



# Missing Angels

A publication of the M.i.s.s. Foundation: a non-profit organization

A Sanctuary for Bereaved Families - for over twelve years March/April 2011 Volume 15, Issue 2

## A Mother's Gift - From Grief to Giving

By Alicia Munoz - Sammy & Gabriel's mama

On April 25th, 2008, I went in for a "routine" ultrasound. I was pregnant with Samuel & Gabriel, identical twin boys. It was exciting to finally be joining the community of the "mommy world" and I always made it a point to treat each doctor appointment as a mini celebration of my new mommy hood.

I started my morning early, so I could prepare for my 18-week photo session (ultrasound) with the boys. The morning was spent in song, smiles, and an excitement knowing I would see Sam & Gabe.

It was always surreal watching the boys during the ultrasound. They each had their own distinct personality. Gabriel was the more outgoing baby. He was a mover and seemed to enjoy the spotlight when it was on him. Samuel on the other hand was quieter, still not wanting the attention of the camera. It was hard to get a face shot in, as he often would hide behind his little fists. I always found it interesting to see their personalities developing so early.

The ultrasound started out routine, nothing out of the ordinary. Gabriel was active and Samuel was calm,



mommy basking in the glory of a twin belly. After spending over the usual amount of the time on the ultrasound table, I realized not much had been said during the appointment. Normal ultrasounds took maybe half an hour to get measurements for both of the kids. An hour was not normal, nor was this particular appointment.

Knowing something wasn't right; I called my mom & dad to come to the doctor's office. I explained I thought something was wrong with the boys because of how long the ultrasound was taking.

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"It is the nature of love and of death to touch every person in a totally unique way. Comfort comes from knowing that people have made the same journey. And solace comes from understanding how others have learned to sing again."

~ Helen Steiner Rice

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## **A Mother's Gift - From Grief to Giving**

By Alicia Munoz - Sammy & Gabriel's mama

The three hours we spent waiting to see the doctor were filled with fear, hope, uncertainty, and anticipation. In our third hour at the doctor's office, my mom, dad, husband and I sat in a room with the doctor listening to the words I never imagined I'd hear, "your babies are very sick and could die very soon." I had heard of a condition during my pregnancy called Twin-to-Twin Transfusion Syndrome (TTTS), happening only in identical twins. We knew the boys were identical by week 12, but I didn't pay much attention to something I knew they "wouldn't get." We were told Gabriel was near heart failure due to the amount of blood he was receiving from a shared placenta, and Samuel was severely anemic due to the lack of blood he was receiving. The doctor gave us our options: termination of the pregnancy, compassionate care and delivery, or fetal laser surgery.



blonde, turning to a golden shade of red-orange before the close of day 1 after his arrival. He had smoky blue-grey eyes and a perfect nose. The very first moment I touched him, I knew my purpose in the world. I was a mother, the greatest gift I could have ever been given.

I spent my day in Samuel's NICU room, sneaking peaks of him under his covered isolette bed. We shared quiet slumbers; talked of trips to the beach we would take during the summer, sang songs to fill the quiet of the morning, and prayed for God to give us another day together. I cherished the times the nurses would lift the cover of his bed so I could kiss his face and caress his golden hair. The kisses I gave my son were always followed by the words, "I love you son, and you are a whole lot of goodness." There was no place I would rather be.

Three days later I was on a plane to Hollywood to meet with the only surgeon on the West coast who would be performing fetal laser surgery, in hopes of reversing the Twin-to-Twin Transfusion Syndrome. During the meeting with the surgeon, we were given the details of the surgery and the truth of their condition. Gabriel was suffering from heart failure due to the amount of fluid build up and excess amount of blood getting pumped to his heart and Samuel was "shrink wrapped", for lack of a better term, in his sac due to the lack of fluid surrounding him and severely anemic from blood loss. The predicted outcome of the surgery was unknown.

On July 2nd, 2008, 17 days after his arrival, Samuel died in my arms at 1:21 a.m. The hopes and dreams I had for my two sons were suddenly a distant memory.

On the morning of April 29th, during fetal laser surgery, Gabriel lost his fight with TTTS. My sweet baby boy was still. Samuel was left to finish the fight alone.

Today is March 4th, 2011. The boys are nearing their 3rd birthday and I have been walking this journey for almost three years. On June 3rd, 2010, I became part of a new family, the MISS family. During my first MISS meeting, I shared with my new family the story of my Samuel & Gabriel. I could hardly take a breath to make it through my first meeting. In the room, that warm Thursday night, my MISSters held my hand and took the breaths I could no longer take on my own.

For nine weeks, I prepared myself to deliver a baby I knew would never take a breath, feel the warmth of the sun, or know the feel of my arms. I prepared myself to bury one son and see his face in the eyes of another.

One of the missions of MISS is to provide ongoing to support to bereaved families. The support MISS has given me opened a new world for me, a place of safety, love, and comfort. Without MISS my days would still be long, dark, and alone. Through the people I've met through MISS, I've received support, friendship, and an understanding of the bereaved community. It is my mission to give back and provide support for bereaved families and bring awareness to those who are unaware of the bereaved community in need.

On June 15th, 2008, Samuel made his way into the world, 14 weeks too soon. He weighed 1lb. 3oz. and was the smallest baby in the NICU. His hair was

## **A.G.A.S.T. Grandparent Peer Contacts**

### **Arizona**

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## **Traumatic Experiences and Resiliency Study**

T.E.A.R. Study Launch Phase II!

Call for open participants bereaved parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings, & friends who have experienced the death of a child family member!

A team of researchers from Arizona State University, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and Austin College are exploring the experiences of those aged 18 and older who have experienced the death of a child. The second wave of the study will explore the experiences of those who have experienced the deaths of other significant people such as partners, parents, siblings, grandchildren, and others.

The purpose of this study is to determine the individual, familial, and societal effects of significant loss and to improve standards of care to the bereaved and a model of compassionate caregiving and intervention that fosters resiliency at every level.

You can now participate in the T.E.A.R. Study by visiting: [tearstudy.org](http://tearstudy.org)

If you have questions about this study, please contact Dr. Joanne Cacciatore at 602-574-1000 or email at Joanne.Cacciatore@asu.edu.

The research team would like to acknowledge volunteer forum moderators with the MISS Foundation, bereaved parents, who provided invaluable feedback and aid in the development of the research tool for this study.



# Congressional Stillbirth and SUID Newsletter Update

President Obama's Budget vs. U.S. House Budget could leave opposite outcomes for unexplained stillbirth, SUID (sudden unexplained infant death), and SUDC (sudden unexplained death in childhood) Research

President Obama's recent budget proposal spares the National Institute of Health (NIH) appropriations research and even goes as far to publicly promote further NIH research. The National Institute of Child Health and Development Agency (NICHD) where this funding originates is an agency within the NIH. The NICHD began stillbirth research six years ago at the urging of activists and organizations including the MISS Foundation. Now the NICHD wants to continue its research with further appropriations. Further stillbirth, SUID, and SUDC research will depend on which appropriations package is passed.

