

# TRAGEDY

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# TRIUMPH



## Giving Hope During Darkest Times

By Bridget Schade

**W**hat happens when a child loses a parent to a work related fatality? What happens when a family's income drops by half because mom or dad has been so severely injured they can't return to their job?

Thankfully, workplace fatalities and career-ending injuries are not common, but when they do happen it is life-altering for the entire family.

Children are affected the most.

In the immediate shock and grief, the children's education and paying for college is not an urgent concern.

Kids' Chance of Missouri (KCMO) provides educational opportunities for high school seniors who have had a parent seriously injured or killed on the job. Since 1996, this dedicated group has awarded more than \$250,000 in scholarships to qualified candidates.

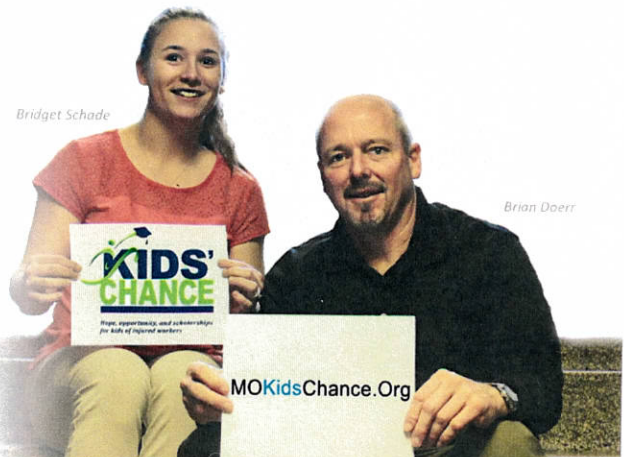
To be considered, students must have a parent who was injured or fatally wounded in a work related accident and must demonstrate a need for financial assistance in their goal of getting a higher education. Most recipients attend a traditional four-year university or junior college, but recently Kids' Chance has granted scholarships to students wanting to attend vocational or technical school.

KCMO is run primarily by volunteers who represent vastly different areas of employment. People in labor, law, medicine and government can be

found on the KCMO board. All money is fund-raised or donated and major events, such as golf tournaments and bowling nights, help raise the necessary funds to keep the scholarships going.

"It has been a great experience to be a part of an organization like this," said Carpenters' Representative Brian Doerr, who has been on the Kids' Chance board for more than six years. "Accidents happen on the job and it's a lot to take on once a family member is no longer able to work because of an accident, or in the worst case, no longer with their family. What this organization is able to provide is a huge relief to many families around the area who have had to experience this."

The Carpenters' District Council has been a proud supporter of Kids' Chance for many years. If you would like more information about this very worthwhile organization please visit [www.MoKidsChance.org](http://www.MoKidsChance.org).



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