
[crissy@missfoundation.org](mailto:crissy@missfoundation.org)  
[katie\\_irby@missfoundation.org](mailto:katie_irby@missfoundation.org)

## **Kansas**

Wichita - Alan & Karen Wondra  
316-721-8284  
[wondra@missfoundation.org](mailto:wondra@missfoundation.org)

## **Kentucky**

Pacucah - Kelly Nicholls  
270-395-7668  
[knicholls@missfoundation.org](mailto:knicholls@missfoundation.org)

## **Massachusetts**

West Medford - Lynne Barberian  
781-488-3546  
[lynne@missfoundation.org](mailto:lynne@missfoundation.org)

## **Minnesota**

Alexandria - Heidi Ciepielinski  
320-859-5660  
[heidi@missfoundation.org](mailto:heidi@missfoundation.org)

## **Oklahoma**

Pat Flynn  
[pat@missfoundation.org](mailto:pat@missfoundation.org)

## **Pennsylvania**

Jessica Finnegan  
[jessica@missfoundation.org](mailto:jessica@missfoundation.org)

## **Tennessee**

Memphis - Rex & Laura Butts  
901-523-7549  
[laura@missfoundation.org](mailto:laura@missfoundation.org) or  
[rex@missfoundation.org](mailto:rex@missfoundation.org)

## **Virginia, D.C. & Maryland Metro**

Fairfax - Tara Pitts 703-583-1503  
[tara@missfoundation.org](mailto:tara@missfoundation.org) &  
Dionna Williams 301-797-9155  
[dionna@missfoundation.org](mailto:dionna@missfoundation.org)

## **Virginia**

Gordonsville  
[elizabeth@missfoundation.org](mailto:elizabeth@missfoundation.org)

Richmond - Twyla Powell  
[twyla@missfoundation.org](mailto:twyla@missfoundation.org)

## **Washington**

West Seattle - Krista McNerney  
[krista@missfoundat.org](mailto:krista@missfoundat.org)

Spokane - Sarah Bain  
[sarah@missfoundation.org](mailto:sarah@missfoundation.org)

Vashon Island - Kara Jones  
205-251-6706  
[kara@missfoundation.org](mailto:kara@missfoundation.org)

*For specific meeting days and times, please visit [www.missfoundation.org](http://www.missfoundation.org).*

## **National Peer Contacts:**

### **Connecticut**

Heather Farrier 203-895-2138

### **Indiana**

Crissy Tohm 317-826-7913  
Katie Irby 317-878-4937

### **California**

Kim Lotz 209-725-9241  
Kristen Jared 626-963-9120  
Keny Leepier 619-801-1726  
Katie Hodge 714-585-3614 or  
714-442-3669 (*Experience with  
Accidental Toddler Death*)  
Kim St. Laurent 714 965-8883

### **Minnesota**

Heidi Ciepielinski 320-859-5660  
Trina Charles 320-763-6317

### **Missouri**

Gregg Carder 816-690-6273

# Arizona MISS Foundation Chapters

## Phoenix, Arizona

3rd Thursday of each month,  
Community Church of Joy  
21000 N. 75th Avenue  
Portable 6 behind the chapel  
6:30 p.m. Contact: *Anna Kennedy* at  
[anna@missfoundation.org](mailto:anna@missfoundation.org)

## Peoria, AZ - Inner Peace/Interfaith

**based** 2nd Thursday of the month, at  
Peace Lutheran Church, in the church  
library. 18265 N. 89th Ave., Peoria, AZ  
6:30p.m. Contact: *Deborah Brooks*  
[Deborah@missfoundation.org](mailto:Deborah@missfoundation.org), (623)  
487-4275 or *Anna Kennedy* at  
[anna@missfoundation.org](mailto:anna@missfoundation.org)

## Tempe, Arizona

1st Monday of the month, DaySpring  
United Methodist Church, 1365 E.  
Elliot Rd, Room #201, Tempe, AA  
6:30 p.m. Contact: *Lee Ann Morlan*  
[leeann@missfoundation.org](mailto:leeann@missfoundation.org)  
480-963-9844

## Central Phoenix, AZ - Child Drowning

1st Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m.  
St. Francis Xavier Church  
Parish Office Building, 4715 N.  
Central Ave., Phoenix, AZ, Contact:  
*Asena* 602-367-4626  
[asena@missfoundation.org](mailto:asena@missfoundation.org)

## Phoenix, AZ - Subsequent Pregnancy

Church of the Beatitudes  
7th Ave and Glendale, SE corner  
Contact: *Kelli Rivera* 623-203-4072  
[krivera2@cox.net](mailto:krivera2@cox.net)

## Tempe, AZ East Valley Subsequent Pregnancy Support Group

First Saturday of each month, 2:00pm  
DaySpring United Methodist Church  
1365 E. Elliot Rd, Room #201 (on  
Elliot, between McClintock and Rural),  
Tempe, AZ. Contact: *Angelique  
Watson*, 480-792-6705.  
Babies are welcome!

