



M. E. N. D.

Mommies Enduring Neonatal Death

When Your Loss Is Your Last Child

"This was a waste. I did this for nothing. I'll never get another chance." I'm ashamed to admit these were some of my first thoughts after being told our little son Jonathan no longer had a heartbeat. Yet deep down I convinced myself that someday I would somehow get another chance.

Shortly after my husband Byron and I were married, I was diagnosed with a kidney disease and was told I would eventually need a kidney transplant. At that time we were further advised to absolutely not get pregnant, which was fine with us because we were newlyweds, not yet ready to be parents, and Byron was still in dental school. Two years later as Byron's graduation drew near, the desire to start a family increased. My doctors consented to allow us to attempt a pregnancy but first detailed all the complications that I should prepare for. As soon as we were given the green light, just one month passed before we had good news to announce. Despite a few bumps during my last trimester, we delivered a healthy baby boy, Byron, Jr., in November 1991.

Just after our son turned three years old, I expressed to my doctors that we wanted to give Byron, Jr., a sibling. My kidney specialist was a little more hesitant this time because my kidneys had deteriorated since my first pregnancy. However, he felt with careful watch, I would in all likelihood be okay. He reminded me of the potential risks, and just like the first time, a month later we had good news to share. However, the bumps started much earlier this time with a continual elevation of my blood pressure and the constant, gradual decrease of kidney function. Five months into the pregnancy I was put on bed rest and eventually admitted into the hospital for round-the-clock observation.

I celebrated each new day I had with my baby growing safely inside me. I knew every extra day he had to develop in my womb was vital to his health and development. The idea that he could die NEVER entered my mind. He was my miracle baby, my precious gift from God (which is what the name Jonathan means), and I was certain the Lord had predestined his life for something great.

However, on June 24, 1995, little Jon-Jon went to be with Jesus while still snuggled in my womb. He managed to become completely entangled in the umbilical cord. Upon delivery the cord was unwrapped from his head, body, and left leg. His death had nothing to do with the complications for which I was hospitalized. It was a freak accident, something that could not have been prepared for, prevented, or fixed. I could not believe I had risked my health and my life only for it to end with the death of my baby. Yet the thoughts of this being a waste did not last long, for I realized how much I truly loved my tiny son. He was not a waste. He was not for nothing. Even if I was never able to have another baby, I would not trade the seven months I had with him for anything.

Two years after losing Jonathan, I went into kidney failure and qualified for the transplant list. At that time M.E.N.D. was just a few months old, I was still grieving for Jonathan, and I very much wanted another baby. I honestly did not consider a transplant as something that would keep me off dialysis and save my life. Instead I thought of it as an infertility treatment of sorts. I had been told that after a successful transplant I could possibly attempt another pregnancy, so that was my goal. It was my light at the end of a very dark tun-

nel. One by one members of my family began the testing process to see if they were a match to donate one of their kidneys to me, and one by one they were declined due to tissue incompatibility. After we exhausted the list of eligible family members, my pastor and his wife volunteered to be tested, but they, too, were rejected for the same reason. Then their daughter and her husband offered to be tested as well, and to our surprise, she was a match. Nearly five years after Jonathan's stillbirth, on February 16, 2000, my friend Valerie Jones donated one of her kidneys to me.

A year and a half later, my nephrologist recited the list of risks to me for the third time, and just like before, within a month we joyfully announced we were again expecting a baby. I was cautiously excited this time, afraid to get too attached, but felt sure this would be the happily ever after to our story. However, ten weeks into that pregnancy a sonogram sadly revealed our little baby had peacefully slipped away to Heaven. Just before Christmas 2001, I had a D&C to remove its lifeless body from me. I developed a serious infection, had to have a repeat emergency surgery a few days later, and spent two nights on the transplant floor with triple IV antibiotics.

After this, my obstetrician was willing to help us try again, but my nephrologists were discouraging it. I prayed and prayed about it but never felt a peace about going forward with a fourth pregnancy. I was obsessed with having another baby but deep down felt it was not the right thing to do. I had a husband and son who needed me. What if some of the major risks of my becoming pregnant again really happened? Was it more unfair for our son to be an only child, or for him to have a mother that was on dialysis several times a week because I had lost my transplanted kidney, or was impaired due to a stroke? Worse yet, what if the risks of another pregnancy brought about my death and left my son without a mother?

I am often asked how and when I decided not to try again. I can't really say I did decide. I spent many months praying for God to take the yearning away if it was not part of His plan for us to have another child. It just never felt "right" to do again, and over time the longing faded. I truly consider this as a testimony, because the desire to have another baby was so great I could not have possibly made it go away on my own. The Lord gave me a peace and sense of contentment for our family to just be the three of us. I will always be sad we *couldn't* have any more children, but I'm no longer sad we *can't*.

