

...Our Children



Leeann Marie Oswald



Luke Bauman



Nathan Daniel Foote



Ryan Thomas Gallagher



Jordan Ashley Heffley



Joshua Johnson



Jacob Winters



Ryleigh Green



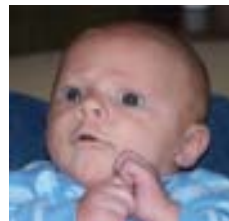
Megan Sarakoski



Kody Stevens Rye



Soren Dennehy Meagher



Logan J.P. Cundiff



Noah Barrett



Joshua Sullivan



Maclaine Elise Loomis



Shawn C. Mensing



TJ Hulme



Zachary Gatewood



Nathan Gibson



Samantha Lopes



Von Jeffrey Hayes



Mackenzie L.Fitchett



Tori Kuhn



Tommy Pitts



Nico Gutierrez Cantin



William F. Vann



Sydney Ella Wilson



Announcements!

MISS Scrapbooks!



We are in the process of adding new pages to our MISS Foundation Scrap books. These books will be displayed during the MISS conferences and during group meetings. If you would like to have your child's photo included, please mail 1 or 2 *non-returnable* photos to:

MISS Foundation
Scrapbook Pages
P.O. Box 5333
Peoria, AZ 85358-5333

Please be sure to note your child's name along with their birth and death dates.

5th Annual Children's Memorial Golf Tournament

Wednesday, November 9, 2005

11:30am Registration
ASU Karsten Golf Course
1125 E. Rio Salado Parkway
Tempe, AZ 85281

Entry Fees:

\$125/player - includes dinner
\$85/player (*for MISS families*) - includes dinner

To register please visit:

www.missfoundation.org

For sponsorship info, please call:

Andrew at 480-513-2222

All proceeds to benefit the MISS Foundation

*We only part to meet again
Though mighty boundless
waves may sever
Remembrance oft shall bring
thee near
And I will with thee go forever
And oft at midnights silent
hour
When brilliant planets shall
guide the ocean
Thy name shall rise to heaven's
highest star
And mingle with my soul's
devotion
~ Edgar Allen Poe*

Safe Arrivals... We Celebrate our Rainbows

Ian and Sam Jared
July 5, 2005

Son of Kristin and Andy, and brothers to big sister Sarah and watched over from the stars by big sister Emily

Vanessa and James would like to announce the safe arrival of:

Francesca Grace Gorman-Coates

Born the 5th May, 2005 in Sydney, Australia
A sister to Layla (our 5yr old angel) and Raphael (3yrs)

Andrew Paul Gardner
May 25, 2005

Son to Paul and Valerie Gardner and baby brother to Tyler who is here on earth and to Big Brother Justin who is watching over him from above

Letters From The MISS Mailbox...



Dear MISS,

Good day to you. I was crossing the Mackinaw Bridge on Tuesday 7/19/05

around 12 noon on my motorcycle. The vehicle ahead of me at the tollbooth paid my toll and left a card. The card stated, "This random act of kindness done in loving memory of my child, Mykala Kay and Cierra Sue. When I read the card, it stirred up emotions inside of me that made it a little difficult to see when crossing the bridge. The winds that day were high and I ended up having to cross on the steel grate of the left lane. This was somewhat unnerving. The bridge authority was working on the paved right lane. I was not able to catch up to thank this kind person.

Is there a way I could find out the name of the person who gave me the card to thank them? Can you help me find them? I visited the MISS Foundation web site and was impressed with what they do. Thank you in advance for your time.

Kirk Maynard
General Manager
P. O. Box 548
14179 S. Fourteenth St.
Schoolcraft, Mi 49087

*Dear Kirk,
Your email also stirred up emotions in me. Thank you so much for contacting us. We help hundreds and thousands of grieving families around the world; so, while I cannot guarantee that I can find the beautiful family who extended*



their kindness to you that day, I will print this in our newsletter in the hopes that they will read it.

And in that knowledge, Mykala and Cierra live on through the good work and kindnesses of their loving family.

*In their memory,
Joanne Cacciatore, MSW,*

FT

To all the folks who made the conference happen,

My daughter, Stephanie Mondino, and I, Margy Swingle, attended your conference in May. I want you to know that it was the most moving and well done event I have ever attended. Your planning and presentations were done without flaw. You paid so much attention to details, from tissues, name tags for us as well as the children, pen and paper, meaningful sessions, good food, a very moving evening program honoring each child, and more, so much more!

I appreciated the honesty that was spoken among the panel of parents, by listening to them, my daughter learned she was not alone in her feelings.

The conference gave all parents the opportunity to discuss their loss freely within an understanding and safe community.

A special thanks to Joanne for taking the time to speak with Stephanie one

on one. We realized how busy she was, it was especially awesome to see her stop and take that time.

My daughter and I left there feeling hopeful and understood. Many kind acts will be done in the name of her son and my grandson, Dillon Michael Mondino.

You people are great and your service is invaluable!

Thank you so much,
Margy Swingle

Dear MISS,

You are an inspiration to us all! Thank you so much for being our voice when we are trying to find our way.

I would love to donate Dear Cheyenne to my church group Healing Hearts. We have no materials for the bereaved parent.

Thank you so much.
Hattie Ann's mom
Jill Lear



My thoughts about “Why”

...continued

by
Heidi Ciepielinski
MN MISS Facilitator

mothers feelings, and have adopted it as a way I can make some sense of what happened to Natalie.

