



MISS Foundation

A COMMUNITY OF COMPASSION AND HOPE FOR GRIEVING FAMILIES

We Are Not Who We Used to Be

By Christine Phillips (mom of Aine)

We are no longer the same people we were before our daughter died. A huge emotional displacement has taken place and we are permanently altered. A tragedy has befallen us; a trauma has occurred. We are not able to return to our prior selves because those selves have died with our daughter.

Since my dearest little one left, time has crept by slowly and mercilessly. Each tick of the clock means that she has been gone that much longer and the sadness deepens. Each tick of the clock also means we have moved a step forward, awkwardly and with much resistance, but forward nonetheless. With this intrinsic forward motion comes a decision every bereaved parent must make; to either stagnate in our grief or adjust to our circumstances. With stagnation one would remain



idle and rust, with time still progressing; you would reach a point of death among the living. With adjustment comes work, emotionally exhausting work, but ultimately, survival among the living.

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submission guidelines

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

Upcoming Events

Phoenix Chapter:

The MISS Foundation's Phoenix Chapter is hosting its Third Annual Kindness Walk and Safety Fair on May 19, 2013, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Event will be located downtown at the Cesar Chavez Plaza between Washington and Jefferson Streets at Second Avenue.

Registration 8:00 a.m.
Walk Begins 9:00 a.m.
Fair - 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Proceeds support The MISS Foundation's programs. Community event with raffle, prizes, bouncy house, games, food, safety fair, kindness projects and more.
Contact: Michele Newton: 623-329-2970

To register in advance or contribute to MISS: <http://www.firstgiving.com/missfoundation/missfoundationkindnesswalkandsafetyfair>

Find us on facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/412604445502666/>



Join us for our raffle and auction of gift baskets on May 19th to raise funds for the MISS Foundation programs. Thanks to all of our donors. Special thanks to Aarons Rent to Own for donating a great TV to the raffle!

Thanks to our first group of Phoenix Event Sponsors:
Special Thanks to KONG for their continued support!
<http://www.kongcompany.com>

NW Illinois MISS Chapter:

Sunday, May 19, 2013 at 10:00 AM, Deer Grove East Forest Preserve, Palatine, Illinois

<http://www.firstgiving.com/missfoundation/miss-foundations-kindness-walk>

Proclamation by the Phoenix Mayor to honor bereaved families and their children:

If you are in the Chicago area, please join our MISS Foundation families for a Kindness Walk on Sunday, May 19th at 10 a.m. in Deer Grove East Forest Preserve, Palatine, Illinois.

MISS Foundation Honors Bereaved Parents Nationally:

LA Chapter: Pizza in the Park

Sunday, May 19 at 11:00 AM

Grape Arbor Park

5100 Parkville Rd Calabasas, CA 91301

In honor of the first annual Bereaved Parent's Day, we would love for you to join us at this special event. No fees/donations requested, just come and gather together as a MISS community for this family-friendly event. We'll provide the pizza, beverages, and paper goods. If you'd like, you may bring a fruit or dessert to share.

Last name begins with A-L = fruit

Last name begins with M-Z = dessert

Please contact Sari Edber with any questions: sari.edber@missfoundation.org

Past Events

Clarinda Iowa:

Saturday, May 11, 2013

Second Annual Kindness Walk - honoring the memory of all of our children gone too soon!

Thanks to event coordinator Mandy K. Ford and the Clarinda MISS Foundation Chapter.

mandykford.hp@gmail.com

<http://www.firstgiving.com/missfoundation/kindness-walk-2013-clarinda>



Families in Clarinda participated in their second annual Kindness Walk in their hometown on May 11th honoring all of the children gone too soon. Family members walked along 16th Street from the Courthouse to Clarinda Cemetery where a service of remembrance took place along with a butterfly release. The Clarinda families also participated in a Kindness Project distributing blankets to area hospitals.

Iowa City, Iowa:

Kindness Walk

Saturday, May 11, 2013

Thanks to walk coordinator Jennifer Correll and the Iowa City Chapter.



Iowa City, Iowa: Kindness Walk: MISS families braved the cold weather at Lower City Park in Iowa City on Saturday May 11th. Families participated in a Kindness Project and walk to raise awareness for MISS programs supporting bereaved families.

My husband and I choose adjustment; we have a living child who deserves her life with her parents present, to the best of their ability. Choosing to adjust to our new, devastating circumstances means that we have to also adjust to these new "selves" that we are; people around us and we ourselves have to come to terms with who we are now and not who we were then. This is a process that demands the slow ticking of the clock. It is a direction which demands patience with ourselves and each other and those around us. We are mourning our daughter immensely but at the same time mourning the loss of who we once were and the life we used to lead. Our living daughter is mourning the loss of her parents of before and our family and friends are wondering how to deal with these new people we've become.

