



WELCOME TO THE

Newsletter

I'm so glad you're here!

A Measure of Faith

As another National Stop on Red Week came to a close, I found myself reflecting not only on the messages we shared throughout the campaign, but on the thread that connects so much of the work I am blessed to do.

For more than two decades, red-light safety has been deeply personal to me. My husband, Mark, was killed by a red-light runner while we were nine months pregnant with our daughter. The years of advocacy that followed ultimately led to passage of the Mark Wandall Traffic Safety Act and shaped a journey I never could have imagined.

That journey has taken me into statehouses and communities across the country advocating for safer roads. It has given me opportunities to stand on stages and educate, encourage, and empower others, hoping that something born from tragedy might inspire someone else to make a different choice, find their own voice, or recognize the difference they can make.

And through The Mark Wandall Foundation, it has allowed my family's legacy to become part of something equally close to my heart: walking alongside children and families as they navigate grief, reminding them that they are surrounded by people who care and that there can still be hope in the chapters ahead.

The work may look different in each of these spaces, but to me, it has always been connected. It is about people and about the choices we make. And, in some ways, it is about a measure of faith.

Every time we enter an intersection on a green light, we place a measure of faith in someone we have never met. We trust that the driver approaching from another direction will stop, follow the law and make the choice that allows us both to arrive safely at wherever, and for whoever, is waiting for us.

They place that same faith in us.

I see that same faith in so many other places – in a grieving child brave enough to face another tomorrow; in an advocate who believes their voice can create change; and in every audience I have the privilege of speaking to, trusting that sharing our shared purpose can move someone to think, feel, or act differently.

Throughout 2026 National Stop on Red Week, we asked people across the country to Stop Today. Protect Tomorrow. The campaign may have ended, but I hope the message stays with us.

Because whether we are behind the wheel, supporting someone through grief, speaking up for change, or simply moving through our everyday lives, we have opportunities to protect, encourage and care for one another.

Sometimes it begins with something as simple as having a little faith in each other and being worthy of the faith others place in us.

My Product Recommendation

DEFENSE AGAINST HUMIDITY

Whether I'm out for a powerwalk in the Florida heat or stepping on stage for a speaking engagement, this lightweight amika anti-humidity spray smoothes and serves as my hair's daily "shield" from frizz. My confidence in this cruelty-free product is long-term, and I highly recommend it.



The MARK WANDALL FOUNDATION

Back to School Splash

Saturday, September 19, 2026
Sun Outdoors | 7125 Fruitville Rd, Sarasota, FL
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Food and drinks served at 1:00 PM

Foundation families: Join us for a fun afternoon of sun and fun as we splash back into the school year!
[Register here](#) by Sept. 12.

Thank You to Kiwanis for Your Generous Support

We are incredibly grateful to the Sarasota Kiwanis Foundation for its generous \$5,000 grant in support of The Mark Wandall Foundation's Annual 3-Day Bereavement Camp, which will take place in spring 2027.

Since 2017, Sarasota Kiwanis has invested more than \$37,000 in the children we serve, helping ensure grieving youth in our community have access to meaningful support, connection, and hope.

Their continued commitment helps make it possible for children to attend camp at no cost to their families and ensures they continue to receive the compassionate care, meaningful programming, and trusted support they have come to rely on as they navigate their grief.



Thank you, Sarasota Kiwanis Foundation, for continuing to stand alongside our children and families!

GOLF FORE THE KIDS!

Whether you choose to golf in or sponsor the tournament, your participation helps us advance our mission, sustain our programs, and provide hope and support to the grieving families we serve — all while honoring and celebrating the life and legacy of Mark Wandall.

REGISTRATION/RAFFLE/AUCTION: 10:30 A.M.
LUNCH: 12 TO 12:30 P.M.
SHOTGUN START: 1 P.M.

\$165 PER
GOLFER,
OR SAVE
WITH
\$600 PER
FOURSOME

OCT. 30

HERITAGE HARBOUR GOLF CLUB
8000 STONE HARBOUR LOOP
BRADENTON, FL, 34212

**Lunch, snacks, and beverages sponsored by
Station 400, Bonefish Grill & Texas Roadhouse**

A few planned highlights: Air Cannon; Putt Now, Pour Later Putting Competition;
Longest Drive and Closest to the Pin Competitions; Unique Raffle Gifts



SPONSORSHIPS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE!

Campaign to Raise Red-Light Awareness a Success



NCSR

National Coalition
for **Safer Roads**

It is truly moving to look back at this year's National Stop on Red Week, and it's a powerful reminder of what we can accomplish when we come together with a shared purpose: saving lives.

Thank you to [Verra Mobility](#) for helping amplify this important message. Moreover, thank you to the many advocates, survivors, families, and heroes who shared your personal stories about the devastating consequences of red-light running. Your courage to speak out helps people understand

that this is not just a traffic safety issue. These are real lives, real families, and real consequences.

Thank you to many of the new organizations that we have now become acquainted with! YOUR work is incredible, and I am so looking forward to working together to simply drive down insatiable heartache on our roadways.

NATIONAL STOP ON RED WEEK
AUGUST 2 – 8, 2026



Thank you, members of Sarasota Southside Rotary, for your warm welcome, for your commitment to service, and for the opportunity to shine a light on the critical need for The Mark Wandall Foundation's support and programs to uplift children in grief.

Testimonial

“Melissa is an ABSOLUTE force and truly embodies the work she does. Her words, her story and her passion gave me the fire I needed to realize I am not only a survivor of trauma, I have the ability to thrive in this work and make a difference.”

LINDSAY TOMIDY,
New York State Highway Safety
Symposium Planning Committee



Click here to learn more about bringing my message to your next event!

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