

...Our Children



Jillian



Joey Anthony



Kalinda Marie Hicks



Kody Stevens Rye



Jon Dukes



Madison Elaine McInerney



Rachel Hage



Lili Claire Resnick



Joseph Damien 'JD'



Kimberly Deanne Orta



Mary Palmer



Jakob Detwiler



Sammy Seaney



Teighlor Janae Brock



Megan Wondra



Zane Allen White



Shane Clause



Kaylee Dawn Burch
Volume 9, Issue 2



Taylor McClure



Tara Ellen Young



Living in the Summer Mountains

*I have moved to this home of Immortals.
Wild shrubs bloom everywhere.
In the front garden, trees
Spread their branches for clothes racks.
I sit on a mat and float wine cups
In the cool spring.
Beyond the window railing
A hidden path leads away
Into the dense bamboo grove.
In a gauze dress
I read among my disordered
Piles of books.
I take a leisurely ride,
In the painted boat,
And chant poems to the moon.
I drift at ease, for I know
The soft wind will blow me home.*

- Yu, Hsuan-Chi -

Safe Arrivals... We Celebrate our Rainbows

Hansen Luke Collins

January 2, 2005

Son of Liesel and Jeff,
and watched over from Heaven by big sister Amara

Elliott Lawrence McInerney

November 4, 2004

Son of Brian & Krista and big sister in Heaven,
Madison Elaine~We remember always

Nicholas Evan Nielsen

January 21, 2005

Watched over by his big brother in heaven - Evan Walter
Son of Ellen & Eric

Alesia Monique Dickey

Precious granddaughter of Gregg and Marsha
And niece of our beloved Alesia Dawn Carder

Announcements!



Fund Raiser!

The MISS Foundation will be working on embroidering sweatshirts with the MISS logo that can be personalized. (For example, Tyler's Mom etc...) They will be sold online in the MISS Store as a fundraiser. To get us started we need donations of WHITE sweatshirts, of all sizes. Zippered sweatshirts are preferred, but pullovers are okay too. If you can help please send the sweatshirt donations to:

Kim Lotz/Merced Chapter MISS
569 Leslie. Ct.

Merced, Ca 95348

Any questions can be sent to
kim@missfoundation.org

The MISS Foundation would like to thank those of you who made donations in your child's memory this past year. With the continuing growth of MISS, there is an on-going need for donations to keep this non-profit organization running.

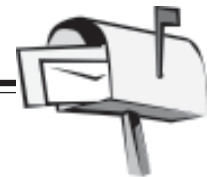


We need your help to replenish our accounts so we may continue our good work in communities around the world.

Please send your tax-deductible donations to:

MISS Foundation, P.O. Box 5333
Peoria, AZ 85385

Letters From The MISS Mailbox...



Hello,

Many thanks to all for your thoughts and prayers this past year.

My daughter died one year ago from a fatal diagnosis, a severe malformation of the brain. I used to put a lot of effort into research and education of her birth anomaly.

But now, in the face of her death, I know that the cause is secondary to the reality of losing her. Whether the cause was accidental, an illness, or a birth anomaly, the pain is the same. My child is dead. Though each of us traveled in a different ship, we are all in the same boat now. Yes, we are fast approaching the one year anniversary of Kylie's death. It is hard to believe. I have not traveled that far away from her in this year. I still carry myself and my thoughts very close to our life together. It is such a difficult separation for me since she was the center of my life, heck, our whole family's lives. This loss not only of my little girl but also of my occupation, my role, has been doubly hard to deal with. Caring for her was my full time job. It was the job that I feel I was born to fulfill, and now that she is gone I feel incomplete. I feel that a big part of me is buried with her.

So, after I make it through the 'first year', the goal will be to discover who I am without her, and where to take my life from here. The ups and downs, the intensity of the grief at times, the longing, the aching, the emotions that sometimes take over my life, have been unexpected. I fully bought into one of the myths about grief. It was the myth that an "anticipated grief" should



be easier to handle. I fully thought that I would be able to sail through the grieving period thinking only wonderful thoughts and sweet memories of how blessed I was to have had her, and what a miracle child she was.

And yes, I do hold on to those thoughts. But they have not been enough to extinguish the pain of losing her. I am different now. I will always be different from those untouched by child death. I know depths of depression, hopelessness, loneliness, sadness, and pain that is simply not in the natural order of life.

