



MISS Foundation

A COMMUNITY OF COMPASSION AND HOPE FOR GRIEVING FAMILIES

Remembering on the 4th of July

By Terri Waibel

For those of us with forever broken hearts, holidays are never the same. Certain holidays may feel particularly sharp and heavy for various reasons. Perhaps there were beautiful memories or horrible memories or memories that never were. The 4th of July is a nationally celebrated United States holiday that has jagged edges surrounding it. Waving flags, barbecues, fireworks, traveling, and large crowds can be overwhelming and, ironically, isolating for many of the bereaved. Often on the 4th of July, family members gather in large spaces to be together and celebrate the nation, but our wounded souls might not tolerate the pain of witnessing all that we are missing. Some families are carrying the weight of their veteran children who have died.



Missing them ...

Remembering on the 4th of July

Kindness Walks

Grateful for Support

Three years, three months and three weeks as I write this

Upcoming Events

Compassionate Bereavement Care Training for Providers

MISS Foundation Memorial Wall To Unveil Next Section on Oct. 3

MISS Foundation News

Thanks to Our MISS Families Involved in our Spring/Summer Kindness Walks This Year!

Beautiful Kindness Projects by Misty's Mom!

The History of the Kindness Project

Volunteer Spotlight – Alane Breland

submission guidelines

Want to contribute to the MISSing newsletter? Send submissions to info@missfoundation.org for consideration. Thank you.

Other families are remembering their last 4th of July with their beloved child. Those who have lost a young infant might be in sorrow as they wish for July 4th memories imagined in their mind. Or, like our family, some may be remembering and mourning the day of their child's death. This is a holiday that, for the nonbereaved, could be perceived as 'benign'. But, as we walk into the hot summer months, celebrating our nation, I invite you to be kind to your heart and gentle with your soul. Say no to events as you need and create new traditions and rituals if the previous ones are now seemingly impossible. And, as eyes gaze up with tears to twinkling bursts of light in the night sky, please know that you are not alone in your sadness. We remember them and miss them, on July 4th and always.

Grateful for Support

By Erik Waibel

I used to think that the death of my child was unique and that nobody could understand what this pain felt like. When I went to our first, and even second, support group after Kyndrid died, I remember thinking, "This definitely isn't for me, I have nothing in common with anyone in here." and, "There's too much pain in this room from



all the loss, I can't handle it." It wasn't until a month after my daughter died that I decided to try a support group again where I was really able to listen to what people were saying and feel their experience as well as share mine. I remember all the love that was in the room, along with all of the sadness that filled our hearts. I continued going monthly, then weekly, and found myself able to open up more during meetings and finally have a safe place to talk about my grief. I made more

friends from the support groups than from anything else in my life. I will always be grateful for those support groups that kept their doors open to us for so long.

Three years, three months, and three weeks as I write this

By Brian Nasky, Evan's Dad

Surviving the transition of a child is not a journey any family should make. And yet, here too many of us find ourselves. Everyone finds their own path through the grief: mothers, siblings, fathers, friends, relatives, and others each finds a way to continue. I can only speak to my own personality, circumstances and experience.



I guess a good place to start is with some of the more difficult parts. Upon hearing of Evan's loss, my reality collapsed to a single point where there was nothing but self-awareness and pain. Gradually consciousness began returning and expanding beyond the point of collapse. The reality we sense around us began to be present again. But it was not the same reality – not the same world. It did not feel the same. It did not smell the same. It did not look the same. I cannot say that the world I knew before does not exist. In order to work and function in a somewhat normal manner I have learned to perform as anticipated to get what is needed accomplished.

But I also cannot say that the sense of living in a disconnected reality does not persist. I actually don't care anymore if it makes any sense. As the days, weeks, and months have passed I have grown accustomed to living in two worlds. I am OK with that.

I am not the same person I once was. I am not the same spiritually, mentally, or physically. And I don't think I am any different than anyone who has had the misfortune to be in this situation. The intensity and permanence of the experience alters everything. We each do our best to find a way through the experience. One of the more significant differences in my experience is in my perception of spirituality. Though raised in a more rigorous religious framework, my concept of existence beyond what we sense on this planet was relatively open but more an unresolved form. That ended three years ago. Even sitting here now I have difficulty remembering who I was and what I thought previously. Memories from that reality are not always easy to recall unless I sit and focus, as in writing this down. While I was not all that specific in my beliefs, I was not very flexible either. That stemmed from arrogance and belief that all my searching and thought processes had arrived at a relatively correct interpretation of reality. What a fool. That memory exists now as a source of guilt because I refused to see anything that was not in the rational belief system I had developed. I thought I had being a good dad figured out. In our circumstances, I will carry that error in my perception the rest of my days on this planet.