"...I've learned by now to be quite content whatever my circumstances. I'm just as happy with little as with much, with much as with little. I've found the recipe for being happy whether full or hungry, hands full or hands empty. Whatever I have, wherever I am, I can make it through anything in the One who makes me who I am." (Philippians 4:11 – 13, The Message) ♥

Rebekah Mitchell

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Regular Features: *Birthday Tributes* (ps. 4-6), *Subsequent Births* (pg. 7), *In Loving Memory* (ps. 8-9); *Chapter Corner* (pg. 10), *Meeting Information* (pg. 11)

M.E.N.D. is a Christian nonprofit corporation whose purpose is to reach out to those who have lost a child to miscarriage, stillbirth or infant death and offer a way to share experiences and information through monthly meetings, this newsletter, and our Web site.

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*M.E.N.D. is a member of
First Candle/SIDS Alliance*

FirstCandle

Ann and I

By Cara Niska

We were very tiny
When we first became aware.
That we were both together
Beneath our mother's heartbeat there.

Safe within her womb
We discovered together;
How we could move our arms,
Wave our hands,
Suck our thumbs,
Bounce and flip and swim.
We could hear Mommy and Daddy
And our brothers and sister, too,
In this warm and cozy home.

Side by side we grew
Nestled safe in our mother's womb.
We played together
And slept together.
Side by side we grew
'Til we didn't have much room.
We snuggled together,
And struggled together
In that cramped little space.

The time came to be born.
There was not enough room,
In the womb
Anymore.
Time to see our Mommy,
Time to meet our Daddy,
Sister, brothers, and everybody.

The squeezing, it grew stronger,
As closer came my birth.
I was first born
Then looked for her to come.
I wanted her beside me
As she'd always been.
It seemed she always should be
Close to me.

"Come with me."

"Come with me."

But she didn't come.
No, she didn't come.
Her spirit departed instead
And left her little body dead.

My dear sister, closer to me
Than anyone on earth.
You left me.
I wanted you to stay,
Beside me where you'd always been
And it seemed you always should be.

I thought we would meet
Mommy and Daddy together.
Side by side we'd grow;
We'd play together
And sleep together.
Side by side we'd grow;
Meet the world together
And learn of life together.
Side by side we'd know;
We'd always have each other.

But you left me.
Where did you go?
I really miss you so!
Why did you go?
I'm so lonely without you!
Will I ever see you again?
"Oh yes you will, you know,
For I have gone to Jesus.
And I see you know Him, too.
I ask Him every day
To lead and guide you on your way,
So you can come with me someday.
Come with me.
Come with me to this blessed place.
Come see our dear Saviour's face."

"Just why He chose for me to come
And you to stay
I cannot say.
Come ask Him someday.
Meanwhile remember He is there for you;
You're not alone:
He cares for you.
He sees your tears.
He feels your fears.
He will comfort,
He will strengthen,
He will lead and guide you."

My life was touched by sorrow
From the day of my birth.
Truly though,
He does show
What she somehow let me know;
He's there for me.
He cares for me,
Comforts me
Dries my tears,
Strengthens me,
Stills my fears,
He leads me,
And guides me
Every step of my way.

Someday I will go,
I will see her.
My twin sister.
With my Saviour. ♥

Happy birthday, twin sister! I miss you! With love, your twin, Cara

In memory of Ann Rebecca Niska, stillborn February 28, 1978

Parents: Charlie and Eleanor Niska

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Holding a Place

A Study by Debbie Armentrout

*I have been in neonatal nursing since 1975. Over the years I have functioned as a staff nurse, clinical nurse specialist, transport nurse, and a nurse practitioner. In 2001, I enrolled in a local doctoral program. For my area of research I choose to do a grounded theory study of parents who had to make the decision to remove their infant from life support and how they moved forward with their lives. In 2004, I had the privilege of interviewing 15 members of M.E.N.D. as my study participants. This article is a synopsis of my results, partially taken from my dissertation article published in the electronic pages of the March 2007, issue of *Newborn and Infant Nursing Reviews*.*

Debbie Armentrout

Holding a Place: Parents Bringing Their Infant Forward in Their Daily Lives Following the Removal of Life Support and Subsequent Infant Death

During the interviews a prelude to the core theory emerged in which the parents vocalized a common belief that, compared to other types of losses people experience, their situations of having lost an infant were unique. Four content areas explaining the uniqueness of their perinatal losses were identified: 1) residual trauma associated with having had a sick neonate in the newborn intensive care unit (NICU); 2) how differences in loss type give rise to differences in grieving; 3) their membership in a subgroup of parents who removed life support from their infants; and, 4) the brevity of the infant's life. These content areas provide the backdrop that guided the interpretation and presentation of how these parents moved forward following the death of their infant.

