

*Unwavering hope for the future... extraordinary memories of the past...*

# Alyce Morris Winston

## Founder of the Jeffrey Foundation

By Suzanne Takowsky

Having helped 10,000 and counting at-risk and special needs children and their families for 43 years discover hope, self-sufficiency, strength, and well-being, is not enough for Alyce Morris Winston. A lot more work for children and families needs to be done she says. Little doubt, this powerhouse of determination, perseverance and motivation is up to the task.

There are extraordinary people, then there is Alyce Morris Winston. Her journey from a sheltered childhood in Tomahawk, Wisconsin, trained in social work; raised by a mother who wanted her to become a minister; a marriage to an army officer; adopting a baby girl in Germany; getting divorced and moving back to the states; landing a successful modeling career then a move to Los Angeles and the glamour of a Hollywood acting career has all the makings of a blockbuster tell-all book or movie — which is in the works right now. The upcoming book titled, *A Circle Of Love - ALYCE MORRIS WINSTON* - the true story of a mother and her son... is nothing short of a desperate mother's determination to help her dying son find love and happiness during his stay on earth.

Alyce's journey takes us into Hollywood during the casting couch 50s. Her story may have ended like many others, a classic "Gorgeous Good Girl Gone Horribly Wrong At The Hands Of TinselTown Bad Men" — but it didn't. Alyce's career didn't end at the 20th Century Fox Studio front gate when she decided not to play "the game" ... it just got started. Looking back, she is as surprised as anyone at the twists and turns she made on her way to becoming the Founder of the Jeffrey Foundation, one of the world's most successful, innovative, and revered social services communities for special needs children and their families.

"My career was about acting and modeling. When I went to 20th Century Fox, I didn't like what I saw... the whole actress bit women went through to get a job. It wasn't for me," she says. "I decided to get out. I went to Las Vegas to become a showgirl and comedian if you can believe it. I worked with comedic icons like Alan King and others. I didn't think I was that funny, but they thought I made a great straight girl. While in Vegas, I married a man I'd been dating, and we moved to Chicago where I modeled. I was unable to have



children, so my new husband and I adopted. We were blessed with a beautiful baby boy we named Jeffrey."

In Chicago, Jeffrey was diagnosed with muscular dystrophy. Alyce says she and her husband (they later divorced) were devastated. But it wasn't until she — a single mom with a child to raise — moved back to LA that she discovered Jeffrey also had mental disabilities as well. She hoped a second time in Hollywood would prove better than the first and she would find work as an actress to support her son. There were no jobs. She studied to be a make-up artist and got a great job with Max Factor, then the makeup industry went on strike and she had no child care for Jeffrey. She ended up on unemployment for two years.

This was the late 60s/early 70s. Alyce says the LA Unified School district had no programs for special needs children. She faced what mothers with disabled children face: no day care so they can work. But big miracles can come in small packages. One of Alyce's friends, a gentleman who happened to be an attorney gave her a beautifully wrapped box for Christmas.

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