

*****Media Information*****

Missouri Missing is the brainchild of two mothers who have suffered the loss of an adult child.

Peggy Florence of Jefferson City, and Marianne Asher-Chapman of Holts Summit, after dealing with the loss of their daughters, were unable to locate an organization in Missouri where they could seek help.

“There just isn’t anything out there to tell you what to do next,” Asher-Chapman said. “It’s like being spun into a world all by yourself without a single person to tell you what to do next.”

Asher-Chapman’s daughter, Michelle “Angie” Yarnell, went missing from her home in Ivy Bend home in October of 2003. After more than five years, Angie’s husband, Michael Shane Yarnell admitted to investigators that he was guilty of Angie’s death and was sentenced to a 7-year prison term in Missouri’s Department of Corrections after pleading guilty to one charge of involuntary manslaughter.

At the time of her disappearance, Angie was only 28 years old. It has now been more than six years and Asher-Chapman says the pain of losing her daughter remains fresh in her heart and her mind at all times.

“It’s a loss that is unexplainable,” she said. “Not knowing what happened to Angie for so many years has been very hard. I know I have the ‘closure’ that so many families continue to long for and that is what makes Missouri Missing so important to me. As a group, we have the ability to help all families who are going through this same pain and that’s what we are all about.”

Florence’s daughter, Jasmine Sue Haslag, went missing in June of 2007. She was last seen in her home in Russellville, just 15 min southwest of Jefferson City. Haslag went missing after telling her three young children that she would pick them up the next day. She has not been seen or heard from since.

In February of 2008, Haslag’s case was changed from missing person to homicide. Since that time, law enforcement has chased a number of leads, however the case remains unsolved.

Florence said she knew the moment her daughter did not arrive to pick up her children that something terrible had happened to her daughter.

“That was not like Jasmine at all,” Florence said. “As soon as the children said she wasn’t there, I knew we needed to file a missing person report immediately.”

As easy as it sounds, Florence said it was several days before law enforcement would take the missing person report and more than a month before foul play was considered in the case.

“When an adult is reported missing, it is difficult to get law enforcement to listen to you and take the case seriously,” Florence said. “As adults, they have the right to go missing. While I realize there are many cases in which adults purposely go missing, I believe if there extenuating circumstances involved, it is imperative that law enforcement take the report immediately as the first 48 hours are crucial. It’s sad that it doesn’t happen that way.”

Through hours of research, dedication and personal experience, Florence and Asher-Chapman gathered a group of local women who have either experienced the loss of a missing person in their own family or who have a passion for those who are suffering. Together, the six-member board functions well and has been providing assistance to families all across Missouri.

From Rolla to St. Louis, from Joplin to Sedalia and from Lake Ozark to Columbia, there isn’t a family who suffers the loss of a missing loved one that the board of Missouri Missing wouldn’t help.

“We are only a group of six volunteers but we are a dedicated group,” Florence said. “Recently, we have received many who have asked to volunteer and we are in the process of expanding Missouri Missing in a multitude of aspects.”

All of the funding for Missouri Missing has been discovered either through personal donations or fundraisers. Although the organization does not currently possess 501 C-3 Status, the process is in motion.

“We are in hopes that we are approved and have that wrapped up within the next couple of months,” Florence said.

Additional board members include:

Ra’Vae Edwards, local award winning journalist with a passion for crime victims serves as the Director of Missouri Missing.

Cherie Coates, daughter-in-law of missing Linda Crites missing from Jackson, Missouri in 1982, serves as Co-Director of Missouri Missing.

Deanna Roberts, mother of missing Brandi Mathews whose remains were found in a creek outside of Eldon, only 30 miles south of Jefferson City. Deanna serves as a Family Advocate for Missouri Missing.

Robin Roesler, a dedicated board member and longtime friend of missing Jasmine Haslag. Robin serves as secretary for Missouri Missing.



Michelle "Angela" Yarnell – Missing Since Oct. 25, 2003



Jasmine Sue Haslag – Missing Since June 18, 2007