To be blunt, we are not the people we used to be nor will we ever be again. No longer do we look at life the same. There is a shadow, a darkness that envelops all that we see. A lovely sunny panoramic view of New England Fall foliage is no longer. Instead it is a cloudy, bland view of 'so what'. The freshly fallen snow is no longer white, fluffy fun; it is a cold and tiresome chore. The sound of certain pop songs used to be energizing and silly and made us want to dance. Now they are loud, obnoxious reminders of what once were happy memories. I was accustomed to other people's idiosyncrasies; now I find myself annoyed and inconvenienced.

I am hopeful that there is a place of neutrality, where one can find a space inside one's mind and heart to tolerate our new selves and circumstances; a place where we can exist in our own melancholia and occasionally feel contentment. If we appear positive or maybe even upbeat, please don't confuse this with a thought that we're getting "over it". Just because we might appear ok in that moment, do not assume we are; we are not ok and we never will be. We are simply trying to adjust.



"Just a Moment" (in memory of Jacob) By Amy Paul



And when I stand at the edge of your burial mound,
I kneel and touch the earth with my hands.
Where are you my little one?
Now in my mind I think of those days,
the days that I was alone with you,
holding you,
sleeping next to you,
and yes breathing for you,
when I felt you were slipping from my grasp.
I remember some,
but I know there is more than this.
For the burden that I carry now is
too much for my soul,
too much for one being to carry.
My arms are tired,
my heart heavy with sadness,
my existence is pure grief at this moment
and I wonder how I will be able to make it through.
I wonder if my mind is strong enough to carry this pain,
not you son,
never you.
But the longing,
the wonder of what should have been,
as if my spirit has been shattered
and I'm looking for the pieces,
one by one,
day by day,
so very moment by moment.
I walk carefully,
recklessly,
some moments I walk with no care at all
stepping on my shattered being
fragments of what was supposed to be.
You see I failed.
I allowed the world to move on.
And here I am at the edge of this mound of dirt,
kneeling,
once again.
Grief that won't let me stand,
grief that brings tears to my eyes,
grief that takes my breath away when I try to feel the air,
when I try to feel alive.

MISSing Angels Bill Signed: Momentous Day for Grieving New Mexico Families

Submitted by Carol A. Clark

SANTA FE—New Mexico joins 33 other states in changing its treatment of stillbirths. Governor Susanna Martinez signed HB658 into law April 4, 2013.

The MISSing Angels Bill, as it has commonly been known in other states, establishes a Certificate of Still Birth to be issued by the Bureau of Vital Records to families upon request after a baby is stillborn.

Unlike other states, New Mexico's bill also changes the reporting requirement to follow the recommendation of the Centers for Disease Control.

Since 1980, New Mexico has been reporting fetal deaths at 500 grams. The new reporting requirement is set at 20 weeks, or 350 grams if gestational age is unknown. New Mexico was the last state in the nation to use the higher limit.

This change will affect research efforts into the causes of stillbirth, and New Mexico's statistics will no longer be eliminated from statistical data for being outliers.

There are approximately 30,000 stillbirths in the U.S. every year. In nearly half of all late-term stillbirths a cause is never found, even after autopsy.

The new law allows women who have suffered previous losses in the gap between 20 weeks and 500 grams to file a delayed report of fetal

death with the Department of Health when proper documentation is presented. Medically, stillbirth is defined as a fetal death after 20 weeks. The changes in this law will afford women who had previously undergone unacknowledged suffering opportunities to add their children to state records.

Certificates of Still Birth can be issued for losses previously filed with the Department of Health from 1980 to present. Where records have not included a name for the child, families will have the option of adding a name to the certificate.

Through the efforts of a small, dedicated group of activists—with support from The MISS Foundation—New Mexico will finally acknowledge the trauma and loss of stillbirth. Carin Dhaouadi of Albuquerque, Halo Golden of Los Alamos, and others have been working to get this bill signed into law since 2007.

Dhaouadi's daughter, Malak, was born still in 2006; Golden's son, Jesper, was born still in 2003. Over the years, they have received help and support from countless other families who have suffered similar losses.

"This is a momentous day for grieving families in New Mexico," Golden said.

"I have hope that through research and awareness fewer families will suffer the sadness of stillbirth," Dhaouadi said.

Integrating Emotional Trauma

Trauma recovery is an oxymoron.