The U.S. House of Representative's budget proposal would cut \$1 billion from the NIH. The Senate budget has not been publicly released but is estimated at \$32 billion worth of cuts across the board. The specific budget cuts, such as to the NIH, are still unknown.

"One of the most positive outcomes over the budget fights is that President Obama was the first U.S. Senator to introduce the Stillbirth Research and Awareness Act. So MISS members have, at least, one of the branches in our corner," states Dr. Cacciatore.

The Stillbirth Research and Awareness Act will be re-introduced again this session

Rep. Peter King (R-NY) and Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) will re-introduce each of their versions of the Stillbirth Research and Awareness Act. Both offices reported to the MISS Foundation that legislation will, most likely,

be introduced within the next two months. Both offices are looking for as much bi-partisan co-sponsorship prior to its official introduction to show its strength in both houses. MISS members are encouraged to personally contact their U.S. House of Representative and U.S. Senators to encourage their co-sponsorship of each bill.

The Stillbirth Research and Awareness Act mandates hospital protocol to maintain accurate data regarding stillbirth. The bill directs the NICHD to appropriate stillbirth and SUID research and methods to properly help grieving parents handle such a devastating loss. The bills do not ask for further appropriations from taxpayers but directs the NICHD to use its existing appropriations to address stillbirth research and assistance to grieving parents.

For more information how to help, e-mail MISS Congressional Liaison Richard May at [Rmayaustin@ATT.net](mailto:Rmayaustin@ATT.net). Please stay tuned for further updates.

## MISS Foundation's MISSing Angels Bill Legislation

### *What is the MISSing Angels Bill?*

The MISSing Angels Bill is a piece of legislation that allows for the issuance of a "Certificate of Birth resulting in Stillbirth (CBRS)" by a state's vital records office for any stillborn infant.

### *Why is the MISSing Angels Bill necessary?*

Every state in the U.S. already issues a death certificate for all stillbirths. Additionally, each state has a final disposition mandate for stillbirths. Many parents want to have their child's birth certificate in addition to their death certificate. Unfortunately, without legislative change, most states are unable to accommodate the parents' wishes.

### *How can I get a MISSing Angels Bill passed in my state?*

Some states have already followed Arizona's lead in issuing the CBRS. If your state has not passed this legislation and you'd like to champion for it, please find out how by visiting: [www.missingangelsbill.org](http://www.missingangelsbill.org).

### *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 a 20" or 24" chain. Now available with or without a birthstone. Orders for the Sacred Hearts Pendant can be placed on-line in our store at [www.missfoundation.org](http://www.missfoundation.org). Be sure to indicate your options (i.e. birthstone month, chain size).

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

# Empty Strollers, Empty Shoes: We walk for them.

Each day around the world, parents walk their babies, safely nestled in their strollers, around parks, neighborhoods, schools, and even zoos. Each day around the world, parents hear the steps of their children come through the door at the end of their school day. Each day around the world, parents experience their children's feet returning home for family gatherings and holidays.

But, tragically, not all children get to ride in their strollers, return home at the end of the school day, or spend holidays with family.

The Empty Strollers-Empty Shoes Walk is an international memorial walk to remember all the mothers, fathers, and families- and their beloved children - and to honor those relationships on the most sacred of days for families; Mother's Day. Because death is not bigger than a family's love, and because even in their absence, they continue to walk with us, as we walk for them.

In the Phoenix area, our MISS chapters will be gathering at the Phoenix Zoo on Mothers Day, Sunday, May 8, 2011 to Walk For Them.

Full info & registration for Phoenix event, visit:  
[www.FirstGiving.com/MISSFoundation](http://www.FirstGiving.com/MISSFoundation)

Do you live too far away to participate in the Phoenix Zoo walk on Mother's Day?

Do you want to participate in the Empty Strollers, Empty Shoes Walk, but don't know how??

ANNOUNCING:  
Footprint Registration - \$10  
For those families who want to participate but who cannot be at the Phoenix Zoo event, you can now register for the Walk with a Footprint Registration at <http://www.firstgiving.com/missfoundation>.

After you register, you can build your own page, just like walkers who will be at the event. You can set your fundraising goal and make a team, just like everyone else. Then, on Walk day, your child's name, date of birth and angel date will be written on a beautiful paper footprint. Another MISS Family will carry your beloved's footprint in their honor during the main Walk event – and at the end of walk, at Lakeside Ramada, all of the footprints will be carefully collected and planted in the MISS Foundation's FOOTPRINT GARDEN.

The MISS Foundation C.A.R.E.S. for families facing the death of a child.

## Empty Strollers, Empty Shoes: We walk for them.

[www.FirstGiving.com/MISSFoundation](http://www.FirstGiving.com/MISSFoundation)

**B.Y.O.S.**  
Bring Your Own Strollers or Shoes

Join the MISS Foundation on Mother's Day  
**at the Phoenix Zoo**  
**Sunday May 8, 2011 -**  
**Mother's Day**  
**Registration 6:45 am**  
**Walk Begins: 7:30 am**

## For Tyler

by Courtney Holt Norman

Today is your 9th birthday. Today will be the 9th time we have celebrated your birthday without you here. The 9th time we will write our notes to you on balloons and release them in the sky. The 1000th time I will return home from your grave, devastated that you are not here with me.

I MISS you SO much!! We all do. Your Daddy, you were supposed to be his little buddy. The only other male in this house full of females. And your sisters, they miss you, too. They always include you in the pictures they make or the stories they tell. You were supposed to be here, but you're not. People say to

me all the time, "All these girls and no boys?" Sometimes I can answer; sometimes I just smile and nod, smile and nod.

You have a piece of my heart with you. It will never be the same as long as I am here. That hole hurts so much worse around this day, the day you were born. The day I held you in my arms and had to let you go. I didn't want to; I wanted to hold you just a tiny bit longer and then a tiny bit more.

Once, when I was about 12 years old, I saw a play at church. There was one scene in the play that always stuck with me. It was a mother who had just got to Heaven and as she's entering Heaven's gates, Jesus is there with her smiling baby in his arms. The mother ran to them and

wept tears of joy. That scene became a part of me that day- I never forgot it. I think now that I was supposed to see it. So I would know. Know that you're OK. Know that I will be OK. Know that Jesus loves me and one sweet, sweet day he will place you in my arms.

I love you, Tyler. Happy 9th birthday, my precious baby boy.



## Our Journey

By Michele Newton

Branden, my dear son, you are missed every day. Nine years from where we started to where we are today. Tears and sadness often mixed with plenty of laughter and joy.

This journey has not always been easy. I was determined not to be stalled in self-pity. But instead hoping to make you proud. Giving your life meaning is one of my priorities.

I know this journey has an ending and that it will lead me to you. I don't stand at your grave looking for you. Nor do I ever wonder where you are. You are waiting just on the other side of this grief path. Hanging out in my heart.

Today I can say, I am content, comfortable, safe, happy and loved as I move closer to seeing you. You and I are the same what we were for each other we still are. Death can never take that away.

This is our journey where you will be remembered as a young man who touched others as we work together to help quiet sad burdened hearts. Sadly, so many parents are just starting out on their grief journey. We can only pray that we provide them with hope.

