



AirCRAFT Casualty Emotional Support Services responds

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* Emotional Support available

CHEEKTOWAGA, N.Y. (WIVB) - AirCRAFT Casualty Emotional Support Services (ACCESS) is available to provide immediate and long term peer to peer bereavement counseling to the families affected by the Continental Flight 3407 Plane crash.

All of our 250 volunteers have lost loved ones in air disasters. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families affected by this crash.

ACCESS provides a unique and vital service to those who have lost loved ones in air disasters. Heidi Snow, its founder and executive director, experienced first-hand what it was like to lose a loved one in an air disaster.

Heidi lost her fiancé, Michel, on TWA Flight 800 in 1996 just off the coast of Long Island. After the initial response teams disbanded, no one seemed to understand that grief persists long after the funeral and that the pain actually intensifies as the reality of the loss has set in. She founded ACCESS so that no one else would have to experience the loneliness and isolation she had felt.

On the foundation of ACCESS Snow comments that, "I needed to talk to someone who had been through a similar and sudden loss after my fiancé was killed on Flight 800 and I could not find the help I needed so I founded ACCESS, so people would not have to go through this type of loss, feeling isolated, without the support of others who have been there before who can provide a comforting and compassionate ear."

With over 250 volunteer grief mentors, ACCESS is in a unique position to provide hope and inspiration because each one of them has suffered the loss of a loved one in an air disaster in years past. They apply their hard-earned first-hand knowledge of grief and their training to provide care to others in a similar more recent situation. ACCESS partners mothers to mothers, orphans to orphans, spouses to spouses, siblings to siblings and other relationships lost.

ACCESS has paired up hundreds of people affected by air disasters. This pairing is important and unique because people who have gone through a similar loss years ago have valuable insight to offer a person who has more recently lost someone. Furthermore, they are living proof that they too can survive their losses.

"It was important to have someone to listen, and even more important to have someone who understood." Rachel Courtney called ACCESS for help after she lost her father in a private plane crash on August 4, 1998 and now offers her own help as a Volunteer Grief Mentor with ACCESS.

ACCESS has a toll free help line, 877-227-6435, newsletter and website, www.accesshelp.org , where people can request bereavement care.

We are here to help those affected by the Continental 3407 air disaster in any way that we can. Our hearts and prayers are with those of you in the community affected by this tragic loss.