## Phoenix, AZ KISS—Kids In Sympathy & Support

For Kids in  
Grief - Northwest Valley. *Please  
email us for time/dates*  
Community Church of Joy, 21000 N.  
75th Avenue, Peoria, AZ. Portable 6  
behind the chapel. Contact: *Robin  
and Ed Kennedy* at 602-547-1244 or  
[cassandra@missfoundation.org](mailto:cassandra@missfoundation.org)

## Spanish-Speaking Support Group

2nd Monday of each month at Saint  
Francis Xavier Church, 4715 N.  
Central Ave, Phoenix, AZ @ 6:30 pm  
In the Parrish office which is the two  
story building next to main church.  
Facilitator: *Roberto Sanchez*  
602-518-2262  
[roberto@missfoundation.org](mailto:roberto@missfoundation.org)

## Phoenix, AZ - Central Valley

1st Thursday of each month,  
Saint Francis Xavier Church  
4715 N. Central, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.  
Will meet in the Parish office which is  
two story building next to main  
church. Facilitator: *Asena* 602-367-  
4626 [Asena@missfoundation.org](mailto:Asena@missfoundation.org)  
and Co-Facilitator:  
[kristina@missfoundation.org](mailto:kristina@missfoundation.org)

## Flagstaff, Arizona

Contact *Karin Atkinson* for more info  
at [karin@missfoundation.org](mailto:karin@missfoundation.org)

## Parker, Arizona

3rd third Thursday of each month,  
meets in back of The Church of  
Christ at 6pm. 800 Kofa, Parker,  
Arizona. Facilitated by *Crystal Lopes*  
928-851-2788

## Prescott, Arizona

1st Thursday of each month, 5:30pm  
Prescott Public Library, 3rd Floor  
Meeting Room, 215 E. Goodwin St.  
(Goodwin & Marina Streets) Contact:  
*Heidi & Douglas Cass*.  
[cass@missfoundation.org](mailto:cass@missfoundation.org)  
928-778-2528

## Scottsdale, Arizona

4th Tuesday of each month 7-9pm.  
Northridge Community Church, in the  
Prescott Room. 6363 E. Dynamite  
Blvd. Facilitated by *Nicole Dougherty*  
602-923-1630 [ndougherty@cox.net](mailto:ndougherty@cox.net)  
and *Alison Batchelder* 480-502-8077  
[alison@missfoundation.org](mailto:alison@missfoundation.org)

## Coming Soon New MISS Foundation Support Groups:

**Anthem/North Valley  
Beginning September, 2004!**  
For more information, contact  
[joanne@missfoundation.org](mailto:joanne@missfoundation.org)

## Arizona Peer Contacts:

If you need one-on-one support and  
friendship contact one of your  
Peer Contacts.

|                                    |              |
|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Chaplain Kellie Gatewood           | 602-866-3645 |
| Angela Iverson                     | 623-572-0334 |
| Lee Ann Morlan                     | 480-963-9844 |
| Debra Brooks                       | 623-487-4275 |
| Ed & Robin Kennedy ( <i>Kids</i> ) | 602-547-1244 |
| Heidi & Doug Cass                  | 928-778-2528 |
| Joanne Cacciatore                  | 623-979-1000 |

### **Subsequent Pregnancy & Family Planning:**

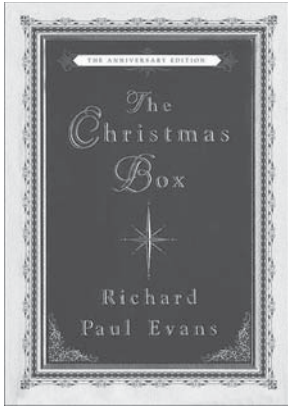
|                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| Anna Kennedy     | 602-439-9025 |
| Gennie Contreras | 602-999-0226 |

### **Drowning/Accidents:**

|                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| Asena Nicolosi | 602-367-4626 |
|----------------|--------------|



# Angel of Hope



Richard Paul Evans' book, *The Christmas Box*, is a story of a woman who mourns the loss of her child at the base of an Angel monument. As a result of this story, the Angel Monument was introduced to the public and is now known world wide as the Christmas Box Angel. Evans commissioned an Angel statue in response to the needs of bereaved parents.

The original Angel is located in Salt Lake City, Utah and has provided comfort to thousands of bereaved parents from all over the world. Hansen

Mortuaries is donating land and, in early December, the Angel of Hope will be in place at Desert Hills Memorial Park, 6500 E. Bell Road. There are opportunities for founding donors to receive recognition on a founder's wall as well as a plaque for their loved one. Those contributions of \$100.00 will have their loved ones name inscribed on a plaque to be located at the site. For questions or more information please call (602) 944-1561 or (480) 991-5800.



*Submitted by*  
**Dr. Guillermo Gutierrez**  
*in memory of*  
**Dr. Elisabeth Kübler-Ross**

Aztec Codex (circa XII-XIII century):

It will again be,

it will expand before us,

the here and the now...

it will again be, it will again happen...

the same way it happened long long time ago ...

those who today exist,

they will exist again,

they, yet again, shall be.



*M.i.s.s. Foundation*

P.O. Box 5333

Peoria, Arizona 85385

Phone: 623-979-1000

Fax: 623-979-1001

Email: [info@missfoundation.org](mailto:info@missfoundation.org)

♥ Because all the Children Matter ♥

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"The ultimate lesson all of us have to learn is unconditional love, which includes not only others but ourselves as well."

~ Elisabeth Kübler-Ross