In this past year, I have learned the hard way to allow myself to grieve, to not expect me to be able to accomplish the things I used to. I've had to lower my expectations of myself as my mind is constantly filled with thoughts of Kylie, of her life, of her death, of our experiences together, both good and bad. It takes a lot of mental energy to process these thoughts. I do not accomplish on a daily basis, even half of the things I used to do. My self worth has been slammed, my confidence has suffered, and it is from

a very low point that I must slowly, rebuild myself into the me that I will become without her. Don't buy into the myth that because our children are born with a fatal diagnosis, that their eventual death will be easier to handle. I grieved for the loss of

my perfect child every day that she was alive. I cried a little each day, for 1,215 days. But even knowing that it would end in her death has not made

this reality any easier. I was so intertwined with her existence, that it truly was as if part of *me* died with her. It seems sometimes that it was all of my good parts. These emotions, or "stages" if you will, from denial, to loneliness, to anger, have left me very humble and weakened. I gave myself completely to her, 100%. And I suppose that learning to live without her will be a lifelong journey. I do not expect to ever "get over" her death, but hope to get through the pain to the place where I can think of her and not cry; think of her and be filled more with gratitude than with sorrow.



January 18th is the one year anniversary of the death of my beloved child. Our family and a few friends will gather at the funeral home. They have a large bird aviary and we plan to release three finches in her memory. One for each year of her precious little life. Gentle days to you all, as together we grieve for our special children.

Dana Southworth-Douglass
Mom to 3 ~ 2 who walk and 1 who soars!

Dear MISS Foundation,

Just a note to express how much your web site touched me. you are doing such great things to help people.....

Dwight R. Cordero, M.D.



Letters From The MISS Mailbox...



Dear MISS Foundation,
This web site has touched my heart. Thank you for all of the work you all do in this area of nursing. As an EMS provider, nursing student, and father of five, I am so grateful for your foundation's work.



My name is John Benjamin, I am a Norwich University nursing student doing a research paper on "effective teaching programs for parents and families of end-of-life PICU patients". Would any one from your organization be able to lead me to some very recent "research studies" on effective teaching programs for families of dying children?

I am doing all of the journal searches, but have only found some information from 1990 - 1995. While this is certainly pertinent data, I am hoping to incorporate some more timely data in my project.

Please let me know if may be able to help.
John Benjamin

Dear John,
Thank you for visiting our site. We are happy to provide you with some guidance. I'm directing you to Shayla Dugan, MSW, Mom and Director of our CARE program. She will assist you in your quest for the most recent research.

Keep up the good work!

Joanne Cacciatore for
the MISS Foundation



Dear MISS,
Someone on the forums posted something about how "good" they were doing because they have gone on with their life, implying that those of us who still cry for our children who died are not doing "good."

I dont know what to think. I just can't move on right now and I am offended when others suggest that mourning, or crying, is not okay.

What is your feeling about this?
Sad in Seattle

Dear Sad in Seattle,
One of the cornerstone beliefs of the MISS Foundation is that expressing grief is not a sign of weakness or instability. Rather, grief is commensurate with each individual's experience and degree of love and attachment. The expression of mourning is certainly different from one person to another as well, and often is culturally sanctioned. One person may not be able to speak of the feelings- another may not be able to withhold their feelings.

One thing is certain, however, and that is our belief that the expression of grief is a sign of strength - great and insurmountable courage- not weakness.

I will share two quotes, both by Washington Irving, a man who experienced tremendous grief and loss but who also demonstrated tremendous courage and strength:

"The sorrow for the dead is the only sorrow from which we refuse to be divorced. Every other wound we seek to heal - every other affliction to forget: but this wound we consider it a duty to keep open - this affliction we cherish and brood over in solitude. "

"There is a sacredness in tears. They are not the mark of weakness, but of power. They speak more eloquently than ten thousand tongues. They are the messengers of overwhelming grief, of deep contrition, and of unspeakable love. "

Someday, when I am an old woman sitting quietly, waiting for Death to take me, someone will come and ask about my life. I will tell them about my childhood- my Italian heritage- my childhood- my rebellious spirit. I will share my life of aspirations and my educational background. I will talk about my family- most importantly, how I love and raised my children. And I will tell them about the little girl who died, so many years ago, in 1994, who would now be about 65 or 70 years old, but still my baby. And I am certain, without any doubt, that I will shed tears for my little child and hold within my heart an unspeakable grief that neither distance, nor distractions, nor time can steal from me. And that is okay.

