



Success Stories

The Story of Noel and Jesse

My name is Noel, and I am a Gold Star child (child of a fallen military hero). My father passed away when I was three months old, so I never really knew him. I felt alone sometimes because everyone else had a dad and I didn't. Luckily, my mom soon found this cool organization called Tuesday's Children. Through Tuesday's Children, I have found community, friendship and family.

I found this sense of community during the 2019 summer session of Project COMMON BOND. This weeklong camp was for kids just like me who have experienced the loss of a loved one due to terrorism, violent extremism or war. It was here that I created new memories I'll hold onto forever.

I was shy at first because it was my first time at Project COMMON BOND. However, everyone was so friendly, making it easy for me to come out of my shell. I made new friends from all over the world, many of whom I now consider family. I was able to express the way the loss of my father made me feel, knowing that there was no judgement and everyone could relate to my pain.

"That's what's so awesome about having a mentor, they never judge you..."
- Noel



Noel (left) and his mentor Jesse recently went kayaking on the Croton River. They can't wait for more adventures in the future.

While Project COMMON BOND gave me friends and family, the Youth Mentoring Program gave me a role model. My mentor's name is Jesse and he is one of the coolest people I've ever met. Whenever I'm around him, I can express myself honestly. It's great to have another adult to open up to who isn't my mom.

Jesse doesn't take the place of my dad, rather he serves as a role model who helps me understand that I can form bonds without forgetting my dad. Jesse won't let me forget him. We even have a special handshake to honor my father!

I, Noel, am honored to be one of Tuesday's Children. Through Project COMMON BOND and the Youth Mentoring Program, I have become the young man I am today, a better person than who I was before Tuesday's Children.

With gratitude,
Noel



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Robbie's Road To Healing

My name is Robbie. When I was eight years old, my father, a 20-year United States Navy veteran who was approaching retirement, was killed in the September 11, 2001 attack on the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia. His death put me into the unfortunate position of being both a Gold Star Child (one who lost a military parent) and a child impacted by Tuesday, September 11, 2001.

Thankfully, I discovered Tuesday's Children, a remarkable organization that serves both Military Families of the Fallen and the 9/11 community. Tuesday's Children provided me with a sense of belonging and has played an integral role in making me the man I am today.

One of their keystone programs that I am heavily involved in is Project COMMON BOND, which brings together teens and young adults from across the globe who have been impacted by terrorism, violent extremism or war. Together, we channel our loss into a positive force to promote peacebuilding and conflict resolution. I have attended Project COMMON BOND as a participant, group leader and, this past summer, as a chaperone working specifically with Gold Star children.

Through Project COMMON BOND, I have been able to foster personal and professional connections with individuals from across the world. Everyone at the program truly understands the difficulties I have faced in

life, and we all share a mutual desire to turn negative situations into positive changes.

"Those who attend [Project COMMON BOND] serve as a light in the darkness, and provide a model for future survivors to follow."

-Robbie



Robbie (left) started at Project COMMON BOND as a participant and soon transitioned to a chaperone, helping other young people on the road to long-term healing.



Success Stories

Growing Up with Tuesday's Children: The Story of Connor

When you're seven years old and your dad doesn't return home from work, you learn what loss is. When you are a young professional exploring your career opportunities, you learn that in losing your father you also lost your career coach.

Tuesday, September 11, 2001 left me and my sister without our dad, and my mom without her best friend.

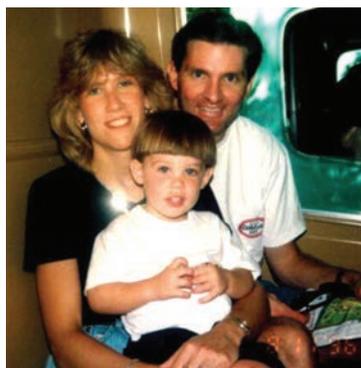
On September 11, 2019, I felt a great sense of purpose, as I proudly stood and rang the closing bell at the New York Stock Exchange, feeling grounded in both my professional and personal journey.

My family has been involved with Tuesday's Children since its inception, over 18 years ago. We have bonded at baseball games with other families, participated in Take Our Children to Work Day, traveled with Tuesday's Children to give back to other communities impacted by mass tragedies, and joined an international network of hope and healing



Connor, his mother and his sister rang the closing bell at the New York Stock Exchange in 2019.

through Project COMMON BOND. We have grown up, and Tuesday's Children has grown up with us, becoming an organization that helps not



Kevin, seen with his wife, Beth, and son, Connor, was one of 295 Marsh & McLennan employees who died on Tuesday, September 11, 2001.

only the 9/11 families, but military families and all those who have experienced a similar type of loss.

The gifts of this organization are seen in the friends who

supported my mother through her cancer diagnosis, the college guidance that led my sister and me to our dream undergraduate schools, and now my career mentor, who helps guide me in the same field in which my father built a life. With Tuesday's Children's help, I can follow in his footsteps, knowing he's proud of me.

"Healing is a lifelong journey, and, while time may pass, the feeling of loss is always present." - Connor

Tuesday's Children understands this lengthy road, and is there for every setback and triumph. Most importantly, they are there to remind you that others have dealt with loss as well.

With gratitude,
Connor