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Shining Hope

The "Shining Hope" newsletter offers valuable resources and support to families facing child abduction and parental alienation. Our publication provides uplifting and informative messages to parents dealing with the abduction of their children, fostering a strong and supportive community throughout their difficult journey. Stay informed and up-to-date with the latest news, events, and pressing issues through our comprehensive and timely newsletter.



Donate now at [STL's](#) official website! Your support brings kids HOME!

Bi-Weekly Parent Support Zoom Call: Email contactshinethelight@gmail.com for dates and the link to join.

We extend our gratitude to all our generous donors—thank you for believing in our vision and helping us bring hope and compassion to families around the globe!

“Genuine love is a blend of care, commitment, trust, knowledge, responsibility, and respect. It’s nurturing, and it’s the kind of love every parent should strive to give.”

The Power of Your Story

Your story is woven from moments of grief and triumph, frustration and perseverance. It has been shaped by the unimaginable—a heartbreak that, sadly, many other parents share. However, your story can open doors to healing, and people need to hear it.

Somewhere, someone is longing for hope and connection, and your voice could be the one that helps them hold on. Whether you're just beginning this journey or have already traveled far on the path to reunite, trust that there is beauty and latent power in your story.

As the holiday season approaches, The Shining Hope newsletter is excited to celebrate the strength and resilience of parents within our community. (Continued on page 2)



When Love Takes Action: A Sister's Fight Against Parental Abduction (page 3).



STL merch is coming soon! (page 2).

The Power of Your Story

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The December newsletter will feature a special 'Parents' Journey' issue, showcasing stories and photos that highlight these powerful experiences. If you'd like to share your story and inspire other parents facing similar struggles, please submit your material not later than November 10th by contacting the editor at: info@tiffanyfontana.com.

Whether it's about parental alienation or your journey to reunite with your child, your words can offer encouragement and connection to parents who may feel alone. Every victory, heartache, or lesson you share becomes part of a collective story of strength and healing.

If you're not comfortable sharing personal details, you can still support the community in other meaningful ways. Consider submitting a favorite winter recipe, offering tips on staying present during difficult moments, or recommending helpful reading materials.

Your contribution will help to build a stronger, more connected community while supporting our mission to empower left-behind parents with resources, emotional support, and advocacy.



“—
Telling your story is an act of courage, but it's also a lifeline—an invitation for others to know they're not alone.

It's a reminder that healing, though messy and slow, is real, and that hope can be found in shared experiences. Through your pain, you offer some light for others still searching in the dark.

T. Fontana

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Warm up your winter!
Grab your new favorite coffee mug for sipping and gifting!
Available this November—stay tuned for details in our next issue.



When Love Takes Action: A Sister's Fight Against Parental Abduction

In the wake of parental child abduction, the emotional burden can feel overwhelming—but the right support can make all the difference. This is the story of how one family's love, determination, and unity brought hope in the darkest of times, offering a chance for a new beginning.

Sarah (name changed for privacy), her husband, and their two young sons set off on a family vacation to a remote village in Oaxaca, a culturally rich region in southern Mexico known for its vibrant indigenous communities, unique cuisine, and traditional crafts. However, the trip took a drastic turn when Sarah was forced to return to the United States due to illness, leaving her sons with their Mexican father. The situation escalated when he announced his intention to keep the boys in Oaxaca permanently.

Faced with this crisis, Sarah reached out to Shine The Light and began working with a parent advocate. This single action became a turning point, initiating a series of events that would ultimately bring her sons home, though not without significant challenges.

The Complexity of Emotional Bonds

Sarah returned to Mexico, determined to reunite with her boys and bring them back to the U.S., even though she knew it could mean the end of her marriage. This emotional tug-of-war became her biggest obstacle. As her sister, Gina (name changed for privacy), observed, “What seems crystal clear to those on the outside is much harder for the person living through it.” In the end, it was the support and encouragement from her family, including Gina, that gave Sarah the courage to take the leap.

Mental health professionals agree that in high-conflict situations, emotional bonds can complicate decision-making. The intense desire to keep a relationship together often competes with the need to prioritize the well-being of the children. This dynamic, often tied to trauma bonding, causes additional emotional stress and confusion, as explored in more detail by [Psychology Today](#).

Back home, Sarah's family knew they had to act fast. “From our perspective, many of us believed the situation was both predictable and preventable,” shares Gina. “But we had to shift our focus and set that thought aside, concentrating on how to resolve the situation instead.”

With Gina at the helm, the family became a united front, tirelessly working alongside STL while offering emotional support to Sarah. Gina put her own life on hold, spending countless hours communicating with government officials, researching resources, and managing Sarah’s affairs in the U.S. She gave it everything.



When Love Takes Action

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“There were days when balancing my own life felt impossible,” she admits. “I relied heavily on my family to support me while I focused on my role.” With this unwavering support, Sarah made progress, but sadly, many left-behind parents lack access to such comprehensive care.

Shine The Light played a pivotal role in resolving the case, connecting Gina with an attorney in Mexico who crafted and executed a safe and successful return plan for the boys and their mother. “Our mission is to empower families with the tools and support they need to bring their children home,” says Randall Murphy, Founder of STL.

Fortunately, Sarah had her family’s financial support to cover the reunification costs. Left-behind parents often face financial hardships, and securing an attorney can be a major hurdle. In this case, the collective help from Sarah’s loved ones was a game changer.

Today, the boys are back home—a testament to the power of family unity, expert guidance, and determination, but the journey doesn't end with the reunion. The path forward often involves healing, rebuilding, and sometimes, difficult decisions. It's important to recognize that seeking professional help is not a sign of weakness but a vital step toward a healthier future.

Advice for Others

For those facing similar situations, Gina offers this advice: “You have to be willing to step out of your comfort zone and step away from your ego to help.” She emphasizes the importance of exploring every avenue of possible resolution and being prepared for emotional challenges. “We, as their family, want them out of that situation and safe, but we don't get to make all of the choices,” Gina explains.

In the face of parental abduction, when love takes action, the impossible becomes possible. Sarah's story reminds us all of the strength found in family bonds and the power of never giving up hope.



Carry Hope With You—Available on [Etsy!](#)

Featuring the birthstones of your children, these handmade bracelets are specially designed for STL, crafted with soft cotton cord in STL’s signature orange and accented with your child’s birthstone color—they’re a symbol of hope and courage, reminding you daily of the love that keeps you going.

Stay resilient in the fight to reunite.

For more details or to order, reach out to [InspiredHeARTworks](#)

Contact Us

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Share your stories, ideas, or feedback with our Editor at info@tiffanyfontana.com. We value your input and look forward to hearing from you!