

Juli Wilson Marshall Legacy Circle

Our legacy circle is named for Juli Wilson Marshall, one of the founding supporters of The REACH Institute's mission and an advocate for children's mental health.

Confined to a wheelchair for much of her early life due to a degenerative hip disease, Juli lived child trauma firsthand. She shared stories of the anguish and uncertainty she experienced due to her lack of mobility and control over her life. One day a snowstorm closed her school. While the other students and staff went home, Juli was placed in a room to wait for a bus that could accommodate her wheelchair. The bus never came. Forgotten, she waited alone for hours with no way to get help. There were other instances of perceived abandonment and lack of control that were seared into her memory.

Juli eventually recovered. She graduated from the wheelchair to crutches and then walked into high school unassisted. But she never forgot the trauma and fear of being left behind and unable to control her life.

Decades later, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, she was distraught to see the faces of all the children who had lost their homes and their whole way of life. She knew that look. Her husband, Bob Marshall, said, "I can remember her being so upset by the trauma the children of the affected area had endured and the lack of mental health care professionals to meet their needs—which at one time were her needs."

Seeing no mechanism for getting these children the help they needed, she set out to create one.

An internet search led her to Dr. Peter S. Jensen, our founder, who at the time was directing the Center for Advancement of Children's Mental Health at Columbia University. Conversations with him led Juli to form K.I.D.S. (Kids in Disaster Situations) Alliance in 2005. This organization was folded into REACH following Juli's tragic accidental death in 2007. "I was both amazed and inspired by Juli's passion for helping kids and for seeing that kids with mental health needs would not be overlooked," said Dr. Jensen. "Juli's passion—and legal expertise—directly led to REACH's founding in 2006. Her impact and legacy guide us even today."

The Juli Wilson Marshall Legacy Circle is a community of people who care as deeply about children's mental health as Juli did. Today, REACH has trained more than 5,000 pediatricians and family practitioners and 500 mental health clinicians across the nation. Join Juli's Legacy Circle in working to extend mental health care to all children. Together we can realize Juli's dream.

Yes, I would like to join the Juli Wilson Marshall Legacy Circle and make a planned gift or donor designation.

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Please return this form by email to lisa@thereachinstitute.org, or by mail to: The REACH Institute, 54 West 40th Street #1, New York, NY 10018.

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