I like to think that Natalie’s heart defect wasn’t something that “happened to her”, like an illness or a disease. It was the way she was created, and the only way that she could exist. Without her heart defect, she wouldn’t have ever been in my arms. It was so much a part of who she was, just like her double chin, and long skinny fingers. It developed when she developed.

Maybe I could have had a “perfect” baby, but it wouldn’t have been Natalie. Natalie had a heart defect and wasn’t meant to live more than 5 days. And there is no doubt that we would gladly take a minute of precious time with Natalie over an eternity with a different child. We were so lucky to have known her, to have had her touch our lives the way she did. And yes, it’s so very sad that she is gone, but we were so blessed to have had her the 6 days we did.

I believe that God knew that she would only live a few days, and he sent her to us because he knew that we would love and cherish her more than anyone else possibly could. Not because we could “handle it” or

because it would make us better people, but because we would love her forever and always keep her memory alive.

She was meant to come to us. And although we are so sad and miss her so much, we are so very grateful to be able to call ourselves her parents.

....and I know today, just as I knew then, she was the only way she could be. She was meant for us,



for our family. It’s like I was given a choice, “you can have her, with her irregular heart, throughout a beautiful pregnancy and for 6 wonderful days, or not at all”. I feel like there was this incredible soul, waiting to come to earth, but only for a very short time. She wasn’t chosen to be sick, we were chosen to accept her the way she was, to accept all that came with her, sorrow as well as joy. Her death was part of who she was. I don’t have to like it, but I now accept Natalie, the way she was, and the

way she died.

And I feel incredibly blessed to have been part her story.

Heidi has co-authored a new resource book with her MN Co-facilitator, Trina Charles. More information is available at www.freewebs.com/whenachiddies.

Written August, 2000. 10 weeks after Natalie’s death.

ALCOHOL USE IN PREGNANCY CONTINUED...

the prevalence of FAS is between 0.5 to 2 cases per 1,000 births. It is estimated that for every child born with FAS, three additional children are born who may not have the physical characteristics of FAS but still experience neurobehavioral deficits resulting from prenatal alcohol exposure that affect learning and behavior.

The outcomes attributable to prenatal alcohol exposure for the children of women whose alcohol consumption averages seven to 14 drinks per week include deficits in growth, behavior, and neurocognition such as problems in arithmetic, language and memory; visual-spatial abilities; attention; and deficits in speed of information processing. Patterns of exposure known to place a fetus at greatest risk include binge drinking, defined as having five or more drinks at one time and drinking seven or more drinks per week.

Despite public health advisories and subsequent efforts to disseminate this information, including a Surgeon General's advisory in 1981, recent data indicate that significant numbers of women continue to drink during pregnancy, many in a high-risk manner that places the fetus at risk for a broad range of problems arising from prenatal alcohol exposure including fetal alcohol syndrome. For example, data suggest that rates of binge drinking and drinking seven or more drinks per week among both pregnant women and non-pregnant women of childbearing age have not declined in recent years. Many women who know they are pregnant report drinking at these levels.

In addition, recent analysis of obstetrical textbooks suggests that physicians may not be receiving adequate instruction in the dangers of prenatal alcohol exposure. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists advises against drinking at all during pregnancy. Nevertheless, only 24 percent of obstetrical textbooks published since 1990 recommended abstinence during pregnancy, despite 30 years of research since the first publications proposed a link between alcohol exposure and birth

defects. Scientific evidence amassed in these decades has fortified the rationale for the original advisory against alcohol consumption during pregnancy. Continuing research has generated a wealth of new knowledge on the nature of fetal alcohol-induced injury, the underlying mechanisms of damage, concurrent risk factors, and the clinical distinction of alcohol-related deficits from other disorders.

Alcohol-related birth defects are completely preventable. A number of resources are available to assist healthcare and social services professionals in advising their patients to reduce and refrain from alcohol in pregnancy. These resources include the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, NIH (www.niaaa.nih.gov), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/fas) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (www.fasdcenter.samhsa.gov/).



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

Ireland

Sinead Williamson
Contact: 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
Please call or email to confirm attendance.

Eastbourne - East Sussex, UK

2nd Tuesday of every month 7.30-9.30pm
Cumberland Hotel, 34-36 Grand Parade,
Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN21 3YT
Contact: Cathie Shipton 07932 812931
cathie@missfoundation.org

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



***Caleb Wainwright
Gurraj Tuffan Singh Takhar
Aaron Jeffrey Ahlman
Seth Davidson Stuart
Taylor Troy Ackroyd
Charis Wainwright
Brighton Christopher Eagan
Daniel Hagenson
Ciara Shalay Noueihed***

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*For specific meeting days and times,
please call or email the Group
Facilitator or you may visit
www.missfoundation.org.*



If such a thing as “healing” does really exist, I do not think it is about “getting over it” or “shutting up about it” or “moving on” even. I think it is about giving voice to the traumatic experience over and over and over again as time passes. It is about how that voice changes and evolves with time. It is about using that voice as we learn to live life after the deaths of our children.

*-Different Kind of Parenting,
Jan-Mar 2003, KotaPress,
“Notes from the Editor”*

Newsletter Articles

If you would like to submit an article to be published in the MISSing Angels Newsletter, you may do so by sending it to the attention of Andra at: info@missfoundation.org.

The deadline for the Newsletter is the 20th of the month prior to publication. For example, all articles for the Sept./Oct. issue are due August 20, 2005.

All articles are subject to editing, and the MISS Foundation reserves the right to not to publish any article or photograph due to space limitations.



M.i.s.s. Foundation

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♥ Because all the Children Matter ♥

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“The true way to mourn our dead is to care for the living who belong to them.”

~ Edmund Burke