And that is also real and absolute strength and fortitude. Grief is the price that we pay for true love.

Thank you for your thoughtful email,
Joanne Cacciatore, Founder

New Study Links Antidepressants to Withdrawal in Infants

submitted by Shayla Dugan

A recent study published by the British journal the Lancet, indicates that antidepressants used to treat depression during pregnancy may in fact cause withdrawal-like symptoms in newborn infants. After reviewing records kept by the World Health Organization, researchers of this study discovered 93 cases in which infants who were exposed in utero to antidepressants had symptoms of heightened agitation, fever, and quickened breathing. 13 of the 93 infants

had experienced seizures. All of the infants recovered completely within 24 hours. Experts criticize the study, stating that untreated maternal depression can have a harmful effect on the development of infants in utero and leading into early childhood. It is estimated that a quarter of women who suffer from depression during pregnancy are treated with medication. Of the medications most commonly prescribed, Paxil was the drug most often reported to have withdrawal symptoms.

"Navigations"

from Safe Passage by Molly Fumia

This is not the end of joy.

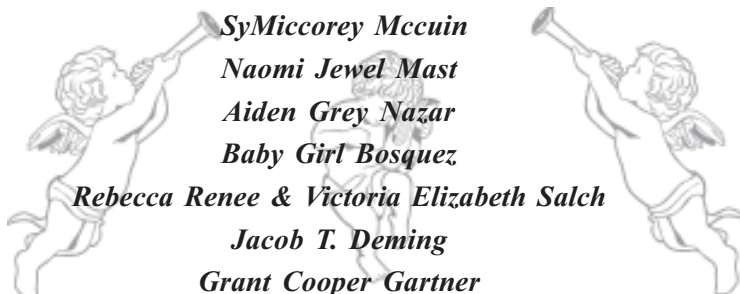
Grieving is bits of many things - memories, regrets, reminders - each of which bears its own special weight in our burden of sorrow. And each bit has to be gone through, patiently, silently, painfully, as one goes through old papers in a long-forgotten trunk, considering each one separately, remembering and assigning it to some new box within our hearts.

Healing, too, is bits of many things - smiles which multiply as the days pass; chilling remembrances turned warm by

the returning sun; new loves. A day will come when there will be more bits of healing than of grieving, and reasons for joy will begin to pile up in the freshly swept rooms of our lives.

We cannot allow just one attitude to dominate us forever, especially unending melancholy, smoldering regret, or eternal penitence. Grieving calls forth all the stations of the self, to remind us of our complexity; any single facet of who we are cannot be solely sovereign over the spirit. We may be fragmented, but we are still complete...

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



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

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

MISS Foundation Chapters & Global Peer Contacts

Arkansas

Camden - coming soon!
Karen Loomis
karen.loomis@missfoundation.org

California

Arcadia - Kristin Jared 626-963-9120
kristin@missfoundation.org

Huntington Beach - Katie Hodge
714-585-3614
katie@missfoundation.org

Merced - Kim Lotz 209-725-9241
kim@missfoundation.org
Tricia Lencioni 209-384-7381 and
Sheryl McAllister 209-383-3392

West Hills - Heather Lipari
818-999-5888
heather_lipari@missfoundation.org

Connecticut

coming soon!
heather@missfoundation.org

Colorado

Denver - Leslie Clemenson
303-841-4152
leslie@missfoundation.org

Florida

Trenton - Valerie 352-463-3986
vlgsml@missfoundation.org

Palm Beach - Rusti 561-642-6464
rusti@missfoundation.org

Idaho

Boise - Nancy & Peter Grayson
208-861-2407
nancy@missfoundation.org

Illinois

Roselle - Mary at 630-582-0874
mary@missfoundation.org
Sandwich - Angie Farley
815-786-6873
angie_farley@missfoundation.org

