

**OLIVIA SUZY KLASSEN, Oregon
Daughter of Helen Bohn Klassen,
murdered in Indiana in 1969**

Olivia Suzy Klassen's mother, Helen Bohn Klassen, was murdered in the family's rural Indiana home in 1969, when Suzy was 11. The person responsible for the murder has never been found and the murder remains unsolved.

Olivia has told her family's story and spoken out against the death penalty on several occasions, including participating in the Journey of Hope ... from Violence to Healing in 2007. Her essay "In a World Apart: How a Mother's Murder Affects a Child" was featured in MVFHR's spring/summer 2009 newsletter.

"I had only anger towards the man who murdered my mother, and thought about what his punishment should be if he were ever caught. It seemed to me that he should suffer and die in the same horrible way he forced my mother to. I had to rethink the death penalty when I became a mother myself. I realized that if I had a child who grew up to be a murderer, I would never stop loving him. The degree of love I felt would be the same as the first day I held him. With this realization I found complete forgiveness. I also knew my mother would never want someone killed in her name, as I don't want anyone murdered in mine. The insanity of the death penalty has to end and I oppose it under any circumstance."

Links to more information:

http://www.mvfhr.org/sites/default/files/pdf/MVFHR3-09_.pdf



Olivia Klassen with her sons



Helen Bohn Klassen

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