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## E-Haven Email (from griefHaven)

Where Hope Resides

### E-HAVEN EMAIL July 2006

#### ***PORTRAITS OF GRIEF; BADGES OF COURAGE***



Dear Friends,

I have been spending many hours working side-by-side with Mike Andrews, a talented and gifted producer/editor, who is currently working on our very much-anticipated video project. Let me briefly remind you about this key project .

In August 2002, shortly after Erika died, I had an experience that led me to working with parents, specialists, clergy, and an amazing film crew to bring to life a video, *Portraits of Grief; Badges of Courage*. In this special period, over several months of taping at various locations, these individuals joined together, donating their time to create the raw footage for *Portraits of Grief; Badges of Courage*. Parents shared about the death of their child, about the impact it had on their lives, and

about just how they managed to create new lives of laughter, meaning, and joy once again.

In the video, we travel through the process of grief with each person. Each person candidly and openly discusses what did and did not work—how they dealt with issues such as marriage, friends, jobs, spiritual beliefs, and surviving children. We walk that path with them, in journeys as long as twenty years. Then we—parents, grandparents, siblings, specialists, and friends—realize the hope to be found in these stories shared and journeys traveled. This is a project of great hope—an incredible and beautiful heartfelt project by many, especially the parents willing to re-live their difficult stories to help others.

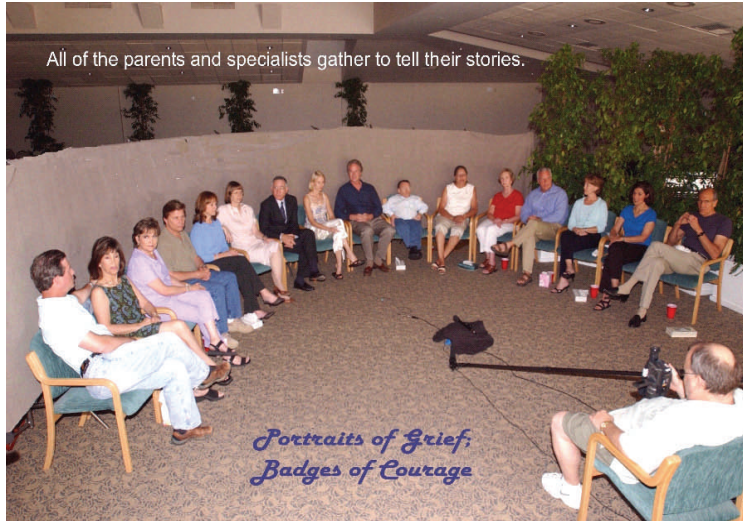
It took over ten months to tape the footage needed to begin the editing process. About the time we were to start editing, we had a major setback when a volunteer refused to return the library of footage to the foundation. After a one-year



lawsuit, the footage was finally returned. That is when we began fund-raising in earnest for *Portraits of Grief; Badges of Courage*.

It is important to say that, to date, the foundation has never charged a grieving parent for anything we offer, and we would like to continue along that path. We have been diligent in our efforts to consistently raise funds so that no parent need pay for help or hope in the midst of their grief and pain.

For *Portraits of Grief; Badges of Courage*, we have raised \$6,700 of the total funds needed to pay



Mike Andrews, who is donating much extra time himself. Mike has been an editor for over 20 years, and his credits include the History Channel, A&E, Discovery, NBC, and PBS, and we are grateful he is doing this project for \$10,000. In a few weeks, the final \$3,400 will be due for the completed project. Then, an additional \$1,600 is needed to duplicate the tapes and mail them to parents and families.

I am writing to you today to ask you to please help us raise the final \$5,000 needed to complete this essential project. Please realize that any amount is wonderful, since \$25 here and \$50 there does add up quickly. Many people can only afford smaller donations, and, unfortunately, they often don't donate at all, thinking it won't make a difference. It does!

Some of you have already donated, and we do thank you for that. Some of you have donated and would like to donate an additional amount. Some of you might want to pool your resources. Some of you might be able to use your talents to do your own fund-raising. Or some of you may have other creative ideas on how you might help. For instance, one parent of-

ferred an item of her son's sports memorabilia for us to sell. If you are interested in making a larger donation for all or a major part of the final funds needed, please contact me at 310-459-1789, or write to me at [swhitmore@griefhaven.org](mailto:swhitmore@griefhaven.org).

Whatever your involvement, please know that it will help us reach across the globe and into the hearts and homes of all of those who, in their grief, need the hope that helps them rebuild their lives.

Thank you for lending your support as we fulfill this dream. We are almost there, and with your help, that dream will be a reality.

With Love,

*Erika's Mom, Susan*

*Please donate in one of two ways:*

**BY CHECK:**

The Erika Whitmore Godwin Foundation  
15332 Antioch Street  
Suite 147  
Pacific Palisades, CA 90272-3628

**BY CREDIT CARD:**

Through PayPal directly on our web site at  
[www.griefHaven.org](http://www.griefHaven.org).

**PLEASE FORWARD THIS EMAIL TO ANYONE YOU FEEL MIGHT WANT TO DONATE ANY AMOUNT TO THIS WONDERFUL PROJECT.**



**A timeless experience of hope—  
that is what  
*Portraits of Grief; Badges of Courage*  
delivers.**

