

## Hurricane Relief

The American Red Cross is responding to the needs of victims of Hurricane Katrina in their largest disaster response to date. In October 2005, the American Red Cross estimated they will spend more than \$2 billion in relief efforts. Unfortunately, the adverse effects of this disaster are far from over.

The devastation of Katrina brought to the forefront the disparity of wealth and resources in this country. Food insecurity, lack of affordable housing, lack of health care and other economic hardships face millions of Americans every day.

Poverty is not a new social problem and children have consistently been hardest hit. The US Census began tracking poverty rates in the 1960's. Although a controversial measure, the poverty rate is important because it identifies the problem of poverty and tracks poverty trends. The poverty rate has increased in the United States for four consecutive years to reach 12.7% in 2004. That means 37 million Americans live below the poverty line (\$14,680 for a family of three) in one of the wealthiest nations in the world.

The number of individuals under the age of 18 in poverty remained relatively unchanged from 2003 to 2004. However, the number of children facing poverty is still high at 13 million (17.8% poverty rate) while the poverty rate remains higher than that

for 18 to 64 year olds and those over 64 years of age.

Limited resources and access to support are of significance when understanding poverty. Adequate health care and access to health care is a growing problem. Ill health can create and perpetuate poverty. According to the CDC, factors associated with poverty, including access to health care, directly or indirectly increase the risk of HIV infection. Poverty affects education, health and overall well-being.

While disaster relief efforts such as those mobilized after hurricane Katrina are important in returning communities to their status quo, they do not alleviate the root problem of poverty in the United States. Efforts to decrease the disparity of wealth and resources are essential to alleviating poverty and are fundamental to the mission of MSMF.

### Board of Directors

Brian Atkinson	Mary Carole Jorgensen
Marcie Bailey	Julie Sutphin Nelms
Debbie Derwart	Kate Stillman
Carol Hearn	Meara Strain
Philip Hearn	Albert (Cal) Sutphin II
Sally Sutphin Hebner	Caroline Sutphin
Alison Sutphin Hills	Michael Sutphin

Establishing a Board of Directors was a great accomplishment in 2005. Four board sub-committees have been organized to handle fund distribution, fundraising, communications and finance. Interest in attending a meeting, joining a sub-committee or the board should be directed towards Michael Sutphin (Michael@miasutphinmf.org), 9095 Furrow Avenue, Ellicott City, MD 21042. More information on MSMF is available at [www.miasutphinmf.org](http://www.miasutphinmf.org).



Friends of Mia at August 2005 Fundraiser

# The Mia Sutphin Memorial Foundation

## Fall 2005 Newsletter

The Mia Sutphin Memorial Foundation (MSMF), a nonprofit organization founded in May 2003, is dedicated to supporting programs that benefit children in need, and their families, throughout the world.

### Year in Review

MSMF has had another wonderful year as we continue to mature into a functioning charitable organization. We have now become an established legal entity, formalizing a board of directors in the fall of 2004 while receiving official IRS determination as a 501(c)(3) Not for Profit Public Charity in January of 2005. The fourteen-member Board of Directors provides guidance over operations, helping to further our mission and set the strategy for the future.

This year has been a tremendous fundraising year with more than \$53,000 contributed to date from three events, as well as memorial contributions. This has allowed for grants to four worthy organizations, surpassing our total distributions made and donations received for the third consecutive year. Consistent with the vision since the inception of MSMF, we continue to make annual grants from principal contributions as well as income, with the

long term goal of building an endowment. We are excited to report that we have more than \$150,000 to date, 15% towards our long term goal of reaching \$1,000,000.

We recognize that our past and future disbursements would not be possible without the generosity of so many people. We would like to sincerely thank all of those individuals that have assisted MSMF in carrying out our mission. We hope to see you this upcoming year.

### Distributions

One of the key roles of the board has been the responsibility for making annual grant decisions for distributing funds to existing charitable organizations that uphold the MSMF mission. The grants not only support organizations where Mia volunteered, but also other worthy not-for-profits within the mission locally and throughout the world. In May and August of 2005, the MSMF board directed four disbursements totaling \$7,000.

The first disbursement, made in May, was granted to St. Vincent's Chara House in Baltimore. Chara House is a community based transitional home for infants and toddlers from birth to four years of age. The children that reside in the house have medical and developmental challenges such as prenatal drug exposure and HIV/AIDS. The Chara House staff provides a nurturing and therapeutic home-like environment that serves to stabilize and enhance the lives of the children. To support these efforts, MSMF contributed \$2,000 to help purchase two key pieces of clinical equipment that will provide the children with some of the best care available.



Nyumbani Picture  
Taken by Mia

Additionally in May, MSMF granted \$2,000 to AIDS Interfaith Residential Services (AIRS), a Baltimore-based not-for-profit organization. Established in 1987, AIRS seeks to provide residential services and a continuum of quality care and support that enhance the lives of low-income individuals and families living with HIV/AIDS. A key position established by AIRS is their Educational Mentor, as there are more than thirty children living in the AIRS community. The Educational Mentor helps to guide these children through the myriad of issues stemming from HIV/AIDS. MSMF grant was made to help subsidize the costs associated with funding this position.