I am much more flexible on spiritual reality now. I know that Evan continues to exist. Not in our physical-temporal three dimensional world but in a different form. His consciousness is alive and is aware of what is happening here. I know this as surely as I know that these words I type are converted into bytes of electrical impulses and transmitted to the device next to you and converted back into words that you are now reading. My feeling is that many of us have had occasional experiences that were "out of the norm" and pointed toward a connection/feeling/sensation from outside of what our five senses typically allow. That maybe infinity might be more than a mathematical concept.

Losing Evan's physical presence here is foundationally different. We anticipate losing a parent as that seems to be the natural order. It is still difficult when it happens, however it happens. But we realize that it is going to happen at some point. Losing a child is losing a part of your future. That hole does not get filled in. I think for me it has been

more of a process of learning to live with that missing piece of myself. For me it is comforting to think that maybe the missing piece is only missing from this physical 3D reality. In other words available to these five senses that we rely on for connection to this reality. About 6 months into this reality at the recommendation of a counselor and my wife, I started keeping a journal. Or more accurately, I started writing to Evan on a regular basis. And that continues. I write to him about what I think and feel and dream and tell him about what is happening in our lives. There is something about writing that forces you to put nebulous feelings or thoughts into some coherent form so they can be expressed in words and written down. I have come to think the act of a pen on paper is a connection between the mind and the physical world. I am not surprised that sometimes while writing I feel I hear Evan commenting on what I am thinking and offering solutions or just cracking a joke. I think of the journaling process now as time spent together whether I hear from him or not. I know he is getting my message.

As you know there is a connection between parents and their children. A connection that is greater than the sum of physical, financial, emotional, and mental bonds that start before birth and grow with time. Having that connection severed forever, as in our case with no warning, is devastating.

From the moment we learned of the tragedy, that longing to reestablish that connection has existed. To know that "everything is alright" and "he is OK" and "he is happy", and all the other things that parents are always wondering about their children. There has been counseling and voracious reading of everything having to do with losing loved ones, the disease of suicide, the science of life and death, and life and afterlife from the more cosmological side. Some were more healing than others but nothing erased that longing for information about and connection with our son. In the MISS Foundation and a few other organizations we have found compassion and the healing that comes from realizing you are truly not alone and too many others are on similar paths. And it has helped to bring some focus to our situation and possibilities moving forward. For myself the occasional dream and other forms of close connection have been the most helpful. And I think in our family those sentiments would be generally true. I feel we each gravitate toward those actions that are most comforting. The knowledge that Evan continues and that he persists in his intent to reach out to us as we reach toward him is important to me. That knowledge has been one of the most healing components of my continued existence and my spiritual evolution.

Concepts like “closure”, “moving on”, or “getting over it” don’t fit this experience and reveal a lack of understanding about the truth of this kind of grief. From someone who used to be in that mindset, ignorance is a sort of bliss. I think the term healing process seems more accurate to me. A process that is part of the rest of our lives here. Recent months have been a watershed in my own healing process. Our immediate family was obliterated by the loss but we have managed to weather the destruction and reclaim the fundamentals that held us together previously. I believe that my wife and daughter have similar feelings. For me, reaching a bottom has also had the effect of creating a stability of sorts. And that is reassuring for some strange reason. Through our joint efforts and actions we have realized something. The understanding that Evan is aware and that life after death is not a destination, it is the continuance of a journey. It is just in a different form/ dimension/whatever you want to call it. Our connection with Evan endures and there is no shortage of examples. And that makes me feel like something matters again. Better than I have felt in a long time. What we do here matters. Not only for our individual journey but also for the journey of those who are connected to us somehow whether in our families or like all the others Evan has touched in his physical life or since then. Whether we are aware of it or not. But our journey is our own. Take care and be open.

UPCOMING EVENTS

International Kindness Project Day is July 27th – Please Join Us

What if there was an opportunity to administer a simple dose of genuine goodness into the life of any given person, on any given day? And, what if this opportunity also offered a glimpse into the true meaning of life, love and loss, while honoring the lives of loved ones who died?

