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For Immediate Release

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Begin the New Year with a True Story of Love, Hope and Courage
Omid's Mission—A Tribute to My Son

He was an angel of love when alive, and remains a hero after his passing. ~Victoria Yousefi

What is true courage? What does it take to live life with hope, love, and compassion—no matter what the challenge?

Author Victoria Yousefi of Delray Beach, FL addresses these topics and more in her acclaimed book, *Omid's Mission—A Tribute to My Son*, a compelling, informative resource for anyone battling serious illness. Victoria stresses, "This story will touch every person who has lost a loved one and will bring peace to their inner soul. It is not a sad story. It is a story of love."

This inspiring, unforgettable portrayal of life opens with Ms. Yousefi and her three children as they attempt to flee a terrifying life in Iran during the turbulent period of the 1980's. Following a tense, successful escape and brief stays in Istanbul and Vienna, they resettle in America. As they begin to cherish long-awaited freedom, her young son, Omid, a mature, compassionate young boy, suddenly develops and valiantly confronts the serious rare blood disease, aplastic anemia dyskeratosis congenita.

Aplastic anemia (AA) develops when bone marrow or the soft tissue within the bone, no longer makes enough stem cells to produce red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets. When the bone marrow does not create enough of these blood cells, people battle fatigue, and are at greater risk for infection, and uncontrolled bleeding.

Dyskeratosis congenita (DC), an inherited condition, is even more severe than aplastic anemia. Oddly shaped fingernails and toenails, dark patches of skin on the face and chest, abrasions in the mouth, and bone marrow failure that deteriorates over time characterize this illness. Treatments for aplastic anemia dyskeratosis congenita include medication, blood transfusions, chemotherapy, radiation, and bone marrow transplants.

Omid means "hope," and Victoria's son, Omid embodied hope. Throughout his life, he infused everyone he met with love, faith, and determination—from the menacing Hezbollah agents, to his doctors and nurses, and fellow patients. Courageously departing this world on *"Valentine's Day"*— the day of love and one of his most cherished occasions— his last breath of his life had profound significance. A true hero, Omid dedicated his life for others with devotion, dignity, and passion.

Victoria Yousefi, wants to complete Omid's Mission by helping others who struggle with this illness, and any illness. She wants to make a difference in their lives and in the lives of their loved ones. Her ultimate goal is to help find the cure for aplastic anemia dyskeratosis congenita.

Offering valuable information about this illness and other illnesses, Victoria's work is also an effective resource and guide. In addition to descriptions of contacts with Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, Make a Wish Foundation, and Ronald McDonald House, readers will find medical centers, organizations, and a list of terms and suggestions to help themselves and others cope with sickness and disease.

To learn more about *Omid's Mission:--A Tribute to My Son* and Victoria's related activities, you may go to www.omidsmission.com. To schedule an appointment or book a discussion with Ms. Yousefi, please contact Kathy Goldstein at 561-213-5799. To purchase a copy of *Omid's Mission: A Tribute to My Son,* ISBN: 978-1-60749-687-8, contact: PublishAmerica at www.publishamerica.com, or PublishAmerica LLLP P.O. Box 151 , Frederick, MD 21705 , (301) 695-1707.