As life moves on, I move on with it. Learning that my successes or failures are just a stepping stone to being with you again. I'm not in a hurry; there is so much love here: Bethany and Caleb, Breanne and Valerie, family and special friends.

But until then, hoping with a little stroke of luck I can be blessed to meet you some nights in a dream.

With love on this your 24th birthday, missing you always,  
Mom

## Save the Date!



***We have already started planning the 2012 conference. In response to our 2010 conference attendee feedback, we are sending a survey to see which weekend you would prefer to attend the 2012 MISS Foundation Conference. Please visit: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/P9NK9Q7> to complete the survey (\*\*note the \$69 room rate in early September vs \$99 room rate in late September/early October). Please check the MISS website for more updated information as it becomes available.***

***We look forward to seeing you at the 2012 Conference!***

## Arizona Support Groups

### Phoenix area Support Groups

Phoenix, North West Valley  
3rd Thursday of the month: 6:45 p.m.  
Peace Lutheran Church  
Fellowship Hall  
18265 N. 89th Ave, Peoria, AZ  
Contact: Michele Newton 623-329-2970 or  
Michele@missfoundation.org

### North Phoenix/Anthem/Carefree - Bereaved parent and grandparent support group

1st Thursday of every month: 7:00 p.m.  
2525 W. Carefree Highway  
Bldg 7 Suite 148 @ the Center for Loss and Trauma  
Contact: Dr. Joanne Cacciatore 623-979-1000  
joanne@missfoundation.org or Co-Facilitator  
Dr. Melissa Delgado mdlgado7@msn.com

### Phoenix- Native American Support Meeting

MISS Foundation Co-Facilitators Judy Yazzie Haines and Shannon LaRance, MSW are offering a culturally sensitive and respectful grief support group once or twice a month to Native American parents and families whose children have died.  
Contact: Shannon LaRance 602-405-2261 or  
Judy Yazzie Haines 480-362-5718

### Far West Valley

Contact: Wendy Peters  
623-853-9170 or 623-297-2186  
wendy@missfoundation.org

### Tempe - East Valley Support Group for Child Loss

1st Thursday of the month: 6:30 p.m.  
Day Spring United Methodist Church  
1365 E. Eliot Rd Room #110  
Contact: Michele Newton 623-329-2970  
michele@missfoundation.org or  
Joe Spadafino 602-618-8786  
joseph@missfoundation.org

### Scottsdale Christian Grief Support

1st Wednesday of the month: 7-8:30 p.m.  
La Casa De Cristo Church  
6300 E. Bell Rd. room 208  
(NW side of campus, 2nd floor)  
Childcare available w/ reservation 1 week in advance  
Contact: Amy MacDonald 623-434-3283  
Amy.macdonald@missfoundation.org or  
Janeen Kokodynski 480-415-0613  
janeen@missfoundation.org

### Phoenix - AGAST Grandparents Support Meeting

Call for more details  
Contact: Robin or Ed Kennedy 602-799-6481  
robin@missfoundation.org or  
Pam DeGaff 602-291-5996  
robin@missfoundation.org

### KISS – Kids In Sympathy and Support Bereaved

Children's Group  
3rd Thursday of the month: 6:45 p.m.  
Peace Lutheran Church  
Fellowship Hall  
18265 N. 89th Avenue, Peoria, AZ  
Support for children 5 years and older  
Contact: Robin or Ed Kennedy 602-799-6481  
robin@missfoundation.org  
Pam DeGaff 602-291-5996  
robin@missfoundation.org

### Grupo de Ayuda en Espanol

Second Monday of each month @ 6:30 P.M.  
Sacred Heart Parish  
1421 S. 12th St., Phoenix, AZ 85034  
(12th St. south of Buckeye)  
Por Favor llame a Roberto Sanchez para mas informacion: 602-518-2262  
roberto@missfoundation.org

# Responses to article on MISS in Raising AZ Kids Magazine, January 2011

Karen,  
Your article, "Finding Purpose in Grief" highlighting the MISS Foundation, couldn't have come at a more poignant time. On Dec. 11, my dear friend delivered a 7 pound angel daughter who was born just over a week shy of her due date. For reasons unknown, her heartbeat suddenly stopped in utero. The grief my friend and her family are experiencing right now is indescribable. When I got the news, I felt completely helpless and poured through online articles trying to find something, anything I could do to help the situation. I was at a complete loss, and I shed many tears and started having nightmares about the situation because I am currently 5 months pregnant. Thank you for spotlighting the MISS Foundation here in Phoenix. I've passed along your article to my grieving friend and they are attending an upcoming support group meeting.

Stephanie Jarnagan

Karen,  
Thank you, thank you, thank you for finding Joanne and show casing MISS Foundation. I was a student of Joanne's in one of her first grief and trauma classes in 2005. The class changed my life. I have not lost a child, but view the loss of a child differently than I ever could imagine because of Joanne. I now have clients I work with that are grieving the loss of a child, and I am fortunate that I have had a window into their pain to understand that the pain will shift but never go away.

I hope the articles help grieving parents see there is help, and help others understand how to help.

As an adoptive mom I have lost many nameless/faceless children over the past 7 years in our waiting for phone calls from CPS. Nothing compared to a death of a child, but a loss non-the-less. Joanne and her strength she provided me as her student helped me and my husband persevere. I am thankful to say that this past fall we were placed with two additional children and their adoptions will be finalized early in 2011, adding to our one other adopted daughter which now completed our family.

Keep the authentic articles coming.  
Noelle Landay, LMSW

Karen,  
I have been a faithful reader of your magazine for years. Having just finished reading your "behind the 'zine" article in January's edition, I felt compelled to write you and let you know how much I admire your decision to run a series of articles on parents dealing with grief.

Losing one of my children has been my greatest fear in life...and, as you say, the articles will not be easy to read...yet I believe we all have something to learn from these parents and their journeys through grief. I hope I will learn to live my life more fully, with even more love and gratitude for all of the people I am fortunate enough to have in it.

Sincerely,  
Margo S. O'Neill

Dear RAK,  
I just wanted to write a quick note of thanks for your article on MISS. My group and the people from the online forums were a vital to me making it through my daughter's death. Nobody wants to talk about a child dying, and I really hope that your words will both help out grieving parents who don't know where to turn, and also educate those who haven't been through it to better support those who have. There can be a world of difference between good intentions and good results.

Again, thank you, Deanna, mom to three daughters, two I hug and one I miss

Dear RAK,  
Great article about Joanne Cacciatore, whom I know personally from the MISS Foundation. I run an organization to provide support, advocacy, awareness, prevention and education for the parents of a murdered child and other family members who have lost a loved one to murder. It is a harsh reality that is compounded further by the violent way they died, society's belief we get over it in a short time, when in truth we never get over, but can get on with it if we work hard and the intrusion, frustration and often unfairness of the judicial process if there is even an arrest.