On July 27th, 2015, The MISS Foundation’s International Kindness Project Day will provide just this opportunity.

The Kindness Project was established in 1996 as a way for families to honor and remember their children who have died, sharing their stories with others who never had a chance to know them. Since its creation, nearly 2 million Kindness Project cards have been used internationally, to remember children, grandchildren, siblings, and spouses.

So, how does it work? It is simple! Visit www.kindness-projectday.org to print FREE Kindness Project cards in both English and Spanish that read, “This Random Act of Kindness Done in Loving Memory of _____”. Your child or loved one’s life, will be shared with the recipient as they hold a free balloon, sip a purchased cup of coffee, or a child discovers a toy at his front door. The ideas are endless!

In addition to the impact left on the recipient, The Kindness Project also opens the door to healing for those doing the kindness. Dr. Cacciatore, “The grief for our loved ones will always be there, and the Kindness Project is a tangible way to bring their love into the world too. This project changes lives of the both the giver and the receiver.”

The KindnessProjectDay.org site hosts an entire page of Kindness Project ideas if you need a little spark of inspiration, and the MISS Foundation wants to hear all your Kindness Project stories during this year’s events. Stories are shared forward in our newsletters and on our Facebook pages to keep inspiring others to participate in the Kindness Project all year.

For more information, please contact info@missfoundation.org. Visit our website at www.KindnessProjectDay.org and our IKPD Facebook page for our current projects at <https://www.facebook.com/MISSFoundationKindnessProject?fref=ts>. Those who use twitter can use #kindnessproject, when posting your kindnesses.



MISS Foundation Kindness Walks & 5K Run Coming This Fall

The MISS Foundation's Kindness Walk: Remembering Those We Love is an international memorial walk to remember all of the beloved children who are gone too soon, and to honor all of the mothers, fathers, families and communities by participating in Kindness Projects as we continue their child's legacy.

Thanks to our wonderful MISS families and volunteers in Richmond VA, NW Illinois, and our Iowa chapters for organizing amazing Kindness Walks this spring and summer. We look forward to more events being planned for this Fall for MISS Foundation families in Phoenix, Tucson and in LA in May 2016.

We appreciate all of our amazing MISS volunteers in our communities for organizing these meaningful events.



Phoenix Kindness 5K Run & Memorial Walk 2015



Saturday, October 3, 2015

Hosted By: Midwestern University 19555 N 59th Ave
Glendale AZ 85308

Event Schedule

6:30 a.m. – 7:15 a.m. – Sign In/ Walk Up Registration
7:15 a.m. – Walk Announcements/ Presentation of Kindness Awards and Recognition at Starting Line
7:30 a.m. – RUN Start!!!
7:45 a.m. – WALK start!!!
9:00 a.m. – Awards Ceremony at the Finish Line
7:00 – 10:30 – Family Fun Activities

7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. – Demonstrations from local groups every 15 minutes!
6:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. – Family information booths and other great resources throughout campus common areas!

Prices and Registration Information coming soon

Event Kindness Projects: New/ Slightly “loved” shoes for donation to local homeless shelters

New school supplies for kids in need - Let's refresh their back to school supplies in style!

Bring your [cleaned] wedding gown for donation and transformation into “angel” Gowns and wraps!
Unveiling of the 3rd panel of the Memorial Wall will occur during the walk - Please submit your child's picture for inclusion! For information, contact Michele Newton - michele.newton@missfoundation.org

We are looking for supporters on many levels- donations, sponsorship of the walk bags, t-shirts, bouncy houses, etc. Contact Michele Newton (michele.newton@missfoundation.org) or Melissa Flint (melissa.flint@missfoundation.org) for more details or sponsorship opportunities!

Tucson's Annual Kindness Walk October 17th

<http://tucson.missfoundation.org>

To register: <http://www.firstgiving.com/missfoundation/tucson-kindness-walk-2015>

[Download the flyer](#)

Saturday, October 17, 2015

at Children's Memorial Park

4851 N. 15th Place, Tucson, AZ 85704

8:30 am -12:00 pm

Early Bird Registration: \$16 per Adult / \$6 per child - Discount Code: kindness

After September 17th: \$21 per Adult / \$8 per child - Discount Code: miss

Walk-up Registration on Oct 17th: \$26 per Adult / \$11 per child

FREE T-Shirts included with Registration

*** T-SHIRT Printing Discounts- DEADLINE October 1st ****

Adorn the back of them in honor of your child with photos/symbols, their name & dates.

