

The SIMON Project  
"Sudden Infant Mourning Outreach Network"  
of Vermont & Northern New England

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Good Day to All of You....!

I have been waiting to do this up-date, hopeful that The SIMON Project web site would have been up & "live" by this time. But, there have been complications with up-loading the page content and we are standing by. Here is the most recent and new information regarding our progress this mid-to-late winter.

\*The SIMON Project's 2nd meeting was held on Feb. 22 (the 6 month anniversary of Simon's death) we didn't plan it that way. Thanks to Lamoille Home Health & Hospice for the use of their space under rather difficult circumstances! The Meeting was attended by Vicky Saco-Rich, Jo Romano, Kathy Roosa, Jeff Hunsberger, Alden Launer, and Valerie Valcoure. We reviewed the notes and the agenda and discussed much of the following information.....

\*The SIMON Project Web site is coming soon! I'll make sure you all receive an e-mail when it is up and ready for review and feedback. It is important that we get your feedback on the web site ASAP and suggestions for additions etc. We want the site to be helpful and informative - specific content areas will need to be developed - but all in due time.

\*The next SIMON Project meeting will be held on April 11 - We hope at the Lamoille Home Health & Hospice Offices again on Farr Ave. in Morrisville. 6 PM - I still have to confirm the location - please call me if you don't hear from me between now and then.

\*I (Jeff) finished writing the CJ Foundation Grant and sent it in by the due date of March 7th. I wrote the grant for a \$25,000.00 request. The max. is \$30,000.00. I have no high expectations related to receiving much if any funding but I remain optimistic. You see, I have never written a grant before so this is a real first for me! If we get the full funding, then we will really be in business - if not, we will still move ahead but as a slower pace I imagine. Thanks to Terry Paine & Kathy Roosa for reviewing and proofing / editing. We should hear in June either way if we get the funding or not. Think positively! I want to thank Dave Connor & Ann Martin - Co-Directors of the Lamoille Family Center - for sponsoring The SIMON Project under their 501(c)(3). This means that The SIMON Project is now a project under the Family Center and is - for this period of time - reporting to the Lamoille Family Centers Board of Directors. We shall do this until we decide to file for our own non-profit or for profit status.

\*We are getting requests for information - mainly due to the word-of-mouth marketing you are all doing. Keep it up and spread the word.

\*I have secured a commitment from First Candle / SIDS Alliance to provide The SIMON Project Peer-to-Peer outreach volunteers with their newest training. We are waiting to hear about possible dates in the spring for two Reps. to come to Vermont to do the training for us. I don't think this will cost The SIMON Project much if any money, but we will need to find host families / provide meals / transportation etc. for our trainers while they are here in Vermont. I have no doubt that we can pull all of that together among several of us for two people. I have made a commitment to Good Beginnings of Central Vermont & to Parent to Parent - Vermont to include any of their staff or volunteers at this training.

\*Additionally, I have asked for training materials from First Candle / SIDS Alliance regarding training for EMT's & First Responders as well as training materials related to prepping Public Health Nurses related to bereavement issues and supporting families who experience infant death, miscarriage, stillbirth etc. Both should arrive any day now - either by e-mail (power point) or by snail mail on CD. Some of this material is really new and is only in a "Pilot" format - with that in mind we can test it out and give them feedback.

\*Several of us continue to read and review materials that we might want to purchase as resource materials / supports. If you have any suggestions for the use of a publication specifically or other information you have found helpful in dealing with your own or others losses - please let Jeff or Kathy Roosa know what they are. We will want to purchase materials ASAP for distribution related to all type of infant loss experiences.

\*\*"The SIDS & Infant Loss Survival Guide" have been distributed to the following people or organizations so far in Vermont:

10 Copies to the Good Beginnings Program in Northfield.

1 Copy to Central Vermont Medical Center (CVMC - Berlin)

1 Copy to Gifford Hospital (Randolph)

1 Copy each to the following Vermont Dept. of Health District Offices: (Brattleboro, St. Albans, Newport, St. Jay, Burlington, Middlebury, Morrisville, Barre, WRJ, Springfield, Bennington) (Still have a copy for Rutland)

1 Copy for a Couple in January (who lost a child mid-month)

\*I would like to distribute a copy to all Vermont Hospitals, Home Health & Hospice Agencies, and need your help to get these out. I want to have The SIMON Project info. to go with them as well - as an introduction to the projects goals etc. I was waiting for the web site to be available to put together a real push to get these out. I would also like to have the RP's (Recruitment Packets) prepared to be given or sent out to people who have experience such deaths for the development of the Peer to Peer outreach pgm. The RP's are not yet developed - again, I'm waiting for the web site development so we can maintain some of the same graphics and info. etc. - consistency is really important to me for the credibility of the project!

The above mentioned books were donated to The SIMON Project from Jeff & Michelle. If you need a copy for a family who has experienced a recent SIDS or SUDI death, please call Jeff at 635-7696 for a copy.

\*\*\* Jeff & Michelle will be out of town March 16th - March 24th. Jeff can be reached by cell phone if necessary at - 802-673-7236 - Kathy Roosa will be the primary contact while we are out of town. The Roosa's can be reached at 802-633-4970.

Our best to all of you. We are very well aware of how many of you would like to attend the meetings but for very good reasons cannot - mainly because they are currently being held in the Morrisville area. You need not attend meeting to continue being a part of this work. We need you to stay in touch, however. Your ideas, resources, knowledge of who to contact for various things, down the roads we will be doing some fund raising, but mostly we need you to talk The SIMON Project up everywhere! Remember, everyone involved in the work has a full time job, or family, or other responsibilities. We can do this work at a minimal cost and for little time commitments as people have the time and resources available. The Peer to Peer outreach is how we really make a difference to others - please let Kathy Roosa know if you want to be a part of that team now and we will plan on having you get the training needed to not only feel comfortable outreaching others but the additional support you might need as well.

Thanks to you all....in love & light, Jeff

*Smile & Be Kind, In Our Children's Honor.....*