Wheaton - Mary 630-852-0874
mary@missfoundation.org

Indiana

Crissy Tohm & Katie Irby
crissy@missfoundation.org
katie_irby@missfoundation.org

Kansas

Wichita - Alan & Karen Wondra
316-721-8284
Kwondra1@cox.net

Kentucky

Pacucah - Kelly Nicholls
270-395-7668
knicholls@missfoundation.org

Maryland

Baltimore - Kahlilia Woodlon
443-794-0778
miraclasmom2003@yahoo.com

Massachusetts

West Medford - Lynne Barberian
781-488-3546
lynne@missfoundation.org

Minnesota

Alexandria - Heidi Ciepielinski
320-859-5660
heidi@missfoundation.org

Breckenridge - Jeanne Putnam
jeanne@missfoundation.org

Ohio

Attica - Jaimie Beamer 419-426-5406
jbeamer@missfoundation.org

Pennsylvania

Jessica Finnegan
jessica@missfoundation.org

Tennessee

Memphis - Rex & Laura Butts
901-523-7549
laura@missfoundation.org or
rex@missfoundation.org

Virginia, D.C. & Maryland Metro

Fairfax - Tara Pitts 703-583-1503
tara@missfoundation.org &
Dionna Williams 301-797-2955
dionna@missfoundation.org

Virginia

Gordonsville - coming soon!
elizabeth@missfoundation.org

Richmond - Twyla Powell
twyla@missfoundation.org

Fairfax - Tara Pitts 703-583-1503
tara@missfoundation.org

Woodbridge - Tara Pitts 703-583-1503
tara@missfoundation.org

Washington

West Seattle - Krista McNerney
krista@missfoundat.org

Spokane - Sarah Bain 509-328-5898
sarah@missfoundation.org

Vashon Island - Kara Jones
205-251-6706
kara@missfoundation.org

For specific meeting days and times, please visit www.missfoundation.org.

National Peer Contacts:

Connecticut

Heather Farrier 203-895-2138

Indiana

Crissy Tohm 317-826-7913
Katie Irby 317- 885-1828

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

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, (623)
487-4275 or *Anna Kennedy* at
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
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

Phoenix, AZ - Subsequent Pregnancy

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

Tempe, AZ East Valley Subsequent Pregnancy 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
email Robin@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 (the two story
building next to main church).
Facilitator: *Roberto Sanchez*
602-518-2262
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
and Co-Facilitator:
kristina@missfoundation.org

Flagstaff, Arizona

Contact *Karin Atkinson* for more info
at 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. Email:
Cass@missfoundation.org
928-778-2528

Scottsdale, Arizona

4th Tuesday of each month 7-9pm.
Northridge Community Church, in the
Tumbleweed Room, by the children's
center. 6363 E. Dynamite Blvd.
Facilitated by *Nicole Dougherty* 602-
923-1630 ndougherty@cox.net and
Alison Batchelder 480-502-8077
alison@missfoundation.org

Coming Soon New MISS Foundation Support Groups:

Starting January 2005!

Central Phoenix - Child with Special Needs

For families experiencing the death of a
child with special needs. Offices of
Stepping Stones of Hope. 2nd Thursday
each month at 6:45 p.m. 4000 N. 7th Street
Suite 108. Facilitators: *Dana Southworth*
& *Kelli Rivera* dana@missfoundation.org
or krivera2@cox.net

Anthem/North Valley

For more information, contact
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	623-328-9912
Lee Ann Morlan	480-963-9844
Deborah 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
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Letters From The MISS Mailbox...Continued

Dear MISS Foundation,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Jennifer Roger-Flynn and my son Kyle was stillborn August 17th of 2002.



I began to attend MISS meetings 7 months after his birth. I found great comfort in attending the meetings facilitated by Leslie Clemensen. I was then fortunate enough to be asked by Caprice Bass to help with SB04-095. What an amazing and gratifying experience!

I am now ready to give back. I have spoken with Leslie about the new Denver MISS group. We are thrilled with this opportunity.

I would like to thank you for everything you have done for so many grieving parents/families. You have made such a difference!



Thank you!
Jennifer Roger-Flynn

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 15th of the month prior to publication. For example, all articles for the March/April issue are due February 15, 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

P.O. Box 5333

Peoria, Arizona 85385

Phone: 623-979-1000

Fax: 623-979-1001

Email: info@missfoundation.org

♥ Because all the Children Matter ♥

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"The golden moments in the stream of life rush past us, and we see nothing but sand; the angels come to visit us, and we only know them when they are gone.

—George Eliot