

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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Run dates: March 15 – May 7, 2011

Mothers Day may seem to be all flowers, breakfast in bed, and greeting cards, but the history of this day is so much more. The true seeds of Mothers Day were planted by bereaved mothers who protested the deaths of their sons during the Civil War. This year the MISS Foundation honors the true history of the day.

Gathering at the Phoenix Zoo on Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, with registration starting at 6:45am and the event starting at 7:30am, MISS Foundation families will walk pushing Empty Strollers and carrying Empty Shoes in memory of all the children who have died too soon, in honor of all mothers, including those who are bereaved. While this event has a fund-raising goal of \$75,000, it also has a friend-raising goal to help bereaved families celebrate the day in meaningful community as well as raising awareness in the general community about the services of the MISS Foundation.

This visionary event is in keeping with the words of Julia Ward Howe and her 1870 proclamation that are the real foundation of Mothers Day: "... let women now leave all that may be left of home for a great and earnest day of counsel. Let them meet first, as women, to bewail and commemorate the dead..." As one MISS member, Kara Jones of Sedona told us, "Walking this event with knowledge of the real meaning of Mothers Day has made me feel strong enough to honor the day publicly for the first time since my sons died. When people encourage me to celebrate now, I tell them that I'll celebrate with them as long as they will first mourn with me. It is the combination of the two that lends itself to the true meaning of Mothers Day!"

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