





**Afflicted By Addiction** Archives Available

April 9th 2013: GRASP Leader Denise Cullen and GRASP "Ambassador" Margaret Alexander share how their loss gave birth to their passion.

Two entirely different women find themselves fighting for Drug addiction awareness, education, reform. Most importantly their cause gives parents in grief a welcome place to morn their loss, even family and friends cannot truly understand. GRASP, Grief Recovery After a Substance Passing is an organization who is that shoulder to cry on, who is a room of people who know what is like to bury a child and is an organization so needed in this country that GRASP is in 24 states and approaching 57 Chapters. Addiction and death can happen to anyone and when it does, you may find that only others who

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#### Denise Cullen

Denise Cullen - GRASP Denise has worked as a Clinical Social Worker in the medical field since graduation from USC's School of Social Work in 1993. Her expertise has been in HIV/AIDS and working with terminally ill patients. Because of this work, and efforts to learn how to be more effective through continuing education classes and seminars, she has a special ability in the area of death, dying and grief. Her patient population included a large number of Intravenous Drug Users, and so she has professional experience working with patients suffering from addiction as well as personal experience. Denise lost her only child, Jeff Cullen at 27 years of age in August 2008 after battling addic

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## **Margaret Alexander**

Margaret Alexander is a mother who lost her son Glen in July 2010. This mother of 6 never saw addiction coming at her youngest child. Margaret honor's the fallen children as she works with grieving parents to keep the memory and the real story of how wonderful their children were, alive. Besides the Facebook postings under "Angleversaries" on the birthdays of these children, Margaret helps to produce an annual poster titled "Gone but Not Forgotten".

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