Like Joanne, at one point, in my grief from losing my son to murder (robbed and shot to death at age 18 in 1991) I learned and chose that a way to live with my life-long pain would be in service to others enduring the same thing. Our chapter has grown since I began leading it in 1993 to more than 1400 families locally. I went from being a stay-at-home mom, providing day care in my home, to take on all the many challenges facing a growing organization of our reality: more meetings, fundraising, grant writing, teaching and learning from the professionals we deal with and so much more. I also began writing as a way to heal, educate and sing my son's silenced song. While my work with POMC is never easy, it is very rewarding. It kept me sane, gave me a purpose and became my greatest passion. Like Joanne, I truly thought I would die from my pain, and if honest, earlier on sometimes wished I

would have. Had I though, I would never have become who I am today; adopted a child after raising two children or been able to say if God came to me today and said I could have my old life back I would respond that while I would most definitely take my son back, I would not want my old life. I would want to keep all the lessons I have learned through the ultimate grief journey a parent can experience and the amazing people I have met along this journey, including Joanne.

Thank you for a great article on a tender subject.

Beckie A. Miller, Chapter-Leader

Dear RAK,  
I am a MISS Facilitator in the state of WA and I just read your article entitled Finding Purpose in Grief. Thank you writing about this issue and what MISS is doing to help families who have experienced the loss of a child at any age from any reason.

The loss of a child (at ANY age) is so overwhelming and it's even more complicated by the fact that many people don't get it or understand. This ends up leaving the bereaved so lonely, distraught and feeling completely fragile. Physical problems arise, anxiety grows to unmanageable levels and you are barely able to take on the most basic tasks of everyday life. As more articles like this one are written and end up in the hands of everyone (not just those who have experienced a loss) we may have a more understanding and compassionate world in which to grieve.

I will be sharing the article with many others – and again – thank you for writing about such an important issue!

In their memory,  
Sara (Micah, Liam AND Isabelle's (06/29-06/30 2004) mama)

Dear Mary Ann,  
I am a parent in Austin TX whose infant daughter was stillborn almost four years ago. I wanted to thank you for your very meaningful and well-written story on the MISS Foundation and Dr. Joanne Cacciatore. A special thanks to your publication for making it the cover story and for giving this under-reported topic the prominence it deserves. Without the continuous support of Dr. Cacciatore and the MISS Foundation, I am not sure I would have made it through this extremely isolating and traumatic time in my life.

This article will undoubtedly help so many parents who are going through similar experiences. Thank you very much for your

thoughtful research and coverage on this issue. Not many writers have the guts to approach this subject so I am very grateful that you took the time and energy to write such a significant article.

Dr. Cacciatore has been a lifeline to so many of us. I am really glad she got some of the very deserved spotlight.

Sincerely,  
Kelli Montgomery

Dear RAK,  
Thank you so much for publishing this series. I apologize in advance for the random order of this email; my excitement makes it difficult to organize my thoughts. I am a bereaved parent, and was introduced to the MISS Foundation by the RTS coordinator at Banner Thunderbird Medical Center after delivering my stillborn daughter on May 28, 2005. We named our daughter Charis. It took me a couple of months to get up the courage to attend a support meeting, but what a blessing it was once I finally got there. Although many of my friends and family tried to be supportive of our feelings, they just fell short. Furthermore, after time, they quit calling and coming over. Through MISS's various monthly meetings and the website, I was able to receive much needed support. The difference here is that nobody was expecting me to feel better, or to move on. I was allowed to feel my pain and talk about my feelings without making anybody feel uncomfortable. Additionally, I was on a quest to meet other people who also had lost children, and could empathize with me as well as encourage me. I just wanted somebody to say, "I've been through this, and you're going to be okay." I found that through MISS.

As I was reading this article, I kept thinking, "Yes, yes! That's exactly how I felt!" I laughed to myself when I read the comment about walking around the piles of reference material in Joanne's office. It took me back to an evening that my husband and I spent interviewing with Joanne.

Initially, my hope was to spend every moment of my life finding ways to memorialize Charis's brief life in my womb. I was very fortunate to build a relationship with the RTS coordinator at Thunderbird, which resulted in me speaking to nurses at several training seminars. During my hospital stay, I was crushed and confused by the treatment I received from the medical staff. Most of them were afraid to look at me, while what I needed was for them to show me they cared. My therapy was to later have an opportunity to look at these nurses, and tell them what I had needed as a patient. My prayer is that my contribution during this training helped

future bereaved parents. My husband also spoke during lectures on a couple of different occasions for Joanne. I guess, for me, my healing came through helping others. It gave me the opportunity to use my own experiences to encourage others through their pain. When it came time that I no longer needed the group environment, I felt the need to give back. For a couple of years, I provided childcare during the monthly meetings so that other parents would be able to attend.

Without MISS, I can't say where I would be today. Through my experience with MISS, I learned that there is no right or wrong way to grieve. I was free to grieve in my own way, without feeling any pressure from society to 'get over it'. We are doing fine now. Charis is remembered in our home, and our 4 year old son speaks of someday meeting his sister in heaven. We also have a baby, and I'm sure he will soon be talking about his sister too.

Sincerely Yours,  
Mrs. Lori Wainwright, In memory of Charis

Hi,  
I just wanted to take a moment to let you all know how excited I was to learn that the MISS Foundation was featured in Raising Arizona Kids. The MISS Foundation, and Dr. Cacciatore in particular, have been a catalyst in helping my family heal following the unexpected death of my son Jason in 2008. Jason was 11 when he died of an "intercerebral hemorrhage of unknown etiology." My husband and I have 4 other children at home and MISS has been a huge support to all of us.

Jason's death completely changed the way I viewed life and motivated me to do something to honor his memory. I wanted to help others experiencing the trauma of child loss and I decided to leave the world of finance (13 years in the banking industry and a graduate degree in management) and enroll as a full-time student. I am currently a graduate student at ASU in the MSW and CTB programs (masters in social work and certificate in trauma and bereavement) and also attend Phoenix Institute of Herbal Medicine and Acupuncture to work on my masters degree in acupuncture. I plan to serve the community as a bereavement specialist incorporating talk therapy and alternative medicine, specifically acupuncture as a healing modality. The support of the MISS Foundation and Dr. Cacciatore has been instrumental in my educational decision. I truly believe if it wasn't for the path that Dr. Cacciatore paved, I might not be headed the direction I am today.

I am really happy to see that Raising Arizona Kids is breaking the silence about child loss. Too often, no one speaks about it for fear of

saying the "wrong" thing or merely out of the uncomfortable thoughts that the death of a child provokes. I really look forward to upcoming issues and applaud you in your efforts of educating readers on the support and comfort that the MISS Foundation provides during the journey that one experiences following the death of their beloved child.

My son's website is listed below if you would like to get a glimpse of the 11 wonderful years we were blessed to spend with Jason.  
[www.jasonsanchez.virtual-memorials.com](http://www.jasonsanchez.virtual-memorials.com)

Keep up the great work!  
DonitaMcGlasson

Hi Mary Ann,  
I just wanted to take the time to thank you from the bottom of my heart for running the article about MISS Foundation and Dr. Cacciatore. Loss on this level is experienced by too many families and many of these families never really get the proper help needed to regain life. So often parents without proper peer support try to stuff the feelings believing they don't have a right to grieve as they feel they need. Hopefully, by you running this article, someone in need of support will find us.

