“Through ACCESS I was able to meet Vanessa. Her mother was on Pan Am 103 with my father. It still amazes me that wonderful things came out of such a tragedy. It is such a strong unique bond to have to someone who has experienced the same thing you have, someone who really gets what it is like to lose a parent, someone who has the same views as you.”

We are so saddened by the loss of one of our most remarkable and enthusiastic ACCESS volunteers, Kerry P. Felski. He and his wife Cynthia were killed on August 19th by a drunk driver after dropping off their daughter at college. Felski was a loving husband and father. He lost family on United Flight 232 and devoted much of his time helping fellow loved ones of those killed in air disasters. We took this photo of him last year showing his support for us at the TWA 800 anniversary.

We will miss him dearly!

ACCESS hosted its 3rd Annual Hearts, Clubs & Aces Golf Tournament in Marin, CA

Brad Burlingame, ACCESS founder Heidi Snow, Gary Plummer and ACCESS board member Rachel Courtney

Burlingame, the Honorary Guest Speaker, lost his brother Charles on 9/11 aboard Flight 77. Former San Francisco 49er Gary Plummer served as the Master of Ceremonies, auctioning off many items including a luxury stay at the Ritz Carlton Club memorabilia from the late golfer Payne Stewart.

Jeremy Umland and Yoshiaki Hata of Japan Airlines

Umland lost his brother Eric in a private plane crash.

Jim Hurd and Heidi Snow

Hurd lost his son Jamie aboard TWA Flight 800.

Vanessa Carrington and Stacey Crawford

Carrington and Crawford met through ACCESS this year. Each lost a parent aboard Pan Am Flight 103.

Volunteers Christian Friese, Sabrina Kong, Dana Ferrarese, Roxanne Murray at the ACCESS Awareness Event held at the Ted Baker store in San Francisco, CA.

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ACCESS Volunteers
ABOUT ACCESS

Volunteer Grief Mentors have a unique combination of first-hand knowledge and personal experience that enables them to be understanding and compassionate listeners. The Volunteer Grief Mentoring Program provides individualized help as needed in the weeks, months and years following an air disaster. ACCESS is available for as long as the grieving client needs support. ACCESS often helps people seeking support many months or years following a disaster. ACCESS is available around the clock via our toll free helpline and website www.accesshelp.org.

ACCESS provides educational Crisis Communications Sensitivity Training workshops for companies, airlines, and disaster response agencies working directly with those affected by air disasters. These workshops teach the skills necessary to address the labile emotional environment following a tragic event. This training ensures that crisis responders and employees who come in contact with grieving family members will be appropriately understanding and responsive to the bereaved. ACCESS has trained the crisis response care teams of airlines such as Air New Zealand, Qatar Airways and Heritage Flight, as well as organizations such as the American Red Cross.

ACCESS continues to provide long-term support to hundreds of grief-stricken individuals who have survived or lost loved ones in air disasters, including those aboard the four aircraft involved in the 9/11 attacks on the ground and in the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Requests for bereavement care through the ACCESS helpline continue to increase as 9/11 disaster support organizations disband.

ACCESS works in collaboration with the airlines, the American Red Cross, Disaster Psychiatry Outreach, the Department of Mental Health, the National Transportation and Safety Board and other crisis response agencies when an air disaster occurs.

GLENN ADAM, ARNOLD SPINELLI, ACCESS PRESIDENT

Andrew August and Fred Goldberg

ACCESS meeting with southwest air disaster emergency response team in Dallas, TX

ACCESS has been featured in major newspapers and on most television networks. These include: The New York Times, People Magazine, Larry King Live, The Ananda Lewis Show, A&E--"Minute By Minute", NY1--"New Yorker of the Week", National Geographic Channel, CNN, CBS, NBC, ABC, and Fox.

ACCESS provides peer bereavement counseling to both survivors and those who have lost loved ones in air disasters dating back to 1958. Some of the disasters ACCESS has responded to include:

- United Airlines Brooklyn, NY (12/16/60)
- Air France Charter Flight (6/3/62)
- Pan American 816 (6/22/73)
- United Airlines Flight 173 (12/28/78)
- Korean Airlines (9/1/83)
- Northwest 256 (9/16/97)
- Pan Am 103 (12/21/98)
- United Airlines 232 (7/19/99)
- US Air 1493 (2/1/91)
- US Air 427 (8/9/94)
- American Eagle 4184 (10/31/94)
- Northwest 255 (9/16/97)
- Oklahoma City Bombing (5/19/95)
- Airline Flight 587 (11/12/01)
- US Airways Express/Air Midwest Flight 5481 (1/1/03)
- Flash Airlines Flight 604 (1/3/04)
- Kish Airlines Flight 1770 (2/1/04)
- Corporate Airlines Flight 5866 (10/19/04)
- KLM, Afghanistan (2/3/05)
- Air France Flight 358 (8/2/05)
- West Caribbean Airways (8/16/05)
- Belavia Airlines (10/23/05)
- Airbus A320-211, Off Sochi, Russia (5/3/06)
- Comair Flight 5191 (8/27/06)
- TAM Airways, Brazil (7/17/07)
- Private, helicopter & military air crashes (1958-present)

ACCESS training heritage flight air disaster emergency response team in Burlington, VT

ACCESS founder Heidi Snow with Penny Neferis, director of emergency response & care at JetBlue Airways. Neferis received the ACCESS Compassion Award for her commitment to disaster preparedness.

We are so grateful to our donors who help make our services possible. Here are some ideas for giving in ways that yield tax savings and other special benefits for you.

Charitable Gifts

Each year millions of Americans make donations in ways that help them reduce their federal and state taxes. Federal tax laws and those of many states encourage charitable giving by providing tax benefits for such donations. As a result, your gifts to charitable organizations such as ACCESS may allow you to reduce your tax liability. These tax benefits may even allow you to give more than you thought possible.

Gifts of Cash

By giving donations in the form of cash or personal checks, you may be able to reduce or eliminate your income tax in the current and, in some cases, in future years. Also, the higher your tax bracket, the more your may reduce your taxes.

Gifts of Other Assets

Many individuals find there are great tax benefits to donating highly appreciated property such as stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and coin collections. Depending on the particulars of your situation, you may be able to claim a charitable contribution for the full value of the gift without paying taxes on the appreciated portion. However, even gifts of investments that have decreased in value may result in tax savings. Whether the asset has appreciated or depreciated in value since you acquired it, your gift will help ACCESS continue its mission.

If you are over the age of 70, it is possible to make tax-free gifts directly from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA), ensuring that these funds will not be subject to income or estate tax. Check with your IRA administrator for applicable time limits and other details.

If you wish to make gifts of appreciated assets to ACCESS, we have established an account at Morgan Stanley Investment Company. ACCESS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. For further information contact ACCESS at 877-227-6435.


gifst that keep on giving


glenn adam, arnold spinelli, access president

Andrew August and Fred Goldberg