

Gloria,

These are really wonderful. Did you have someone transcribe the entire interview? And where would I find these quotes? On your website?

I will stay in touch with you about arriving in April for the events I'm doing. We'll see if we can get together with the Klaas' while I'm there.

I'm so happy to hear that everything is really going well for all that you are doing to help so many. Please let people know about our beautiful DVD whenever you can.

Love.

The Erika Whitmore Godwin Foundation  
and griefHaven

"Where Hope Resides"

15332 Antioch Street, #147  
Pacific Palisades, CA 90272-3628  
310-459-1789 \* [www.griefHaven.org](http://www.griefHaven.org)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** gchorsley@aol.com [mailto:gchorsley@aol.com]

**Sent:** Friday, February 16, 2007 10:07 AM

**To:** swhitmore@griefhaven.org

**Subject:** Fwd: Susan Whitmore - September 21, 2006 Quotes

Hi Susan,

I thought you might like to read some of the quotes we picked out from the show. It was a wonderful show and I hope all is well with you. I had foot surgery on Monday and will not be able to walk too far for a couple of weeks. I look forward to seeing you in S.F.

Gloria

Gloria C. Horsley Ph.D

National Board Member of The Compassionate Friends

[www.thegriefblog.com](http://www.thegriefblog.com)

Host of Healing The Grieving Heart

188 Minna Street, 38D

San Francisco, Ca 94105

415-994-8263

-----Original Message-----

From: Karen.Lau@ucop.edu

To: gchorsley@aol.com; dennisbriskin@mac.com; chris@theblogmill.com

Sent: Thu, 15 Feb 2007 9:22 PM

Subject: Susan Whitmore - September 21, 2006 Quotes

SEPTEMBER 21, 2006 - FINDING MEANING AFTER LOSING ERIKA: SUSAN WHITMORE, a successful business woman, wife and mother, who was helping her only child, Erika, plan her wedding when she received shocking news: Erika's headaches were, in fact, a rare sinus cancer. Erika would need immediate, life-saving treatment. One year later, on May 30, 2002, despite unwavering efforts, Erika died surrounded and held by her loving family. She was 32. In honor of Erika, her mother, Susan, founded "The Erika Whitmore Godwin Foundation," a nonprofit corporation dedicated to the support of parents grieving the loss of a child, and "griefHaven.org," a website that honors children and provides resources to parents, siblings, grandparents, medical professionals and others impacted by the death of a child.

Susan Whitmore: No matter how hard I tried, I never gave up hope. I couldn't give up hope. You know what, it's biologically impossible, I think. There were times. I mean, even at the very, very end of her life when I knew she was lying down the hall and she was at the last few days of her life, I still didn't believe that she was - on some level, I didn't believe that she was going to die and I was actually holding her when she took her last breath and I just kept going back in there and looking at her because there was some part of me that just couldn't let it in.

Susan Whitmore: I've discovered that there are huge differences in the memories that we hold once our children do die so what I go through in memories versus someone whose child died in a car accident and they kissed them good bye and then never saw them again versus watching Erika suffer and cry and be scared and holding her is that the memories that you live with are different but the pain is the same.

Susan Whitmore: I didn't think it was beautiful, but now I do. But you don't know what it's like to grieve the death of a child until the moment that child is gone. In fact, I tell people that the worst moment of my life was not the

moment she took her last breath. The worst moment of my life was that first morning when I woke up and opened my eyes and realized she was gone from this world.

Susan Whitmore: People need to understand that no matter how your child goes, the end result is the same.

Susan Whitmore: I started this non-profit foundation actually in response to my own suffering that I was going through, my own grief and pain. When I started looking around for the various types of support that I could grab on to, I found that there really wasn't that much to choose from. So when I finally gained the strength, I decided that I would do that because I remember when I was initially feeling the grief, I thought how could anybody feel this much pain and survive it? It's beyond anything that you can ever describe. You absolutely cannot understand this until you've gone through it.

Susan Whitmore: It's all about hope. This is really the main message that is the goal of my life, that is, you're not alone. This is a long and windy path. Don't let someone else tell you how to grieve. You have to find your own way. Everyone grieves differently. It won't always be the way it is now.