



TRANSFORMING LOSS

A DOCUMENTARY BY JUDITH R. BURDICK

Contact: Peggy Burkhard, (248) 770-5172 cell, peggyburkhard@sbcglobal.net or Judith Burdick, (248) 420-3870, cell, Judith@psychjrb.com

“Transforming Loss” screening helps Ann Arbor based non-profits raise funds on Thursday, May 30 at 7 p.m. at the Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor

A portion of the ticket sales will benefit **the kite network** of Ann Arbor and the Heinz C. Prechter Bipolar Research Fund at the University of Michigan Depression Center

Bloomfield Hills, MI—May 2, 2013— “Transforming Loss” is not only changing lives, it’s helping deserving non-profits raise much needed funds to fuel *their* incredible missions through scheduled special event screenings. “Transforming Loss” will show at 7:00 p.m. on May 30, 2013, at the Michigan Theater, located at 603 East Liberty St., Ann Arbor. **Tickets are available at www.ticketweb.com.** VIP tickets are \$50. The VIP tickets provide an opportunity to make a \$40 tax-free donation to the non-profits with premium reserved seating and a pre-screening reception with refreshments from 5:45 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. (in addition to the Talk Back and dessert reception.) General seating tickets are \$10 and include the brief Talk Back program featuring the film’s participants and a dessert reception. **1.5 CE clock hours available for social workers and psychologists at no extra charge.**

“I’m thrilled to partner with **the kite network** and the U of M Heinz C. Prechter Bipolar Research Fund,” said Judith Burdick, the film’s writer, producer and director of Bloomfield Hills. “It’s been extremely gratifying to see the response and interest from worthy groups focused on helping others heal and transform from grief, depression and profound loss. I’m humbled to see the trickle down effect my film has on others and I’m fueled to make a difference not only in Michigan but nationally in the near future.”

*“If you breathe, eventually you will grieve. This film transforms the viewer as much as it transforms the incredibly familiar, heartbreakingly honest subjects of the film. ‘Transforming Loss’ will empower you with **hope**,”* said Julie Stotlar, founder of **the kite network**. Julie and Doug Stotlar sadly lost their six-year-old daughter, Lauren, in March 2000, in an accident. They honor her memory through **the kite network**, a peer grief support organization. Trained volunteer peer counselors from the community, who have traveled on their own personal grief journeys, provide one-on-one support to others in need, free of charge. **The kite network** honors all types of losses, even those not often recognized in our society.

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This acclaimed film shares the stories of seven survivors of profound loss. Viewers will meet Molly Green of South Lyon, a 41 year-old mother of four who lost her husband, Michael in August 2010, to suicide. Ricki, Friedman, of Birmingham will tell the wrenching tale of losing her mother at 13 years old. Gary Weinstein, of Farmington Hills, who lost his wife and two sons in 2005 when a drunk driver struck them, will share his story. As well, viewers will meet Virginia Beckley of Bloomfield, who lost her five-year-old son Myles in a horseback riding accident. Elizabeth Guz of Franklin, whose 17 year-old son, Michael struggled with bipolar disorder and died in 2009, will be featured. Rachel and Michael Kain, of Livonia will inspire with their story of losing their four month-old baby boy Collin to multiple heart defects.

This special event will open with a special presentation by **the kite network** followed by the screening of "Transforming Loss." Immediately following will be a Talk Back led by Christy Miller, L.M.S.W., A.C.S.W., **the kite network's** program director. Miller has been providing individual and family psychotherapy for the last 20 years and is dedicated to helping others find hope after loss.

Tickets are available at the door, if the event is not sold out. The University of Michigan Depression Center is an approved provider with the Michigan Social Work Continuing Education Collaborative. Approved Provider Number: MICEC-0063. This program is approved for 1.5 Clock Hours. The University of Michigan Depression Center is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. The University of Michigan Depression Center maintains responsibility for this program and its content. This event is designated for 1.5 continuing education credits

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Editor's Note: Interviews with Judith and those featured in the documentary are available upon request. Media: request screening tickets by calling or emailing Peggy Burkhard at (248) 770-5172. Visit www.transforminglossdocumentary.com to see the trailer. Visit us on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/TransformingLoss>. Event tickets are available at www.ticketweb.com