The child with the most registered participants wearing their name, wins a PRIZE!!

CONTACT Mr. Tee's to pick up your T-Shirts

Mr. Tee's - 6918 N Camino Martin, Tucson, AZ 85741

(520) 572-1228

Near Bedroxx Bowling by Old Father & Ina Rd.

KINDNESS PROJECT:

In Memory of your child, bring New Toddler Diapers & gently used or new toddler clothing and/or children's books to donate to "Answers for Life Pregnancy Center."



Compassionate Bereavement Care Training for Providers



"This course has forever changed my life... I plan to live my life to the fullest and accept the pain of grief. What a true inspiration, thank you!" – CBC participant

<http://certification.missfoundation.org>

Changing How Bereaved Families Are Treated Worldwide. With so few providers who understand the depth and breadth of the death of a child, the MISS Foundation & Center for Loss & Trauma have partnered to present one of the most significant, timely, intensive training programs in traumatic grief to providers around the world. This training is for therapists, counselors, first responders, clergy, medical staff, hospice workers and bereavement specialists interested in specializing in a mindfulness-based, non-medicalized, green approach (Cacciatore, 2010) to working with families suffering a traumatic loss such as the death of a child, including but not limited to perinatal death, suicide, homicide, terminal illness. The 30-hour continuing education program has been approved to provide CEU's through Alliant International University (AIU).

Our next training programs are **September 24-27th, 2015 in New York and October 15-18, 2015 in beautiful Sedona, Arizona**. Applications are currently being accepted. Space is limited.

Apply online at: <http://certification.missfoundation.org/upcoming-events>

MISS Foundation Memorial Wall To Unveil Next Section on Oct. 3



The MISS Memorial Wall is currently two sections. It is a portable monument made from durable fabric. It is a loving tribute to children of all ages gone too soon. The MISS Foundation Memorial Wall honors all children who have died at any age from any cause. On the MISS Wall you can create your own personal space celebrating your child. You can use a picture of your child, a special symbol or a beautiful quote. Your personal space will be created with love and respect. It will include your child's name, birth and death dates exactly the way you request. The pictures are vibrant in color leaving viewers breathless and silent as they gaze in the faces of those children who are loved, missed and will always matter. The wall is very particular and will only be displayed for worthy causes and in the most respectful of ways. Each time the wall is put on display kindness cards representing each child will be included for visitors to randomly chose. Visitors will be asked to conduct a Random Act of Kindness in memory of their chosen child. These acts of kindness will insure that your child will continue to forever change the lives of those who come to know them. If you would like to honor your child the cost for each section on the wall is \$50. You may make your payment at www.missfoundation.org click on Donate Now. Specify memorial wall. Your next step is to email your picture, quote or symbol representing your child to memorialwall@missfoundation.org with specific spelling of names and dates. You will receive a confirmation and your child will be included in section three of the memorial wall that will be unveiled at the MISS Foundation Kindness Walk held on Oct 3, 2015 on the beautiful campus of Midwestern University in Glendale AZ. To learn more about the wall or to ask questions visit our facebook page www.facebook.com/missfoundationmemorialwall

MISS FOUNDATION NEWS

New MISS Chapter in Botswana

We would like to announce our newest MISS Chapter in Botswana. Welcome Dr. Sithandazile Msimanga, Dr. Hope, our leader there! We know how great the need is there and look forward to having you! Thank you for making it possible for families to receive support in your area.



ISEPP Conference - "Understanding Trauma, Responding Beyond the Medical Model"

The MISS Foundations founder Dr. Joanne Cacciatore will be a keynote speaker at this year's ISEPP (International Society of Ethical Psychology and Psychiatry) Conference in Boston, MA. If you are interested in attending here is a link to the event: <http://psychintegrity.org/2015-annual-isepp-conference-newton-ma-october-9-11-2015/> early registration is open until August 31st.



Birthdays & Death Days

Birthdays and Death Days are now online on the MISS website.

