



Joyful News

Volume 5 - No. 1

THE JOYFUL CHILD FOUNDATION



The Joyful Child Foundation
In Memory of
SAMANTHA RUNNION
is DEDICATED to Preventing
Crimes against Children
through Programs that
EDUCATE, EMPOWER and
UNITE Families and
Communities

Being Brave, Safe, and Protecting Joy in a Pandemic

Everything about the cascading impact of Covid-19 from the earliest whispers to the 5-year projections has been unsettling at best. For weeks, it felt as if the rules were changing daily until finally, we were mostly settled into staying safe at home... for the indiscernible duration. Adjusting to this new and ambiguous reality is not easy on anyone. Our hearts ache most for those who are suffering through illness and loss.

Although everyone is individually impacted in a myriad of ways, unlike any other time in history, we are witnessing our shared experience of this pandemic worldwide. We can only hope that people everywhere will allow their hearts to open to this broader perspective because we are going to need one another more than ever before.

At The Joyful Child Foundation, our team is determined to practice what we preach because **children, families, and educators need to be empowered to navigate this ever-changing situation.** We believe that we can emerge from this collective experience with the compassion and commitment required to create a better world.

In this situation, **being brave** is acknowledging the real dangers and fears so that we can act with integrity as we create new plans to move forward.

Being safe, whether we like it or not, is following guidelines for staying home, social distancing, wearing masks, and diligent washing/cleaning.

Protecting joy is about being flexible and patient with ourselves and others. It is especially important to incorporate a variety of activities that bring us comfort and joy throughout each Groundhog Day at home...for the duration.

Things are different now and as we move forward through the next phase of change, may we continue to be brave, safe, and joyful because we are stronger together.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, May 17th
11:00 am to 12:00 noon
Women's Empowerment
Event on Zoom

[RSVP Here](#)

Thursday, May 21st
11:00 am to 12:00 noon
Meet the Founder
on Zoom

[RSVP Here](#)

Monday, May 25th
National Missing
Children's Day

BRAVE Online
Learning Platform
Applications Due

Saturday, July 25th
SAVE THE DATE
Celebration of Life

As we patiently and creatively
plan for a one-of-a-kind
Celebration of Life Concert in
honor of Samantha's birthday



Shop & Give with
AmazonSmile for
The Joyful Child!



The Joyful Child Foundation
P.O. Box 12680
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www.thejoyfulchild.org

CALLING ALL BRAVE PARENTS & TEACHERS

The Joyful Child is preparing our Be Brave-Be Safe lessons for a new online learning platform.

During the month of May, we are inviting interested parents to form a focus group to beta-test the new system and share feedback before we make it available to the public.

Email contact@thejoyfulchild.org to learn more.

New Website Just in Time!

We are delighted to announce that our new look officially launched in March, just in time to share **free resources for families** adjusting to learning from home.

In the midst of this pandemic, we know that families are struggling everywhere and we hope that the following new features will provide an opportunity to empower children, teens, parents, and teachers to be brave and be safe throughout and beyond this difficult season:

For a limited time, subscribers can access **Be Brave - Be Safe lessons and printable materials for FREE!**

An opportunity to subscribe as a Joyful Friend and watch the first Live Action Be Brave - Be Safe Episode.

Program pages offer **BRAVE Skill-Building Activity Sheets by grade-level.**

Visit the BRAVE Blog where you are invited to share your Joyful and Brave Stories. **Inspire others to join us** in creating a safer world for all children.

All the information you need to share and advocate for bringing BRAVE to your community... anywhere!

Visit <https://www.thejoyfulchild.org>

Samantha's Story Retold on Investigation Discovery Channel

The new hit show on ID, "Predator at Large," premiered on April 16th with a compelling and accurate depiction of how Samantha's abduction and murder impacted the community and our nation in 2002.

If you missed the episode, "Watch Your Children," it is available on the www.investigationdiscover.com website for free if your cable provider subscription includes the ID Channel.

Joyful 1st Online Women's Empowerment Event



Twenty-seven BRAVE Women joined Founding Director, Erin Runnion, for our first Online Women's Empowerment Event on Sunday, April 19th. They shared about the unique challenges and opportunities women are facing while nearly everyone is staying home together 24/7. Erin focused on the importance of self-care to protect our sanity, health, and joy so that we can continue to help everyone else in our lives for however long this situation may last. The event was such a success that we will keep the date for our original in-person brunch and host another virtual zoom gathering for Women's Empowerment on Sunday, May 17th at 11:00am. [Click here to RSVP.](#)

Announcing Meet the Founder Office Hours on Zoom!

Beginning on May 21st, our Zoom Office will be open on Thursdays from 11:00 am - 12:00 noon so that anyone can drop in to learn more about The Joyful Child Foundation's mission, vision, and programs. Erin Runnion will share a brief introduction and then invite guests into a conversation.

[Click here to RSVP.](#)