



Quarterly Newsletter October 2021

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A Memorial to Margaret



On June 27, 2021, an amazing, profound, strong young lady lost her battle with the devastating disease that is substance abuse disorder. Margaret was born on October 4, 1994. She was an incredible individual. A woman who loved her family, her friends, those with special needs, those in recovery and those less fortunate. She was extremely creative and loved sewing and designing clothing and items for her friends and family..

Margaret will be missed terribly. I have to admit that part of me wanted to just quit doing this work, just sit and cry at the devastation that drugs and alcoholism do to our world. I felt angry, sad and even guilty. But I

knew I had to keep going, now with more passion and determination to make a difference in the lives of women battling addiction. There is so much to do. So much information to learn and disseminate. So many encouraging words to say, so many coaching hours, so many visits to make. So many prayers on my knees. I am now dedicating myself full time to this work, and I'm sure that's still not enough time. I thank those that are supporting us financially and for those that are still thinking about it, I urge you to join me. Tell your friends. Being a part of the solution does make a difference!

Margaret was survived by her mother, Julie Pierce Casey, Stepfather Blaine Casey, and her brother Jesse Pierce. Also by her aunts: Margaret (Meg) Pierce, Rebecca Pierce Goodman, Elizabeth (Nova) Pierce, Meredith Pierce, and her uncles: Daniel Pierce, David K. Pierce II, Michael Pierce, Robert Pierce. Margaret was preceded in death by her grandpa, David K. Pierce

Donor's Corner – Happy Anniversary



*Its our **1 year anniversary** since our first fundraising campaign and I want to thank our donors that have given since then! Thank you so much for your generosity, your financial support and for joining me in being part of the solution. Your support is making a difference in the lives of these women! Happy 1 year anniversary of being part of the Over the Influence Recovery family!*

- ❖ Alex and Wendy Kim
- ❖ Jeff and Nana Hines
- ❖ Jose and Joanne Garcia
- ❖ Denise and Ian Thurlow
- ❖ Ana Blanco Landau

OTI Overjoy

There are many joyous moments here at Over the Influence! Some highlights of last quarter!

- ✚ Closing of child welfare case for a mother with one year sober!

- ✚ Hosted event with grief pastor of our local church
- ✚ Landing of a dream job by one of our gals
- ✚ Enrolling and attending college for a single mother

Founder's Focus

As some of you may know, I quit my day job to focus solely on Over the Influence. The last few months I have been focused on two things:

1. A program to create a profitable charity; the program consists of modules that will help plan, position, partner and profit OTI Recovery.
2. AODS (Alcohol and other drug studies) certification classes. These classes will ensure I am registered with the state of California to provide services that are compliant with the laws and ethics required by the state.

All of this while hosting the weekly meetings and continuing to coach and mentor the gals in the program. This is an exciting time for me and Over the Influence! Thank you for your support! Please pass on this newsletter to your family and friends!
Gigi Galloway, Founder

Inclusion & Diversity

Did you know?

September 15 to October 15 is National Hispanic American Heritage Month

We celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month to recognize the achievements and contributions of Hispanic American champions who have inspired others to achieve success. The observation began in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988.

Over the Influence Recovery was founded by Gisselle Galloway a Latina, first generation American woman!

Her father was from Costa Rica, Central America and her mother born in the city of Mexico. Both of them traveled to the US and became US Citizens. Gisselle lived in Costa Rica from the age of 14 – 17 and is fluent in Spanish, speaking, reading and writing!

But did you also know....

*The sharp increase in overdose deaths involving synthetic opioids in recent years is alarming and data show that the mixing of synthetic opioids with other drugs occur across populations. Synthetic opioids are affecting opioid death rates among **Hispanics**. In 2017, synthetic opioids accounted for nearly 55 percent of the opioid-related overdose deaths and 36 percent of the total drug overdose deaths for **Hispanics**, compared to 41-70 percent, and 25-43 percent of deaths, respectively, for all other race/ethnicities. ([SAMSHA - The Opioid Crisis and the Hispanic/Latino Population: An Urgent Issue](#))*

You can make be part of the solution!

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For more information, please go to www.OTIRecovery.org