See the Birth Days

<http://www.missfoundation.org/newsevents/birthdaysthis-month>

See the Death Days

<http://www.missfoundation.org/newsevents/deathdaysthis-month>

Our Donors & Sponsors

We'd like to thank all of you who give so much to support the MISS Foundation

See our sponsors

<http://www.missfoundation.org/about/sponsors>

See our donors

<http://www.missfoundation.org/about/donors>



MISS Foundation Phoenix Office Relocating Services in the Fall

Our office lease in Phoenix will be up in the fall. The MISS Foundation will finally be able to relocate its support group services to a more healing environment. Most of our support groups in Phoenix will be moved to the beautiful Franciscan Renewal Center beginning in October. Because our administrative staff and volunteer coordinators are spread throughout the U.S, we no longer need a central office. It's costly, inconvenient, and doesn't serve our current needs. We feel MISS Foundation funds would be better spent directly on programs and services to support our growing number of families seeking services throughout the U.S. Our business and administrative services are currently handled in Austin TX and Northern AZ. Counseling services will be referred to our CBC providers in each community.

The Sad Dad's Support Group takes place in Phoenix on the 4th Thursday of each month at 77 E. Thomas Road, Suite 221, Phoenix 85012. This support group is for men only. The office is located at the SW Corner of 3rd Street/Thomas in the Bromar Plaza Building. Please park in the visitor parking lot, and take the elevator to the 1st floor. For more information, please contact Group Facilitators: Michael Sansone: michael.sansone@missfoundation.org and Theo Soumilas: [theo@soumilas.com](http://theo.soumilas.com)

Thanks to Our MISS Families Involved in our Spring/Summer Kindness Walks

This Year!

NW Illinois Chapter



The NW Illinois 3rd annual Kindness walk was held at Arlington Park in Arlington Heights, IL on Sunday May 31st which raised \$4,675. They had a great turnout despite the cold weather. They collected shoes for the 'Beautiful Soles' Kindness Project to be donated to Stand up for Kids in Chicago (<http://www.standupforkids.org/chicago/>). Thank you Illinois chapter for hosting a beautiful walk to remember all the children gone too soon.

Iowa City, Iowa Chapter



Their 5th annual walk took place on June 13th, 2015 in Iowa City, Iowa which raised \$2,129. They chose the park shelter closest to the Angel of Hope statue, which is dedicated to children who have gone before us. Roughly 65 people gathered for the event, despite the rain, and they brought donations to benefit the Crisis Center of Johnson County. The donations included baby care items to be donated to children in need within their community. It was a wonderful event to remember the children and connect with others in the community.

Clarinda, Iowa Chapter



A dozen people gathered for the 4th Annual Clarinda Kindness Walk. The walk began on the square of the Page County Courthouse and ended at the Clarinda Cemetery. The walk, designed to remember those babies who were born still or who passed away as infants, had a special Father's Day theme this year. Mandy Ford, one of this year's organizers and the founder of the Clarinda Kindness Walk, called the group "small but mighty". Ron Richardson sang a solo in memory of the children.

This year's outreach project benefited the Pregnancy Center of Southwest Iowa located in Red Oak. A spokesperson for the group, Tricia Goodemote says the center now offers ultrasounds for pregnant mothers and supports mothers on their journey of full term pregnancy and beyond.

Richmond, Virginia Chapter



The Richmond Virginia Chapter of the MISS Foundation held the annual MISS Kindness Walk on May 18, 2015. "It was a day of togetherness, remembering, mourning and celebrating the memories of our precious children as well as our community. With nearly 150 participants, we raised over \$3000 for the MISS Foundation.

The remembrance ceremony, led by Dr. Sarah Kye Price, was a moving ritual that encouraged and supported togetherness and community as well as individual remembrance of

Volunteer Information – Hope Mentor/Facilitator Facebook Page

If you are a HOPE mentor or facilitator and do not have access to the Facebook page to please contact Ashley at Ashley. ashley.santi@missfoundation.org and we will add you. Thank you!

Legislative News: Congratulations Missouri!