MSMF concluded its May disbursements with a grant to Nyumbani, a Kenyan orphanage founded in response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Africa. The relationship with Nyumbani has been important to maintain due to Mia's strong ties of service to the orphanage during her life. MSMF made a grant of \$1,000 to Nyumbani this year to help cover the costs of the nurses' salaries, a group of individuals who are integral in providing the best available care for the children. Finally, in August of this year, MSMF made a grant of

\$2,000 to the America Red Cross to support the efforts in Louisiana and Mississippi following the devastation left by Hurricane Katrina. We are encouraged and eager to continue helping such worthy organizations, and hope to increase our level of aid in future years.

### Special Events

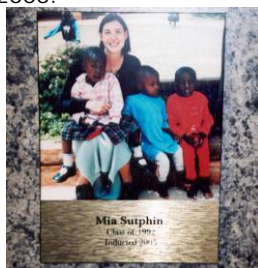
Three special events highlighted the fund-raising success for this year. On Wednesday, May 25th, the Notations band played to a crowded group of MSMF supporters at the Mangia Italian Grill and Sports Café in Howard County. Band proceeds as well as a portion of the dinner sales combined for a gift of more than \$1,200 to MSMF.

On Saturday, August 20th, the third annual Silent Auction and Barbecue was another special reunion of Mia's family and friends, raising more than \$36,000 from 356 donors. This year's event was held at Mia's elementary school, Trinity, where attendees enjoyed beautiful weather, good conversation, face painting and a moon bounce for children, as well as terrific auction items from so many generous donors. A highlight of the day was the \$121.44 raised by Mia's 4 year old niece, Lucy, through her Tiger bank, created for loose change contributions by attendees to the event.

Finally, on Saturday, October 15th, the third annual Yard and Bake sale was held at the house of Mia's aunt, Cindy Braunschweiger. Many families combined efforts for what proved to be an enjoyable day with great food provided by Aunt Cindy, raising more than \$1,400. Once again, unsold household items were contributed to the Appalachian Mission store. Please be sure to pass along information on future events to any family and friends interested in attending that may not be on the MSMF mailings; they can send their information to [Michael@miasutphinmf.org](mailto:Michael@miasutphinmf.org) to be included on future correspondence.

### NDP Remembers

Mia's high school alma mater, Notre Dame Preparatory (NDP), continues to keep her memory alive throughout the halls of the school. This year, along with awarding the annual Mia Sutphin service award, the school also included Mia as one of eight inaugural members of their new Foundress Society during a ceremony on May 7, 2005.



Foundress Society Plaque for Mia

In 2005 NDP created **The Foundress Society** to recognize individuals who exemplify the ideals of NDP's mission and the philosophy of the School Sisters of Notre Dame - namely changing the world through social service. In Mia's company are several headmistresses of Notre Dame who dedicated their lives to education, an alumna philanthropist who gave deserving girls a chance to attend NDP and an alumna film and radio producer who works on social justice issues. Perhaps most striking was how Mia stood out for being so young and accomplishing so much good in her short life. Visitors to campus may view the Foundress Society display in the main foyer.

On Thursday, May 19, 2005, NDP senior Mandy Basso was awarded this year's **Mia Sutphin Service Award** at the annual senior awards ceremony. Mandy was recognized for her experience working with Gallagher Services, a Catholic Charities operation that provides life care for individuals with developmental disabilities. Through Gallagher, Mandy began working with a young woman named Maggie who is developmentally disabled, ultimately changing her initial out-of-state college plans to stay closer to Maggie. Mandy started at Goucher College this fall to study Special Education. Ben Gruswitz,

Director of Social Service at NDP, had this to say, "Mandy truly follows her heart with the faith that everything will work out for the best." Sounds just like Mia!

### Memorial Contributions

MSMF was honored to be chosen as the benefiting organization for four special people that passed away in 2005. Mia's spirit continues to live on through those she influenced throughout her short life, evidenced by the many contributions to MSMF in the name of the four individuals. In total, \$12,105 was contributed from 168 donors in memory of these special people close to Mia and the Sutphin family.

Mia's grandfather, Samuel DiAngelo (Pop), passed away on August 27th at the age of 82. Pop was truly a generational bridge, connecting the family to the past after his parents came from Italy through Ellis Island, growing up in Baltimore through the Great Depression and serving in World War II. Another family member,

Mary Sutphin, sister to Mia's father Cal, passed away on July 20th of 2004 at the age of 80. Mary's generosity touched many lives in Cleveland and Put-in-Bay, Ohio as more than 73 contributions were made in Mary's memory.

Great friend to the Sutphin family, Bill Manley, passed away on August 15th at the age of 71. The Manley's friendship has endured the test of time, spanning many years from the Sutphin's days in Cleveland. The American Red Cross received \$2,000 from MSMF in memory of Bill Manley to support the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Prudence Quass, mother of MSMF board member, Carol Hearn, passed away on September 16th at the age of 79. Carol has been a very influential person to the Sutphin's for the last 25 years. MSMF was humbled to be named as the benefiting organization in honor of these four individuals. Please pay special attention to the upcoming grants as they will be made in their memory.



Mia with 6 Sutphin Siblings and Pop in 2001