

Michele Neff Hernandez

Biography

Michele Neff Hernandez is the founding President, and Executive Director of Soaring Spirits International. Soaring Spirits is a non-profit organization committed to providing resources and peer support to people grieving the loss of a loved one, with a special focus on those who are widowed. Soaring Spirits has met the needs of over three million widowed people around the world, and continues to increase their reach through innovative grief support programs.

Michele is the creator, and Director, of the Camp Widow Program; a first of its kind event bringing together widowed people from across the country, and around the world, who are seeking to recreate their lives in the aftermath of the loss of a spouse or life partner. This program is available in three North American locations, and has touched the lives of thousands of widowed people since its inception in 2009.

Ms. Neff Hernandez's work has been featured on broadcast media outlets, and various print media publications. She represented US widows in a three hour BBC World broadcast for their coverage of 2011 International Widows day. Michele joined Governor Mike Huckabee on the The Huckabee Show in August of 2010, and was featured with the News Director of KCLU News. Ms. Neff Hernandez has been a radio guest of The World/BBC on the NRP network, Today's Widow with the Houston Chronicle, Kelly McKay on KKZZ 1400AM, Coach Ron Tunick at KVTA 1520AM, The Grief Blog with Dr. Gloria Horsley, The Hay Foundation Radio Program with Marilyn Kagan, and Maria Vasquez on KVTA 1520AM. Her various projects have been featured in USA Today, multiple features by the Associated Press, the Houston Chronicle, the Courier Post Online, the Ventura County Star, the Simi Valley Acorn, the Press Enterprise, and the Riverside County Record.

In addition to her work with the foundation, Michele inspires people as a motivational speaker and freelance writer. She speaks to groups of all types about loss, hope, and the lasting impact of love. Michele is a member of the Bereavement Training Team for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, and is a regular contributor to various websites, blogs, magazines, and collaborative book projects. Michele has contributed to over 30 different websites, blogs, and publications for single project work.

Michele has been recognized by Congressman Elton Gallegly with a Special Congressional Recognition for her work in founding Soaring Spirits Loss Foundation, and was honored by the Simi Valley Hospital Foundation as the 2014 Woman of the Year. Michele received Ventura County Star's inaugural Woman Today award in November of 2011, and was named a Humanitarian of the year in 2010 by the Simi Valley Community Foundation. In 2009, she represented the Southern California region as State Farm Insurance's Embrace Life Award Honoree, and was a finalist for the Simi Valley Hospital Foundation 2009 Woman of the Year Award. Michele is a member of the Board of Directors of the Liz Logelin Foundation, and sits on the National Advisory Council for the Open to Hope Foundation. She is a proud member of the Rotary Club of Simi Valley, serving on the Board of Directors as the Grant Coordinator, and is serving as President for the 2017-2018 year.

Ms. Neff Hernandez is a resident of Simi Valley, California where she lives and laughs with her three amazing children, and is newly married to an amazing Aussie who supports and encourages her work with the widowed community. An avid runner and outdoor enthusiast, she actively encourages others to embrace the life they are given.

One person can change the world, and hope absolutely matters.
www.micheleneffhernandez.com