



Michelle's Earth Foundation

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Foundation Carries on Michelle Gardner-Quinn's Life Work

Exactly 17 months after 21-year-old Michelle Gardner-Quinn's raped body was found dumped in a gorge outside Burlington, Vermont, the trial of her accused murderer is to begin in Rutland, Vermont, on Tuesday May 13, 2008.

It is the responsibility of the citizens and judicial system of the State of Vermont to seek legal justice and to hold the person accountable who killed our beloved Michelle.

Shortly after Michelle's untimely death, her family and friends formed Michelle's Earth Foundation to carry on her dreams of environmental activism. MEF is keeping Michelle's spirit with us through the positive work we believe she would be doing, had her life with us not been shortened.

Our main focus has been in New Orleans, a city where Michelle worked in the summer of 2006. Our all-volunteer group, called MESUNOLA, (Michelle's Earth Sunflowers in New Orleans) has planted more than 25,000 sunflower seeds.

Sunflowers remediate lead contaminated soil, making it safe for generations to come. New Orleans has a well documented history of lead contamination and its dangers, especially to young children (www.wvltv.com).

Dr. Howard Mielke, who has studied lead contamination in New Orleans for many years, commented on MESUNOLA, saying, "From now on, every time I see a sunflower I will think about the young Burlington, Vermont woman that the wonderful volunteers have planted them for, as well as the lost talent of our young that has resulted from the hidden poisons in our neighborhoods. The sunflowers are a living memorial honoring and reminding us of many losses."

As this trial gets underway, MESUNOLA organizers Ian Willson and Julie Philp will return to New Orleans with other volunteers to continue Michelle's life work by testing soil and planting more sunflowers.

If you would like to support this effort, please go to www.facebook.com and become a member, if you're not already. Go to CAUSES and search for Michelle's Earth Foundation. If you want to help plant sunflowers in NOLA, please designate MESUNOLA. We encourage you not only to donate, but also to share our CAUSE with all your friends.

michellesearth.org
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