Thanks again,  
Trevor Van Huizen  
Father of Diego Van Huizen  
May 12 2008-May 13 2008  
[www.diegosplace.virtual-memorials.com](http://www.diegosplace.virtual-memorials.com)

Having a child die hasn't made me strong; living after losing a child has. Great article in RAK. I have it on my desk at work, and am so thankful for my time with MISS every time I work with a grieving parent.

Krista Long



# Remembering our March & April Children...



## March

Aaron Allen O'Rourke  
 Aaron Jeffrey Ahlman  
 Aaron Wayne Lindsey  
 Abigayle V. Cunningham  
 Adam James Hewlett  
 Adisyn Rain Hathaway  
 Aerolynn Rose Lentz  
 Aidan Williams Burke  
 Aiden Gibbs  
 Ajani Marcello Laniyan  
 Alexander Culbertson  
 Alexander Swartz  
 Alexander Zeiser  
 Alexandra Sainz  
 Alexis Jade Redd  
 Alfonso Jesus Baez  
 Allison Rose Kuczmariski  
 Alyssa Marie Furman  
 Alyssa Marie Monahan  
 Alyssa Nicole Rayl  
 Amanda Joy Marottek  
 Amberlee Elizabeth Brown  
 Americo Sedillo III  
 Angel Alexis Lopez  
 Angel Baby Anguiano  
 Anthony Cameron Gay  
 Arianna Rose Watkins  
 Ariel Baldrige-Hall  
 Ashley Crouch  
 Audree Jett Seeley  
 Austen Wayne Curry  
 Autumn Michelle Cantor  
 Baby Beyer  
 Baby Boy Towler  
 Baby Smith  
 Bella Rose Marvel  
 Benjamin James Hesler  
 Benjamin James Swanson  
 Benjamin Scott Winget  
 Benjamin Terrence Hardy  
 Bianca Coleman  
 Brad Alexx Poppe  
 Braiden Lee Barnes  
 Brandon Michael Boettcher  
 Braxton Michael Whisler  
 Brittany Leigh Chen  
 Brittney Michelle Stone  
 Caden Christopher Mathes

Caden Lee Vatne  
 Caleb Lee Janowitz  
 Cameron Shane Gray  
 Campbell Raines Nickerson  
 Carina Loren Kurtz  
 Casey James Overacker  
 Cassandra Nicole Stone  
 Catherine Dacosh  
 Celeste E. Marie Detillier  
 Chance Michael Harris  
 Chaney Brooke Almon  
 Chaney Warner Combs  
 Charles Gregory III  
 Charles Smith  
 Christopher Lee Spivey Jr.  
 Christopher Lee Spivey Sr.  
 (Cho-Cho)  
 Christian Ryan Juarez  
 Christina E Hunt  
 Christopher J. Mellinger-Kirk  
 Christopher Potempa  
 Christopher Travis Seal  
 Clayton Alex Haynes  
 Cody Lee Rudolph  
 Connor Lane Higgins  
 Dakota Jones  
 Daniel Fritea  
 Daniel Jacob Dexter  
 Daniel Mark Spadafino  
 David A. Stratton-Ebert  
 David Larry Thoe  
 Devon Weidauer  
 Dominic Fulton Miller  
 Dominic James Marzitello  
 Donald Ray Ambler, III  
 Emma Irene Smith  
 Eric Robert Contreras Jr.  
 Erick Mendoza  
 Erik Andrew Weiss  
 Erik Rocha, Jr.  
 Esai E. Michael Jacquez  
 Esteban Madrigales  
 Ethan Andrew Wedderburn  
 Evelyn Marie Gray  
 Faith A. Burkholder-McDevitt  
 Faith Vasquez  
 Gabriel Collins  
 Gabriela Jordan Nenner  
 Gabriella Faith Fraser  
 Gavin William Sneed  
 Geneva Elaine Hedman  
 Grant Connor Maddox  
 Gregory Bird  
 Hannah Avery Crose  
 Heloise Quince Meagher  
 Henry Gilman  
 Hogan Blake Crawshaw  
 Hope Katherine Crawshaw

Hope Vasquez  
 Humberto Paulo Caloca  
 Ian Patrick Moore  
 Ikaika Noah Ilac  
 Israel Bird  
 Jacklynn Elizabeth Stecker  
 Jackson Alan Grader  
 Jacob Alan Boatwright  
 Jacob Eloie Graham  
 Jacob Sullivan  
 Jaden Chase Brown  
 Jaime Ryan Block  
 James Nicholas Volk  
 Jaquan Dawayne Carter  
 Jasmine Gonzalez  
 Jason Everett Booden  
 Jenna Ann Rumsey  
 Jennalee Rose Ambuehl  
 Jesse Verde  
 Jessica Lynne Musgrove  
 Joel Ramos  
 John Henry Farwell  
 Jonathan Dale Miller  
 Jordan Joseph Miller  
 Josef Damien Moeschl  
 Joseph Funk  
 Joshua Keith Sexton  
 Joshua Tyler Elfenbein  
 Josua Dominic Nolan  
 Julia Catherine Derr  
 Juliann Paige Alcorn  
 Juliette Olivia Wright  
 Julius Alec Grantham  
 Justin Paul Gardner  
 Kaiden Noah Brown  
 Kaitlynn Tayler Pettus  
 Kate Ellen Penswick  
 Katherine Wilhite Condne  
 Kathryn Mary Cook  
 Kaylee Dawn Burch  
 Keegan Mitchell Fehlinger  
 Keione LeAnthony Gines  
 Keleb Lee Scanlon  
 Kennedy Rose Daniels  
 Kimberlin Elaina West  
 Kristi Kioko Morinishi  
 Kristiana Faith Tackett  
 Kyle David Miller  
 Lance Gregory Lamere  
 Lance Kowalski  
 Landon Carl Nix  
 Lapo Rivaldi  
 Lara Christine Marsh  
 Lauren Sue Vila  
 Levi Matthew Dejong  
 Logan James Harman  
 Louis Bertram Copps  
 Lucas Darley Dutton

Lujan Gregory Arvallo Jr.  
 Lyndsay Dane Alm  
 Madeleine May  
 Madison Elaine McInerney  
 Madison Marie Macomber  
 Malak Dhaouadi  
 Marek Kostewa  
 Maria Valentina  
 Mario David DeMarco  
 Marissa Grace Miller  
 Mary Palmer  
 Matthew Beatty  
 Matthew Hernandez  
 Matthew Thomas Bryan  
 Max Alexander Dingus  
 Max Joseph Sholly  
 Michael Floyd  
 Michelle Elizabeth Dickerson  
 Michelle Joy Pourier  
 Mikaila Underwood  
 Morgan E. Renee Blissett  
 Morgan Shay Gould  
 Murphy Andrew Nichols  
 Nicholas Scott Gulbransen  
 Nicholas Verde  
 Nicolas Baloh  
 Nolan Fairway LaVelle  
 Olivia Monique Swope  
 Paige Suter  
 Parker Brooke Daigle  
 Parker Cho Freeman  
 Rachel Nicole Sharpe  
 Rachel Taylor Barberian  
 Randy James Greene  
 Rebecca Woolery  
 Reese Alexander Wyrick  
 Robert Benjamin Imhoff  
 Ryan Andrew Pence  
 Ryan Emerson Rafferty  
 Sabrina Mills  
 Sagan K. Williams-Carey  
 Samantha Louise Whitney  
 Samuel Andrew Seaney  
 Sarah Elizabeth Barclay  
 Sarah Elizabeth Wintz  
 Sarah Martinez  
 Scott Michael Jessie  
 Seth Ryan Newman  
 Shannon Lory Smith  
 Shelby Lynn Kuchinski  
 Stephanie Lynn Bieniek  
 Sweet Pea Jones  
 Tara Ellen Young  
 Taylor Joy McClure  
 Taylor Kristina Young  
 Teighlor J. Blakemore-Brock  
 Thomas Jason Williams