HB517 was signed by Missouri Governor Nixon on July 6th, 2015. It was “Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed” by the legislature in May. Following many years of hard work to get this legislation passed, starting this year any family who suffers the tragedy of a stillborn in Missouri will get a one-time tax deduction for the baby on their state income tax (which could help families as funeral and other costs mount following the death of their child). Thank you to everyone who worked so hard on this effort. Thank you Patrick Barclay for your efforts, in memory of Sarah Elizabeth and all of the children gone too soon.



our children. At the registration table, all walkers were given an elastic wristband and invited to choose a packet of ribbons to represent their beloved child, grandchild, sibling, cousin, niece, nephew or dear friend. During the ceremony, we contemplated our own loss, the connection to each other and the recognition of the community we share in friendship, family and through the MISS Foundation. We each tied a ribbon from our chosen packet to our own bracelets to represent our beloved and then we were invited to share with each other stories of those we each are missing and for whom we were walking that day. As we shared stories, we exchanged ribbons. On our bracelets we carried the colors and memories of our own beloveds and those with whom we shared our stories. On my bracelet, I carried memories and love for Theo, David, James, Bentley, Levi, Joel, Kathryn, Lacy, Mason, Trustan, Matt, Evan, and Sparkle.

During the walk, we also had a film crew present shooting scenes for the upcoming documentary Hidden Losses, a piece focused on perinatal loss, which will be made available as a sensitivity training tool for professionals and the medical community. The film is being made by Dr. Ron Herrsche whose daughter Mikela lost her baby Caleb Ryan. Ron is making the film to bring awareness to perinatal loss and grief and to honor the memory of his grandson.

Special thanks to our Kindness Walk Chairs, Amy Mercurio, mother to James and Rachel Bonastalli, mother to Evan. Thank you to our committee members, Sherrina Gibson, mother to Mason, Sarah Arthur, mother to Emma, Michelle Mercurio, aunt to James, and Sally and Glenn Pittman, grandparents to Evan.” – Karla Helbert

Beautiful Kindness Projects by Misty’s Mom!

Such a beautiful [#KindnessProject](#) to honor and remember Misty on her 38th birthday! Thank you for sharing all these beautiful Kindness Projects Terri.

“Today would have been my daughter Misty’s 38 birthday. Her daughter (my granddaughter) Brianna and her 4 month old daughter Misty Grace and I made it a day inspired by The MISS Foundation - Kindness Project ROAK to celebrate.

We started at our neighborhood bakery and purchased a decorated cake for a child’s birthday. Then on to Starbuck’s leaving a gift card for the next customer.

Brianna told me of an apartment complex building that had been struck by lightning last night amongst the horrible flooding storms Houston experienced, and had burned 16 families out of their homes - 6 of which had children. We headed to our local Target and picked up 6 gift cards and tote bags for those families and dropped them off with the apartment management to distribute.



Last stop was to take additional new clothing items (purchased also at Target) to a local organization called Cypress Assistance Ministries. At each stop Brianna explained we were offering these RAOK in memory of her mother and presented a card with Misty's name. What a beautiful day. Tears, hugs, giggles, family, community, and lots of love!!! In deep gratitude xoxox"

SEND us YOUR KINDNESS PROJECT stories and photos to SHARE:
info@missfoundation.org



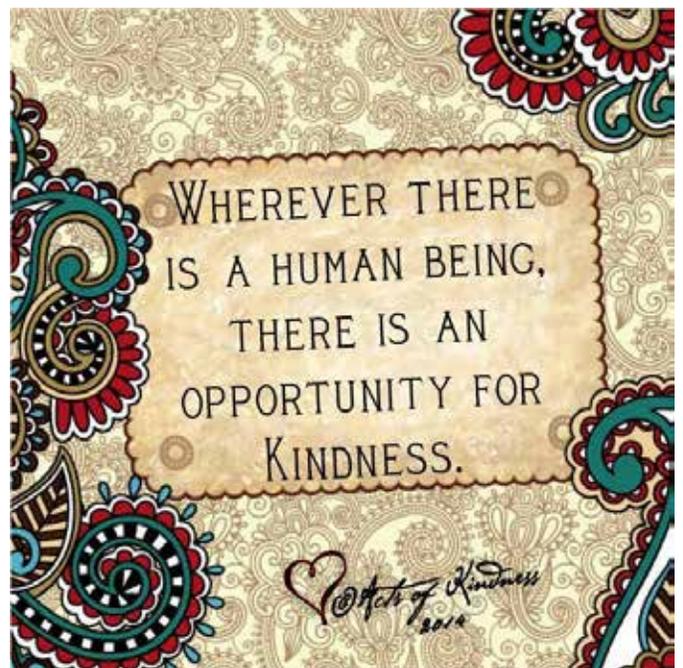
The History of the Kindness Project

The Kindness Project is a worldwide movement to share our children (or other loved ones) with those who never had the honor to meet them.

