



# USMWF

United Support & Memorial for Workplace Fatalities

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USMWF (United Support and Memorial for Workplace Fatalities)

To offer support, guidance and resources to those affected by preventable work-related deaths

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October 23, 2012 Lexington, Kentucky – USMWF is pleased to announce it has received a \$230,000 grant for 2013-2014 from the Public Welfare Foundation. USMWF will use these general support funds to maintain USMWF’s mission to offer support, guidance and resources to those affected by preventable work-related deaths or serious injuries while we continue to grow. USMWF firmly believes that in order to make any real changes we need family-member victims to become involved. In order to do this we need to provide them with the tools to accomplish this.

USMWF does this by:

- Reaching out to and welcoming family–member victims to USMWF. Getting these families involved in the worker health and safety movement,
- Using our Faces Campaign to put a face on workplace fatalities and gain awareness.
- Helping families bring a unique perspective on health and safety by writing letters to legislators, key safety organizations and op-eds,
- and by giving families hands-on experience at meetings with policy makers, at various events, attending congressional hearings and at health and safety conferences.

*“Obtaining the grant from the Public Welfare Foundation allows USMWF to let other family members know that someone does care about the loss of their loved one. Often times family members feel forgotten once the investigation into their loved ones incident is complete, if one happens at all.”* says Katherine Rodriguez who lost her father Raymundo Gonzalez, 54, when super heated steam exploded while working for BP in Texas City, TX.

Tony Ford, who lost her Uncle Robert Fitch, 52 in a fatal fall at ADM in Lincoln NE stated, *“The gain of the PWF grant helps us as a non-profit organization reach our personal goals and our goals as families. We are able to reach out to families, friends and co-workers to offer them support and guidance and we are able to reach out to employers of the importance of having a safe workplace. It also allows us to remember our loved ones and not let their death be in vain.”*

*“We are truly honored and grateful to be able to continue our fight to reach out to families who have lost their loved one, as well as helping to educate them by raising awareness on workplace health and safety. This continues to be our love and passion here at USMWF-to help families*



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*help themselves”* said Wendy Shurelds who lost her mother Yvonne Shurelds, 58, in an incident involving a lift machine at DTR Industries, OH.

Danielle Dole and Nicole Boone, sisters who lost their father Sherman Holmes, 50, who lost his life in a logging incident while working for K&K Forest Products had this to say: *“USMWF has been a wonderful network of support, comfort, and guidance that has helped me and my sister through our bouts with grief since our father’s passing. The opportunities that we have been given to help spread the word about worker safety, among other issues, have been made possible because of USMWF. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts.”*

### ***About the Public Welfare Foundation***

The Public Welfare Foundation supports efforts to ensure fundamental rights and opportunities for people in need. They look for carefully defined points where our funds can make a difference in bringing about systemic changes that can improve lives. The Public Welfare Foundation focuses on three program areas: Criminal Justice, Juvenile Justice and Workers’ Rights. The Foundation has an endowment of \$450 million and, in its 65 year history, has distributed nearly \$500 million in grants to more than 4500 organizations.

*To learn more, please visit [www.publicwelfare.org/Home.aspx](http://www.publicwelfare.org/Home.aspx)*