Published on March 24, 2013 by Robert D. Stolorow, Ph.D. in *Feeling, Relating, Existing*

As I chronicled in my last blog post (<http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/feeling-relating-existing/201303/i-ll-be-you-when-the-deal-goes-down>), two central, interweaving themes have crystallized in the course of my ongoing efforts to grasp the essence of emotional trauma. One pertains to trauma's context-embeddedness—painful emotional experiences become enduringly traumatic in the absence of a welcoming relational home or context of human understanding within which they can be held and integrated. The second theme pertains to trauma's existential significance—emotional trauma plunges us into the devastating recognition that, in virtue of our finitude and the finitude of all those we love, the possibility of emotional trauma constantly impends and is ever present. I also suggested that in the context of an understanding, holding relational home, traumatized states can cease to be traumatic, or at least cease to be as severely and enduringly so.

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Now, however, I wish to add an existential qualifier to that last claim. Like its analogue, "secure attachment," "trauma recovery" is an oxymoron—human finitude with its traumatizing impact is not an illness from which one can or should recover. A felt requirement to recover from, or become immune to, the circling back to emotional trauma can be a source of intense shame and self-loathing when, as is inevitably the case, it cannot be achieved. As I spelled out in my book, *World, Affectivity, Trauma: Heidegger and Post-Cartesian Psychoanalysis* (Routledge, 2011; <http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415893442/>), "recovery" is a misnomer for the constitution of an expanded emotional world that coexists alongside the absence of the one that has been shattered by trauma. The expanded world and the absent shattered world may be more or less integrated or dissociated, depending on the degree to which the unbearable emotional pain evoked by the traumatic shattering has become integrated or remains dissociated defensively, which depends in turn on the extent to which such pain found a relational home in which it could be held. This is the essential fracturing at the heart of traumatic temporality and the dark foreboding that is its signature emotion.

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NIMH abandons DSM-5

As many of you know if you follow our work, the MISS Foundation has vehemently opposed the DSM5 because of its conflation of normal grief when a child dies with mental disorders, specifically Major Depressive Disorder (MDD). As such, our organization helped launch a boycott against the DSM5.

News hit recently that the federal research institution, at the NIH (the NIMH), agrees, stating that "The weakness is its lack of validity," and that it is going to "re-orient its investigations away from DSM categories." This is a big move with broad implications for clinicians and researchers around the U.S.

Indeed, reliability field testing for the MDD (clinical depression) diagnosis in the DSM5 showed grim results with very poor validity.

We are VERY proud of our organization's BRAVE and revolutionary stance to protect bereaved parents and families from over-ambitious diagnoses of mental illness and inappropriate medical treatment of bereavement.

Our organization is committed to civic love and compassion, social support, ritual, self-care, spirituality/existentialism, deep listening, human connectivity, and remembering our dead as a means through which we slowly learn to cope with life's most tragic circumstances.

Read more: <http://www.theverge.com/2013/5/3/4296626/nimh-abandons-controversial-bible-of-psychiatry>

Phoenix mayor's proclamation honors bereaved parents



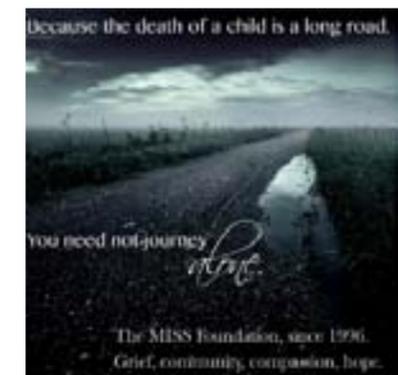
In a Phoenix City Council meeting on May 7th, Mayor Greg Stanton recognized the work of the MISS Foundation by proclaiming May 19 Bereaved Parent's Day in Phoenix, AZ. In his proclamation he stated:

"WHEREAS no family should have to endure the pain of a child's death alone: the MISS Foundation is committed to building supportive and mindful communities in memory of the children who lived, who died, and who continue – even in death – to matter, and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Greg Stanton, do hereby proclaim this day, May 19, 2013 MISS Foundation's Bereaved Parent Day in the City of Phoenix and I call this observance to the attention of all of our citizens."

Please see video posting:

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=10200394805286273>



MISS Kindness Walks



Thank you to our Iowa chapters for helping raise awareness and funds for the MISS Foundation on May 11th. Families in Iowa City and Clarinda attended MISS Kindness Walks in their hometowns in remembrance of their children. Special thanks to organizers Mandy Ford (Clarinda) and Jennifer Correll (Iowa City).