Thomas Wesley Jackson  
 Tiffany J. Peterson/Cohen  
 Tommy Montgomery  
 Trinity Elizabeth Rauen  
 Tyler John Vorce  
 Tyler Scott Norman  
 Vanessa Jane Tait-Raymond  
 Virginia Paige Fehlinger  
 Wayne VanSickle, Jr.  
 Weston Ladd Shields  
 William Cho Freeman  
 Willie Clarence Calvin III  
 Willow Elyse Williams  
 Zachary Jordan Didawick  
 Zachery Taylor Fossum  
 Zander Aiden Mora

**April**

Abbi Grace Kontra  
 Abel Correa  
 Alaia Caitlyn Carter  
 Alesia Dawn Carder  
 Alexandria Jaiden Wick  
 Alexandria Jewell Havens  
 Alexandria Marie Krueger  
 Aline Bethann  
 Amber Pearson-Gibson  
 Andrew Jay Vanderschaaf  
 Andrew Joseph Waden  
 Andrew Travis Sparkes  
 Angel Alexis Lopez  
 Angelina Jean Cooper  
 Angelina Marie Sabella  
 Aniyah Camille Lovelace  
 Anne Elise Bacon  
 Arianna Souza-Dotson  
 Ashley McKenzie Woodard  
 Ashley Taylor Tipton  
 Azaleah Maestes  
 Azuncion Guzman Jr.  
 Baby Boy Begay  
 Baby Boy Richards  
 Baby Steger  
 Baby Taylor  
 Benjamin Gamblin  
 Benjamin Joseph Carter  
 Billy Espinoza Clark  
 Billy Walker  
 Blaine Marie Nelson  
 Blake Whitehead  
 Brandon Jacobs  
 Brandon Russell Rice  
 Brandon William Jacobs  
 Brendan C. Giovanni Cothorn  
 Brian Clavecillas Madrigal  
 Brianna Conroy  
 Cailee Nicole Wynne  
 Caleb Wainwright  
 Callie Drew Castleman

Carey David Niesen  
 Carlie Lynn Brooks  
 Carsten Cole Buckley  
 Catherine Ann Sanford  
 Celest Letteau Stallings  
 Celia Dorothy Furman  
 Chance Thomas Dubell  
 Chandler Lee Vatne  
 Cheyenne Elizabeth Kirts  
 Cheyenne Lee Compton  
 Chloe Melisa O'Gwynn  
 Christopher James Vazoulas  
 Christopher Jason Newman  
 Christopher Matteson  
 Christopher M. Bartlett  
 Ciara Shalay Noueihed  
 Cody Bohn  
 Courtney Eileen Sanders  
 Craig Lovell  
 Damerio Smith  
 Damian Michael Kimmel  
 Daniel Patrick Wilhelm  
 Dawson Thomas  
 Derek John Sneed  
 Destinee A. Nycole Taylor  
 Destinee J. Armida Medina  
 Devin Phillip Izydorczak  
 Devon Justice Hinman-Shackleford  
 Diana Joelle Kissman  
 Dianna Christine Bowden  
 Dillon Pierzchalski  
 Dillon Thomas Chen  
 Dixie Alexandra Lindsey  
 Dylan T. Mellinger-Kirk  
 Eban James Medina Sarten  
 Eian James Albin  
 Elizabeth Margaret Wolff  
 Eloara Sky Aldana  
 Emily Skye Kleber  
 Emma Nicole Fratila  
 Esperanza Alexandra Matta  
 Esperanza Ochoa  
 Evelyn Elizabeth Pate  
 Ezra Charles Reinders  
 Fabian E. Herrera-Lopez  
 Frankie T Hunt  
 Gabriel Angel Quiros  
 Gabriel Raul De Lao  
 Giavanna Grace Ferrucci  
 Gillian Grace Peterson  
 Grant Cooper Gartner  
 Guanqi Cao  
 Gunnar Dougherty  
 Haiden Blake Pearson  
 Hannah Kathleen Bayer  
 Hannah Roer  
 Heather Lynn Fitzpatrick  
 Hunter Garen

Hunter Isabella Johnson  
 Hunter Michael Johnson  
 Isabel Villagomez  
 James Aaron DeLaCruz  
 James Allan Zablocki  
 Jared Evan Dahlke  
 Jason Michael Sanchez  
 Jason Sanchez  
 Jennifer Ruth Higgins  
 Jennifer Susan Loomis  
 Jesper T. DeWitt Golden  
 Jessica Dang  
 Jessica Nicole French  
 Johnathan Edwards  
 Jordan Lexie Teafatiller  
 Joshua Matthew Pastorius  
 Joshua Richmond  
 Josiah Lee Poarch  
 Josie Simone Pruneti  
 Juliet Mariah Kathleen Kennedy  
 Juliette Heavenlea Raquel Dubrul  
 Justin Allen Dodson  
 Kai Asunta Madison Sweeny  
 Kami Beznoska  
 Kasey Bryan Rushton  
 Kayla Marie Jankowski  
 Kelsey Nicole Mills  
 Kenneth Scott Whiting  
 Kimberly Deanne Orta  
 Kody Stevens Rye  
 Kyler Joshua Paez  
 Kyra Lin Jones  
 Lauren Grace Sausville  
 Leandra Michelle Garcia  
 Leslie-Ann Willow Schlomer  
 Lily Victoria Harris  
 Logan L. Marie Brakhahn  
 Lucas Marshall Prueh  
 Lucette Letteau Stallings  
 Mackenzie Grothe  
 Madison America Sherwood  
 Madison Leigh Young  
 Makalie Jane Herzog  
 Malcolm Sharratt  
 Malea Lynea Whitfield  
 Matthew Gallardo  
 Matthew James Bobrowitz  
 Matthew J. Fredrick Gnage  
 Max Colbath  
 Maxwell Joel Munsen  
 Maya Renee Adcock  
 Mele Rose Tooa  
 Melissa Godoy  
 Melody Joy Munsen  
 Michael Church Nordhagen  
 Michael Manna  
 Michael R. Artman

