

Michele Struttmann
Director
Harrison's Hope



Michele Struttmann's life was changed forever on May 30, 1998, when she and her son, Harrison, were struck by a van that was set into motion by two children (ages 2 and 3) left unattended inside the running vehicle. The accident took Harrison's life and Michele sustained several severe injuries.

Wanting to channel her grief into something positive after losing her son to a preventable incident, Michele left her position as a sales assistant with A.G. Edwards in 1998 and together with her husband, Terrill, founded Harrison's Hope. The Missouri-based organization is dedicated to tracking, recording and preventing such deaths.

Michele is a tireless advocate of child safety issues and devotes much of her time to educating the public about how to prevent accidents by never leaving children unattended in or around vehicles.

Since founding Harrison's Hope, the Struttmanns have successfully lobbied in several states to pass legislation that calls for a person to be prosecuted if they knowingly leave a child unattended in a vehicle. The Struttmanns also continue to lobby for preventative legislation nationwide. It is their goal to work with every state to help enact strict laws regarding children being left unattended in vehicles.

The Struttmanns have spoken at several national safety and law enforcement conferences including:

- Lifesavers Conference for National Highway Safety;
- NASRO (National Association of School Resource Officers) National Conference;
- IACP (International Association of Chiefs of Police) Annual Conference;
- NAGHSR (National Association of Governors' Highway Safety Representatives);
- ICPS (International Child Passenger Safety) Technical Conference;
- International Center for Injury Prevention;
- Southeast Regional Conference on Child Fatalities; and
- Prevent Child Abuse–Missouri.

They live in Villa Ridge, Mo. with their son, Peyton.