

## Speakers Bureau: Your Call to Action



"Threads of Life has given us a purpose in the face of our tragedy, helped us share with others who are struggling with devastating loss and has given us the opportunity to help others by sharing our story."

*Heather Dahmer's spouse is living with an occupational disease*

Members of the Speakers Bureau are family members like you, who have been affected by a workplace fatality, life-altering injury, or occupational disease. They are parents, siblings, spouses and friends who are united in their courage and conviction that sharing their personal stories will prevent further injuries in the workplace. If you are interested in joining the Speakers Bureau you could speak at company health and safety awareness events, schools and at conferences. We provide free training and you choose the event. If you are interested in joining us, please call or send us an email at [speakersbureau@threadsoflife.ca](mailto:speakersbureau@threadsoflife.ca).

## Threads Newsletter



"Just reading the newsletter helped very much."

"I like to read how others cope and offer support across Canada."

*Threads*, our free quarterly newsletter, features the personal stories of those affected by a workplace tragedy, poems, reference material, and news on upcoming Threads of Life initiatives. You can sign-up for a free subscription by email or mail or download it from our web site.

*Each worker and family member who has been affected by a workplace tragedy is a thread in the quilt of life. Each thread, by itself, cannot stand alone, but when woven together provides strength. Although we are individuals, we are also connected in the fabric of life.*

Threads of Life is a charitable, national, not-for-profit organization dedicated to supporting families along their journey of healing who have suffered from a workplace fatality, life-altering illness or occupational disease.

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*Association for Workplace Tragedy Family Support*

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Charitable Organization  
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*fatalities*

*life-altering injuries*

*occupational disease*



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**threads**  
OF LIFE

*Association for Workplace Tragedy Family Support*

**You're not alone.**

*Families of workplace tragedy are here to help you.*

## Volunteer Family Guides

"People tell us it will get better; it will go away and I'm telling you they don't know. We think about Jim every day."

*Dad whose son died while working on an elevator.*

"Volunteer Family Guides offer a different perspective than members of our own families or members of society. We 'get it'".

*Marj Deyell (Volunteer Family Guide), Mom of John, 23 years old, who died on the job.*

Despite the grief in their hearts from their own workplace tragedy **Volunteer Family Guides** have the courage and determination to make the road a little bit easier for other families, like yours, who are suffering from a traumatic workplace tragedy. Threads of Life is the only organization in the world to create a Volunteer Family Guide program that offers one-on-one peer support to families.

If you've suffered from a workplace fatality we know that grief is often your silent companion. If you're coping with the care of a family member affected by a serious life-altering injury or occupational disease, we know that you have your own unique challenges trying to live with your new 'normal' of unfulfilled hopes and dreams.

Whatever the circumstances, coping and healing is made easier with the warmth, acceptance and listening ear of our Volunteer Family Guides.

"My Volunteer Family Guide really helped me know what to expect from the occupational health and safety system and the judicial system. Sometimes I needed a boost to get through the next legal phase because it was overwhelming and confusing. Without Threads of Life I would have muddled through and missed opportunities on where to focus my attention and energy."

*Fran De Filippis, a young widow with two young children.*

*Fran with her children. The guidance and support Fran received from the Volunteer Family Guide meant she successfully entered a family victim impact statement in an occupational health and safety court case.*



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## Family Forums: A Safe Harbour

"I can see that our journey of loss dealing with our son's devastating injury and how we will handle it for the rest of our lives is similar to the journey that everyone else in this room is facing."

*Dad of a traumatically injured worker.*

Our regional Family Forums offer your family the opportunity to meet others who have experienced their own workplace tragedy in a warm and welcoming community of support. Your tragedy may be recent or could have happened many years ago. The Forum has helped many families along their journey of healing. Topics range from active listening skills, helping children with grief, families coping with a life-altering injury, widows and society's expectations, men and grief and much, much more.



Through fundraising from our Steps for Life – Walking for Victims of Workplace Tragedy event we can subsidize the costs of family members to attend. Forums have been held in Alberta, Ontario and Nova Scotia with others planned across Canada.

## Online Private Forums: Healing Through Connecting

If you would like to join an on-line private forum to connect to others of workplace tragedy, please log onto <http://www.threadsoflife.ca> or give us a call. Discussion groups can include siblings, parents, and others.

## Steps for Life – Walking for Victims of Workplace Tragedy



"My family participated in the Steps for Life walk in Toronto on the week-end. It was very inspiring and heart touching. We lost our son to a workplace fatality last March and times have been very difficult."

*Mom*

Every year on the first Sunday in May families come together with corporate leaders in their community to draw attention to the importance of injury prevention in a fun and positive environment. The walk is a wonderful way for your family to remember and celebrate the life of your loved one while journeying together. It's also an opportunity to express your belief and educate others that "accidents are not just the cost of doing business."

For locations of the walks please visit [www.stepsforlife.ca](http://www.stepsforlife.ca) or [www.threadsoflife.ca](http://www.threadsoflife.ca).