Michael Ryan Dautriel  
 Monica Ann Hudsen  
 Nathan Marimon  
 Nathan McGuire Carney  
 Nicholas Hush  
 Nicholas Lee Guthrie-Nelkie  
 Nussima Strauss  
 Olivia Tatianna Sicilian  
 Paige Danyell Bronson  
 Paige Madigan Renton  
 Paul M. David Arrowood  
 Penelope April Carrey  
 Peyton Ann Murphy  
 Piper M. Van Middendorp  
 Rebecca Gaitan  
 Reilly M. Rodgers-Ward  
 River Dougherty  
 Robert Bodie Thrasher  
 Robert Brian Simpson  
 Roy Bernard Davis  
 Ryan Michael Sweeny  
 Ryan Robert Torres  
 Ryan Zachary Byron  
 Samantha Byerts  
 Sara Elizabeth Hulme  
 Sara Marie Greenwood  
 Scott Robert Keen  
 Sean Patrick Noonan  
 Sebastian Maximiliano Arias  
 Sebella Leanna Paz  
 Shaelagh Francis Kirvan  
 Shafin Mohammed Ismail  
 Shalom Abel Garcia  
 Sienna Rae Spiegel  
 Sloan Elizabeth Holand  
 Spencer Christian Engstrom  
 Spencer Engstrom  
 Stanley B. Hayden Arrowood  
 Stephanie Gayosso  
 Steven Ryan Christie  
 Tabitha Roberts  
 Tanner Cole Fugate  
 Taylor Alisha Dushion  
 Tehuitzin Enrique  
 Teresa Wesley Hough  
 Thomas McPhee  
 Timothy W. Nicholas Streit  
 Trevor Aidan James Webb  
 Trey Alexander Tucker-Leal  
 Tristan Blakely Thorne  
 Tucker Brooks Baer  
 Tyler Jay (T. J.) Olive  
 Tyler Jay Olive  
 Vincent P. Fetsis  
 William McConnell  
 Zackery Woods  
 Zacory Jude O'Connor

Compassion  
 Perspective  
 Love  
 HOPE  
 Friendship  
 WISDOM  
 Faith  
 Awakening  
 Strength  
 Inspiration  
 Peace

**Due to space limitations, we are printing only birth/birth-death dates in the remembering section. We will continue to make every effort to print your child's full name. Thank you for understanding.**

# Memorial Donations

*In Loving Memory of...*

Meagan Matur  
Who died December 16, 2010  
By Marlene Matur

Cassidy  
This gift is made in memory of  
Cassidy's Great-Grandparents  
Ben and Bess Zimmerli for all the  
love and joy they showed their  
children, grandchildren and great  
grandchildren. They are MISSEd  
and remembered  
By Todd and Caprice Bass

Richard Spielman  
By Anonymous Donor

Milos William Hardy  
1/26/2009  
By Kimberly Hooper

Ava and Teddy Woods  
October 2010  
By Katie Dickson

Benjamin James Hesler  
March 2  
By Kathy Mara

Beryl Davis  
In memory of an extraordinary  
person and a dear friend. Beryl's  
memory will forever be a blessing.  
By Mari Chernow

Blake Cash  
and his amazing mother,  
Katie Dean  
February 18, 2000  
By Carrie Patterson

Stephen Dember  
By Anonymous Donor

Elizabeth Hayes Loncki  
By Anonymous Donor

McKenna Jodell Fox  
By Anonymous Donor

Wheeler Wood Soos  
February 27, 2004  
By Selena Shelley

Grace Elizabeth Yelanich  
11/29/2002  
By Joseph Yelanich

Stena Jacobs  
By Fern Decker

Alex Kean and his mom  
Melanie Fox  
March 9, 2008  
By Eric Dodge

## General Donations

Coleman Dahm & Associates

Kimberly Davis

Anonymous Donor

Christ Center Wesleyan Church  
Sedona, AZ

Temple Solel  
Paradise Valley, AZ

Bristol-Myers Squibb Company

Ginny Jontes  
Jeff Bell  
Tony Cuchiara  
Cristina Archibeque

Gallagher & Kennedy

Low & Johnson

Arizona Public Service

Valley of the Sun United Way

American Express Employee  
Giving Program  
Anonymous Employee

Albertson's

A New Leaf  
Child Crisis Center

Sarah Workman Events

Target

Safeway

Diamondbacks Baseball

Desert Botanical Gardens

AZ Rattlers

Oliver Smith Jewelers

Eminess Inc.

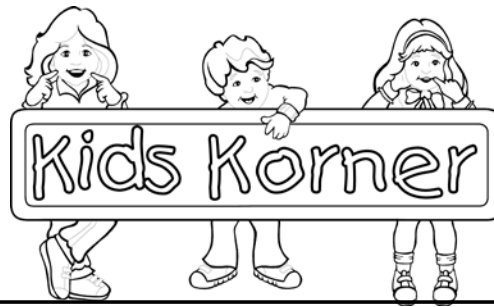
Bobroff Hesse Martone & Doetzel

## ***Reminder!***

*Your tax-deductible  
donations can be sent to:  
MISS Foundation  
P.O. Box 5333  
Peoria, AZ 85385*

*You can also make your  
donation on-line by visiting  
[www.missfoundation.org](http://www.missfoundation.org)*





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

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## My Story

*by Corey Grothe, junior in High School  
He is spearheading a fundraising walk in Iowa*

I was seven years old when I lost my baby sister, Nora. I was confused and didn't understand what had happened. It was devastating to watch my mom not being able to stop crying, and my dad with that blank look of shock on his face. We needed help. Most of our extended family just wanted us to get over it and "move on." But my mom couldn't so they stopped talking to us.

Then my mom found the MISS foundation. They helped my family learn how to grieve and had people our own age talk with us. They helped tremendously and to this day, I haven't forgotten about them.

Then I came across a scholarship that was designed on the participant finding a way to help out his/her community. I seized the opportunity and immediately went to finding different ways to help MISS. I am

trying to raise awareness and money for the MISS Foundation, so they can continue to help grieving families, just as they helped us.

When a family loses a child, it doesn't just affect them. It affects their whole community, it is my goal to show those families they are not alone. There are other families and experienced people who can help them.

I am organizing a walk not only for those families, but for their friends, too. People who haven't

lost a child don't know how to grieve and become silent when the family asks for help. I want to show them a way to get information and to get a voice so they can help the grieving family through their pain.



# Remembering...



Amanda Faith Olson



Alexander Michael Swartz



Alyssa Marie Furman



Amanda Truxell



April Louise Widener



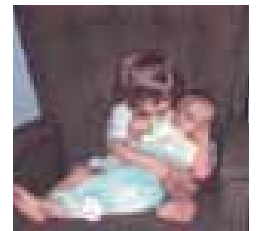
Braden Jason Freiwald



Brendan Wyborn



Chadwick William File



Cody Alan Oldham



Brandon Boettcher



Cameron Shane Gray



Chance Thomas Dubell



Carey David Niesen



Carina Kurtz



Cheyenne Lee Compton



Christopher Lee Spivey Jr.



