

The Legacy of **LINDSEY O'BRIEN KESLING**



Twenty-two year old Lindsey O'Brien Kesling and her canine companion, Chillbe, died tragically in November, 2010, a result of accidental exposure to unsafe levels of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning in her apartment. Lindsey's family transformed their grief into an effort that brings hope, love and life.

The Lindsey O'Brien Kesling (LOK) Wishing Tree Foundation is dedicated to honoring the fullness of Lindsey's short life by continuing her passion for mentoring and supporting underprivileged youth in performing and fine arts. Helping children achieve their potential and realize their dreams was something close to Lindsey's heart as she was a regular volunteer at the Boys & Girls Club of Bloomington, Ind, when she attended school at Indiana University.

The Kesling family has made it a priority to prevent future CO poisoning by raising awareness and advocating for Carbon Monoxide legislation.



TAKE ACTION TODAY Save Lives: Save Dreams

- **Install** a life-saving alarm in your home. If you don't have one, get one.
- **Request** your school, church, babysitter, daycare facility and friends take action to keep you and others safe by installing an alarm.
- **Volunteer** to host a CO awareness and prevention event at your local fire house, community center, church or school.
- **Donate** - \$25 will purchase a CO alarm for someone who needs one.

We know first hand that we only have today. Be a part of our efforts to bless lives that are so deserving.

For more information, to advocate, donate, volunteer or book a speaker for your group:
www.lokwishingtree.org
[@lokwishingtree](https://www.facebook.com/lokwishingtree)



LOK Wishing Tree Foundation

c/o The Unity Foundation of La Porte County
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Michigan City, IN 46360
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Lindsey O'Brien Kesling Wishing Tree Foundation



The LOK Wishing Tree Foundation
Lives Love through Carbon Monoxide
Education and Unleashing the
Artistic Dreams of Youth.

The picture of the tree depicted on the cover is symbolic of the live **Wishing Tree** planted by family and friends in Lindsey's memory and honor in 2011. On it, new wishes and dreams are hung each year. Should you like yours to be included, please mail them directly to the LOK Wishing Tree Foundation. The Wishing Tree grows in La Porte, Ind.

CARBON MONOXIDE Awareness and Prevention

It is a sad fact that although completely preventable through proper detection, approximately **500 people die** and **more than 28,000 people are hospitalized** each year from CO poisoning due to missing or improperly installed carbon monoxide alarms.

Part of the Lindsey O'Brien Kesling Wishing Tree Foundation's mission is to prevent death and injuries caused by carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning. We promote awareness of the importance of having CO alarms in homes, and teaching people about the signs and symptoms of CO poisoning. Additionally, we work with a national safety company to make CO alarms readily available to those who may not be able to afford them.

Each year we help organize events hosted by municipal fire stations and other event partners. During these events we provide free CO alarms, discount coupons for alarms, share real-life impact stories and educate about the signs and symptoms of CO poisoning.

More than **400 volunteers** and **325 donors** dedicate resources in accomplishing the mission.

Safe Home after school programming over 6 years has educated and engaged **350+ students and their parents** about carbon monoxide safety. Free CO alarms were distributed.

2015 recipient of 'Foundation Philanthropist Award' by the NW Ind. Chapter of Association of Fundraising Professionals.

Since the LOK Young Artist Expo began in 2016 **over 500 youth** have participated through art, music and dance.

Teen Arts Council formed in 2017, establishing a **youth leadership role** in the curation and installation of the **Young Artist Expo exhibit**. Watch for yourself!



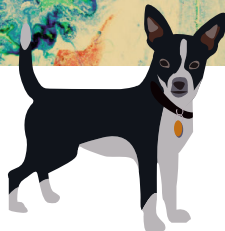
Developed youth **peer-to-peer carbon monoxide educational curriculum** to empower youth age 10 through college. College outreach included Valparaiso University and IU Bloomington. Boys and Girls Clubs have been a partner since 2014.

Led the change for Indiana adopting carbon monoxide protection in **statewide 2020 building code** (new construction only.)

Through our partnership with First Alert we have donated **more than 4500 carbon monoxide alarms**

Seven first-hand stories have been shared of how the Foundation's efforts have saved lives.

As an outcome of this prevention work a free downloadable **CO Awareness Event Kit** is now made available online for anyone desiring to host an event in their own community. The kit contains instructions for how to reach out to the local fire department, community resolution, coupons, coloring sheets, posters, banners and testimonials. www.lokwishingtree.org



LOK's **safety mascot, Chillbe**, inspires and offers hope to **thousands of kids** through a 'dream' coloring activity.



YOUTH ARTS and Mentoring

LOK provides opportunities for the development of partnerships with youth performances and arts programming.

The Lindsey O'Brien Kesling (LOK) Wishing Tree Foundation Young Artist Expo is held annually in June. A family-friendly, lively, multimedia event of visual and performing arts, the Expo provides opportunities for participants to showcase and sell their work and realize their dreams in a public setting.

Since the foundation's work began in 2012 hundreds of public school students have accessed arts lessons and workshops, with dozens receiving advanced training opportunities through summer intensive programming. It is heartening that some of the beneficiaries of these opportunities have returned as mentors to inspire a new generation of young artists.

LOKPAP, our national award winning program in association with the Boys and Girls club of Bloomington, Ind., offers childrens' classes in dance, improvisation and individual music lessons, just to name a few.

Current partner organizations and grant recipients include: The Boys & Girls Club of Bloomington, Ind.; South Shore Dance Alliance, Griffith, Ind.; Lubeznik Center for the Arts, Michigan City, Ind. in further partnership with programs offered to the Michigan City School District; and individual young performing artists.