

**Remembrance given at the Friends of the Orphans National Board Meeting
Chicago, Illinois
1/22/10**



Molly Hightower, 22



**Ryan Kloos, 24
Erin Kloos, 26**

The death of our volunteers has affected each of us deeply. Those of us who are parents see our own sons and daughters in Molly and Ryan's faces.

Even though I didn't have the pleasure of meeting them, their passing made me reflect on what it means for three young people who have it all to take time to care for strangers in a distant land.

Many people care and feel empathy for others. Yet most of us stop there. Sometimes an overload of compassion leads to paralysis and despair. I hear people say "I just can't watch the news anymore; it's too upsetting". Molly, Ryan and Erin didn't take that easy route. Instead they turned an abundance of empathy into action.

For their good work, Molly and Ryan paid the ultimate price. Erin is in the hospital recovering from her wounds.

How can we honor their sacrifice when we're not there to do the hands-on work? I'm neither a doctor nor a nurse and would just get in the way in Haiti right now.

Yet the work we do here as a team is essential. Funds are desperately needed in Haiti and all of our homes. The new donors need to be thanked and welcomed into the global family. Our existing donors need reassurance. We need to spread the message of NPH's transformative model for raising children and saving lives.

Now, more than ever, we have a moral duty to achieve Friends' mission. Molly and Ryan can't help the cause anymore. We can. We can "export" their spirit in our own communities. We can bring their love, empathy, hope, and can do spirit to our work today and everyday.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Susan Hammel Joyce".

*Susan Hammel Joyce
National Board Chair*