Christopher Matteson



Courtney Sanders



Dakota Jones



Daniel Fritea



Danielle Marie Hansen



Daniel Mark Spadafino



Elizabeth Renee Stewart



Esai Edward-Michael Jacquez



Francis Baldoz



Gunnar & River Daugherty



Hayley Noel Zanetta

# ...Our Children's Birthdays



Jason Michael Sanchez



Jakob Detwiler



Jenna Ann Rumsey



Jillian



Julieete Olivia Wright



Joseph Moeschl



Joshua Keith Sexton



Joey Anthony Masaniai



Kaylee Dawn Burch



Kimberly Deanne Orta



Jon Dukes



Kalinda Marie Hicks



Kody Stevens Rye



Madison Elaine McInerney



Lili Claire Resnick



Mary Palmer



Maxwell Joel Munsen



Melody Joy Munsen



Megan Wondra



Rachel Hage



Sammy Seaney



Sarah Elizabeth Wintz



Mikaila Marie Underwood



Shane Clause



Tara Ellen Young



Teighlor Janae Brock



Taylor McClure



Zachery Taylor Fossum



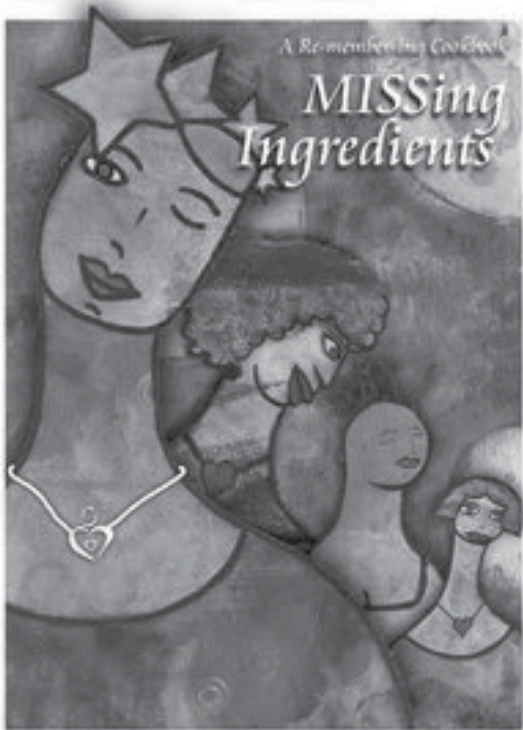
Zane Allen White



# MISSing Ingredients Cookbook

A re-member-ing cookbook is now officially released and available through the MISS site at [www.missfoundation.org](http://www.missfoundation.org). Retail copies are \$20 + shipping. We are so excited to see this book come to print and honored to tell you that funds raised from sales of this book benefit the MISS Foundation.

**NEW OPTION AVAILABLE:** Please note that any trained MISS volunteer who has access to the Training Materials page will now find a new option available under the Finances & Fundraising section of that page!! You and your local groups can get copies of the cookbook at a discounted rate to resell locally. Please check out that section of the Materials page.



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

*Natasha Varela  
Grant Snair*

## Announcements!

### Thank you to the MISS Foundation Board of Directors, Past and Present

On behalf of all of the families that the MISS Foundation serves, I would like to formally acknowledge and thank our outgoing board of directors: Cindi Nanetti, Linda Schmidt, Dana Southworth, Roberto Sanchez and Dr. Guillermo Gutierrez. As is customary with nonprofit organizations, board terms expire, some board members remain and some new board members join the fold. As of January 31, 2011 MISS has transitioned to a new Board of Directors. This new board, is truly a "working board" as we meet monthly to develop and evolve the strategic plan and vision for the MISS Foundation.

I'm proud to introduce the 2011 MISS Foundation Board of Directors:

Dr. Joanne Cacciatore: President  
Tony Cuchiara: Vice President  
Rob Dalager: Treasurer  
Ginny Jontes: Secretary and Events Chairperson  
Cristina Archibeque: Board Member  
Bettina Nava: Board Member  
Jeff Bell: Board Member

Advisory Board Member:  
Dean Martin

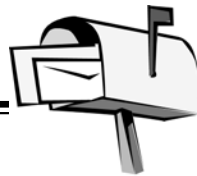
In the coming days, weeks and months we will be asking for your comments, opinions, suggestions as we work together to care for families facing the death of a child.

I invite you to contact me with your ideas:  
[kathy.sandler@missfoundation.org](mailto:kathy.sandler@missfoundation.org) or call  
480-861-7511.

In their memory,  
Kathy Sandler, MSW  
Executive Director  
MISS Foundation



# Letters From The MISS Mailbox...



Joanne,  
I met you at the conference When a child dies in Arizona in 2006. I am sure you will not remember me but I was so thrilled to attend that five day gathering and took away a lot to use in Regina Saskatchewan where I work. Your work influence me a great deal. I have implemented the slide show to honour the memory of our babies at our Annual Memorial Gathering. The province of Saskatchewan now has the availability of a Still birth Certificate and with the major renovations of the new unit we included a Memento room, a place to work with our deceased babies and still born to collect memories for the parents.

Our Perinatal Loss Committee has worked very hard and this weekend received an excellence award for recognition of the hard work. I am passing on the newspaper article just as an FYI. You touched me with your compassion and talent. I work hard to give our community a fraction of what you have given the world. I thought you needed to hear how very appreciative I am to have met you and even relaxed by the pool with you and Vanessa Gorman!

Joanne, you are a special person and while our paths crossing may have been a small event in your busy life you left huge memories with me. While my appreciation is coming years after, you truly are with me every day, influencing my practice and care for these patients. I also expose my student nurses to Perinatal loss as ambassadors when they go forward in the work place to say and do the correct things. In my teaching presentation I have a picture of you and I, to show them how special my meeting you and attending the conference was.

Thank you for being you!

Sincerely, Danita Lang R.N. ( and bereaved mother of Baby Kayla April 8-12, 1983 died of congenital anomalies)  
Danita Lang R.N. B.Sc.N.

Good morning,  
I'm writing to you from Europe, Lithuania.

We, five bereaved mothers, here in Lithuania now are preparing new website for grieving parents "Parents of Angels" and we are searching for useful information.

I looked up your website and found some articles, which would be interested for many parents in our country.

My question is: can we translate some of your articles (or parts of the articles) or use quotations from some of your articles and put them on our new website with the link to your website and the name of the author? We would also note that articles are prepared according to your website.

This information would be really useful for the grieving parents here in Lithuania.

I'm looking forward from hearing from you.

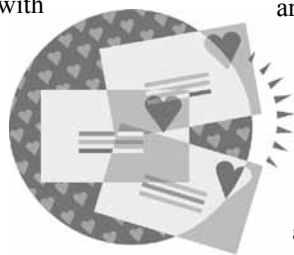
Egle

Dear Dr. Cacciatore,  
Hello. I am 37 years old and I live in Prattville, Alabama. My son, Luke, died on June 1, 2010. He was 39 weeks and 1 day. He weighed 9 lbs. 2 oz. and was 20 inches long. So, I am still new to all of this... grieving.

I am writing to share my interest in learning more about the MISSING Angels Bill. I have teamed up with another mom and we have become fast friends and support for each other. We have a shared interest in getting the legislation going in the state of Alabama.

Thank you in advance for any guidance,

Julie Bebawy



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