

Margaret Ledesma Fleitman

Mission

I am an ambitious, hard-working mother of four that has held volunteer and leadership roles in the community, schools, and synagogue for the past 25 years. In June of 2010, I tragically lost my oldest son (age 22), to an opioid overdose. My efforts are focused toward making a difference by bringing attention to substance use and the nation's current prescription drug/opioid epidemic. In November 2012, I co-founded Solace Orange County, a support group for those that have lost a loved one to addiction, or are currently struggling with a loved one's addiction. I earned certification as a trainer in Overdose Prevention/Naloxone (an opioid overdose reversal drug). I am enhancing the scope of Solace's original mission as the co-founder of Solace Foundation of Orange County, a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, to provide overdose prevention training and ongoing grief support.

Professional Experience

- **Co-Founder/Facilitator** of Solace Orange County support group.
- **Co-Founder** of Solace Foundation of Orange County 501(c)(3).
- **Certified Trainer** in Opioid Overdose Prevention & Response (for Naloxone).

Advisory Roles

- Currently serve on the Orange County Alcohol & Drug Advisory Board (since 2015).
- Served on Executive Board for Serna Academy, A Sober High School.
- Public speaker/advocate for overdose recognition and response, substance use awareness.
- Developed collaboration with the Orange County Drug Court Program while supporting participants through 4-phase program, regularly speak at graduation ceremonies.

Community Leadership & Volunteering

- Recently (July 2017) partnered with the City of Mission Viejo to launch a Drug Prevention Coalition designed to provide parents, youth, and schools with valuable resources and services to combat drug abuse.
- Ongoing volunteer at the Orange County Needle Exchange Program, located at the Santa Ana Civic Center, by training individuals on opioid overdose recognition & response, and distributing much needed supplies of food, clothing, toiletries, etc.
- Established collaborative relationship with Professor Rich Goodman, Saddleback College, Corrections and Criminal Justice and Alcohol and Drug Studies.
- Saddleback College students and OC Drug Court participants attend Solace OC meetings to gain perspective from families affected with drug addiction.
- Represented Solace OC at FED UP Rally Washington, D.C.
- Served on various PTA Boards in the Capistrano Unified School District.
- Served on women's board at Temple Beth El of South Orange County, planning events such as Comedy and Casino Nights.
- Volunteered as Room Parent for children's classrooms.
- Volunteered as Team Mom for children's sports teams.
- Served as teacher's aide in reading program at Kinoshita Elementary School.