Memorial Necklace benefits MISS Foundation

From a beautiful and special mama, Lizzie, creator and artist of the most amazing memorial jewelry we've ever seen! This is a sample of her work done for Dr. Joanne Cacciatore in memory of her "four who walk and one who soars"

http://www.etsy.com/listing/151381573/the-miss-foundation-memorial-necklace?ref=shop_home_active

USE COUPON CODE MISSFOUNDATION to have 15% of your purchase come back to the MISS Foundation as a donation thanks to the generosity of the beautiful and compassionate Lizzie

Birthdays & Death Days

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

[Click here to see the Birthdays](#)

[Click here to see Death Days](#)

Our Donors & Sponsors

We'd like to thank all of you who give so much to support the MISS Foundation. All donor, memorial messages and sponsor listings are currently being updated on the website.

[Click here to see the Sponsors list.](#)

[Click here to see the Donors list.](#)



In Memory Of



Merina Yemaya Satori, beloved mother, sister, and friend, died on April 1, 2013 peacefully in her Sedona home of metastatic lung disease. She is survived by her three sons Robert and Laurie Van Tassel of Victoris, B.C and their three daughters Heather, Camille, and Allison; Michael Van Tassel of Ann Arbor, MI, and Jeff Van Tassel, Erica, and their son Trevor of Long Beach, CA. She was sadly preceded in death by her beloved daughter, Kathy Moore, who died September 4, 2009, and she is also survived by Kathy's children Louis and Kayla. Merina was born October 25, 1935 in Grosse Point, MI where she spent her childhood. She received her baccalaureate at the University of Michigan in 1957 and in 1973 went to Eastern Michigan University for her Master of Arts in Educational Psychology. She later returned to the University of Michigan where she received an advanced degree in the Combined Program of Education and Psychology. Merina spent her early career working in the Michigan schools as a psychologist. In 1981 she moved to California with her daughter, Kathy, and was the district's psychologist for several years. She moved to the central Oregon coast in 1990 after retiring where she lived and wrote poetry for 20 years. In 1998, she wrote a book, an autoethnography of healing during her first experience with cancer. In 2007, she moved to Sedona because of her love of the red rocks and the inherent beauty of northern Arizona. Merina had a fierce love of books, music, literature, film, the arts, and the natural world, particularly water and trees. Throughout her lifetime, she maintained an abiding love for animals, with especial gratitude for her beloved horse and the dogs of her youth.

Merina was, and will always be, a beautiful woman inside and out who is loved deeply and will be remembered by many. Memorial contributions can be made to the MISS Foundation, an international organization that aids grieving parents, in honor of her and her daughter Kathy Moore, 77 E Thomas Rd, Ste 112, Phoenix, Az 85012. In addition, you can plant a tree in the national forest through the Arbor Day Foundation.

Jimmie Johnson Foundation Recognizes MISS with \$10K

The MISS Foundation was recently nominated for an award from the Jimmie Johnson Foundation, and chosen as a winner to receive a \$10,000 grant, and an ice cream party sponsored by Blue Bunny. In addition, the MISS Foundation LOGO will be worn on by the BRAVE and HEROIC NASCAR driver in an upcoming NASCAR race to raise aware-

ness and support for our mission to help grieving families.

Thank you to Jill and Brian Bobier (parents of precious daughter Brianna) for nominating us.



Special thanks to

Jill and Brian Bobier, parents of precious daughter Brianna, and to Jimmie Johnson and his staff for this really important recognition of the very good and very important (all-too-often overlooked) work of the MISS Foundation.

Should you wish to make a donation in honor of a special mother/child, please do so here:

<https://co.clickandpledge.com/sp/d1/default.aspx?wid=47103>

or if you'd like to nominate us for an award and need more information, contact our volunteer ED Kelli Montgomery: kelli.montgomery@missfoundation.org

Official Press Release: MISS Foundation Selected for the Jimmie Johnson Foundation Blue Bunny Helmet of Hope

New MISS Support Group in Kansas

What: General Support Group for parents who lost a child at any age and any cause.

When: 1st Tuesday of every month (starts June 4, 2013)

Where:

University Christian Church
2800 Claflin Road
Manhattan, KS 66502

Contact person:

Jill Bobier
(405) 990-5388

Contact Us

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

Physical Address

77 E Thomas Rd #112
Phoenix, AZ 85012

Donations/Billing Address

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

Please note

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

Email Contact

info@missfoundation.org



MISS
FOUNDATION



Newsletter edited by Shauna Bryan Yoder in memory of Weston
Newletter design by Tanya Amos

