



Kate, James, Barbara and Robin Freeman

"When my dad was killed in a plane crash, my family joined a new community, one of people brought together by our common grief and sadness over having lost a loved one in a plane crash. ACCESS provides us with a place to share our stories and experiences with others who are grieving in a similar way. It is instrumental for me, my family and those in our situation to have ACCESS."

- Robin Freeman, San Francisco, CA, lost her father James in a private plane crash on 8/4/10

What We Do

ACCESS is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to pairing individuals suffering in the wake of private, commercial and military air disasters with volunteers who have experienced similar life-altering tragedies years earlier. Our more than 250 trained ACCESS Volunteer Grief Mentors are on-call to provide free, peer-to-peer bereavement care from the minute an aviation disaster occurs, for as long as the grieving need support.



ACCESS Volunteer Grief Mentors at our Training Program

Our volunteers come from all across the country to be trained by ACCESS to mentor those who call us for help. We match the bereaved with ACCESS Volunteer Grief Mentors based on their relationships lost. This is what makes ACCESS a one-of-a-kind grief support network. We have found that pairing the individuals who call ACCESS for help with those who can most closely comprehend their suffering provides a uniquely comforting connection to support them throughout their grieving process.

"The help and kindness I received from ACCESS during the most despairing time of my life not only comforted me but helped me learn how to help others that have gone through a similar experience."

- Shari Gemmill, Tuscon, AZ lost her mother and stepfather on EgyptAir 990

By walking alongside the bereaved on their journey through grief, ACCESS helps the grief-stricken gain strength, hope and purpose, and to productively move through their sorrow and isolation to a brighter and more hopeful future.



Diane Stanley, ACCESS Trainer Dr. Ken Druck and Kelly Henning at the ACCESS Training Program

Kelly lost her mother, brother, sister and brother-in-law in a private plane crash. Diane lost her husband, Kelly's brother Kevin, and in-laws in the same crash. Diane and Kelly called ACCESS after their tragic losses. Now they are trained Volunteer Grief Mentors using their hard-earned knowledge to provide care to those who call ACCESS for help.

ACCESS Air Disaster Preparedness

Some of the most important work ACCESS does starts even before an air disaster occurs. Our firsthand experiences with these tragedies have taught us just how important the first few interactions after an air disaster can be. This is why ACCESS provides courses based on the hundreds of case studies of our own experiences to prepare companies, airlines and care teams that respond to aviation disasters so that they can provide the most sensitive and effective care possible.

Contact info@accesshelp.org to learn how ACCESS can train your team.



"Nothing can replace the comfort and care of someone who has been there."

When I lost my fiancé aboard TWA Flight 800 in 1996, I was devastated. I had nowhere to turn and the grief was overwhelming. I realized that only others who had been through this type of tragic loss could understand what I was going through. I vowed that no one should ever have to go through this experience alone and so in the fall of 1996 I founded ACCESS.

From my experience, there is nothing like talking to somebody else who has lived it. All of the work we do at ACCESS is geared toward transforming the pain and sorrow we have all personally felt from the tragedy of air disasters into support and knowledge that benefits others.

If you have ever lost a loved one, you know that grieving your loss is a life-long journey. ACCESS provides a safe, compassionate and confidential place for the bereaved to rebuild their forever-changed lives.

We rely on your generous support to provide our care to those who call us for help.

Your tax-deductible donation will make it possible for ACCESS to:

- Train and educate our Volunteer Grief Mentors
- Provide our helpline and website for those in crisis
- Produce and distribute our bereavement resources
- Expand our outreach so that those who need ACCESS know that we are here for them
- Provide free, immediate and long-term peer-to-peer bereavement counseling to those affected by air disasters

We would be so grateful to you for any amount that you can contribute in support of our efforts. On behalf of all of us whose lives have been tragically changed in an instant, I thank you.

Sincerely,

Heidi Snow
Founder / Executive Director

SAVE THE DATE!

Join us for our 7th Annual Hearts, Clubs & Aces charity golf tournament and dinner on September 9, 2011!

To register visit www.accesshelp.org or email: info@accesshelp.org



Thank you to our amazing ACCESS Volunteers for all of your hard work at our 6th Annual Hearts, Clubs & Aces Event!



"The full range of emotions we go through is perfectly normal and talking to someone allows us to release these emotions and let them out -- this is the value of ACCESS."

· Casey Erickson has lost many loved ones in the aviation community including friends: Viki Cruse, Van Snow, Erika Simpson, Paul Lopez, Joe Gauthier and Amanda Herrington



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Emotional Support Services

We extend a special thanks to all of our ACCESS Angel donors for supporting our efforts!

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