Dr. Joanne Cacciatore's daughter, Cheyenne, died in July of 1994. It was the worst day of her life. She says how she never imagined herself laughing or experiencing joy again. Dr. Jo began to seek out ways to keep Cheyenne's memory alive within her family and to the rest of the world: She wanted to create a quiet legacy. She wanted people to know that Cheyenne existed and, more importantly, she wanted to help change the lives of others because of her presence on this earth.

So Dr. Jo set out on various missions of random kindness. On a daily basis, she looked for opportunities to reach out and do something unexpected and unusually kind for someone else. Most often, strangers were the recipients of these good deeds. As she did them, she began to feel a sense of peace in knowing that Cheyenne was the reason for her compassionate enlightenment

The Kindness Project blossomed out of the extraordinary experiences Dr. Jo had while doing things for others. She discovered that truly miraculous things happen to our spirits when we reach out to help others, and so she sought a way to share that movement with others.



“Grief is Not Self Pity, Joel Osteen”

In early July, upset bereaved parents informed the MISS Foundation about a book written by Houston Pastor Joel Osteen in which he tells the story of parents who lost their son in a tragic accident. Osteen wrote that these parents were “attention seeking” and having “self-pity” because they were still grieving their son after 15 years. Our hearts went out to the family he was referring to. It opened up a discussion about the lack of support from some in the spiritual community and how judgments such as these affect bereaved parents. Dr. Joanne Cacciatore addressed this issue by writing an open letter to Osteen that went viral. Many parents were blocked from his Twitter account and their Facebook posts were deleted after asking him to apologize to the bereavement community. He refused to comment.

To read more about the discussion, please visit Dr. Cacciatore’s blog: <http://drjoanne.blogspot.com/2015/06/be-like-little-children-open-letter-to.html>

It is our hope that through the Kindness Project, we can make incredible transformations within our communities, in our families, and in ourselves. Just imagine if every person touched by death would participate in helping to transform the world into a gentler and more altruistic world! What an impact this would have on so many levels!

The Kindness Project reminds others that our children, and other loved ones, are so very important to us that we are willing to extend the life and love of our child and share it with others! It is a legacy that transcends death. It is a legacy of love.

Please see some of the most beautiful kindness projects performed in 2014:

<http://www.missfoundation.org/sites/default/files/Acts%20of%20Kindness%2020151015.pdf>

Volunteer Spotlight – Alane Breland!



Our featured volunteer is Alane Breland, J.D., one of our beautiful meme creators, board member, and all around helper extraordinaire!

Alane Breland has been a member of The MISS Foundation's Executive Board of Directors for two years. She became involved in MISS Foundation because, as a prosecutor of crimes against children, she witnesses the devastation caused by the death or abuse of a child and believes strongly in our mission not only to provide support for families but also to advocate for and give a voice to their experience.

Alane is the Assistant Chief Prosecutor for the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (SRPMIC) in Scottsdale, Arizona, where she has worked since 2007. She graduated from the University of Alabama in 2003 with a Bachelor of Arts in English, and received a Juris Doctor from the Univer

of Alabama School of Law in 2006. Alane is an Alabama football fanatic and is very much looking forward to the first game of the season on August 30!

Thank you Alane for all you do and have done for The MISS Foundation. You are appreciated!

Important Sleep Study - Please Participate

Please help us by participating in a study on grief and sleep in the bereaved and non-bereaved. Please ask a few of your non-bereaved friends to participate too. Follow the below link. The survey takes about 15 minutes on average and will help providers better care for bereaved around the world.

http://asupublicprograms.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6A860PesKOZmXBJ

NOTE: The survey will close July 31st

Contact Us

1-602-279-MISS (6477)
1-888-455-MISS (6477)

Physical Address
77 E Thomas Rd #221
Phoenix, AZ 85012

Donations/Billing Address
Kelli Montgomery
c/o MISS Foundation
1700 Alcove Ct.
Austin TX 78757

Snail mail donations should be made payable to "MISS Foundation."

Email Contact
info@missfoundation.org



The MISS Foundation would like to thank Newsletter design by Tanya Amos
Contributing writer/editor Ashley Santi