The NICU: Residual Trauma

In telling their infant's story, participants invariably commented on the emotional turmoil they endured while their infant was hospitalized in the NICU. Parents still vividly recalled their lives in the NICU as a series of "high highs and low lows" as they waited and watched at their infant's bedside.

A first time father of twin girls born at 25 weeks gestation, expressed an ongoing inability to fully comprehend how his daughter's hold on life changed so dramatically:

"Why all of a sudden...yesterday everything was fine and today it was just going downhill. That's what I don't understand...how for the first three days she was able to do...and then all of a sudden she doesn't."

One mother described life, death, and grief experiences in the NICU as turbulent and likens her NICU experience of 12 years ago to current views of post-traumatic stress:

"The aftermath of life and death in the NICU has complications...that kind of add to the grief, but currently it's kind of like all lumped together; when you have done the life and death in the NICU experience there is a post-traumatic stress quality to your grief that is different from families who have had other kinds of [grief]...who have had less turbulent death experiences. For us it was he's going to live, he's going to die, he's going to live, he's going to die...I had a very complicated grief, and I think that a lot of it had to do with recovering not only from his death but recovering from what we went through while he was alive."

These excerpts displayed above are representative of the sample's descriptions of lives thrust not only into the foreign world of the NICU in which "you walk into the room and you look for the baby amongst all the equipment" and "where you don't know what's going to happen" but also in a life and death situation with their infant where death was to be the eventual outcome.

A Loss that is Different from All Others

Parents commented that, while grief due to any form of loss has some common features, the grief they experienced during and after the loss of their infants so soon after birth had a uniqueness unto itself. One parent said:

"We went to a grief class...one...near at our church...and it was kind of like for all grief...one lady had lost a son, but he was 35 years old when she lost him. Completely different than 12 days. You might have been with a spouse for 50 years and lost him. I mean, there's a lot of similarity in grief but there's something completely different about losing a young child."

The differences in grief experiences between other forms of loss and that of perinatal loss are illustrated in the following excerpts:

Continued on page 11

March/April Topic

Helping Children Deal with Loss
Deadline: March 15, 2008

May/June Topic

Mother's Day and Father's Day
Deadline: April 15, 2008

Stories, poems, thoughts, and/or feelings regarding these topics are welcomed. Submissions must be received by the deadline to be considered for publication in the newsletter. Unfortunately, there is not enough room to include all submissions. Choices will be left to the discretion of the editors. Please see page two of the newsletter for the appropriate address to send your submissions. Any submission printed in our newsletter will also be posted to our Web site indefinitely unless we receive notice in writing that you are only granting permission for your submission to appear in the printed version of the newsletter.

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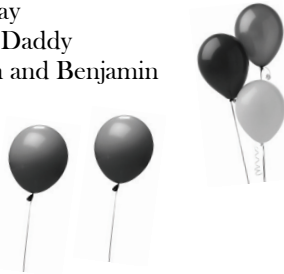
Birthday Tributes

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, AIDEN!

Happy birthday, little guy! You are such a big boy now. I cannot believe you are five years old! I know you had a wonderful birthday in Heaven. We miss you so much. I watch your little brothers grow, and I realize how much I am missing in you. Your mommy and daddy love you so much, Aiden. Sending you so many hugs and kisses.

Happy Birthday
from Mommy and Daddy
and little brothers Sebastian and Benjamin

Aiden Xavier Sohn
October 13, 2002
HELLP Syndrome
Parents: Doug and Angelique Sohn
Siblings: Sebastian and Benjamin
Also remembering Hope
Miscarried May 2003
and Whisper
Miscarried October 2003



Happy 1st Birthday, Janelle!

Janelle,

It is so hard to believe that a year has passed since you went to Heaven. We think about you and miss you every day. We think about all the first things that we didn't get to experience with you and that saddens our hearts. At the same time, we have great joy knowing that you're safe and cared for in your heavenly home. We know you will have a wonderful birthday celebration with Jesus, Mary, and all the angels and saints. Janelle, know that we will celebrate your birthday here. Mass will be said in your memory that Saturday evening. We will visit your grave and release balloons. Also, your brothers want to have a princess cake for your birthday. This will be the most difficult birthday celebration we have ever had, but your short life will always be remembered and celebrated in our home.

We love you so very much!!!
Daddy, Mommy, Will and Andrew

Janelle Marie Gibson
Stillborn November 17, 2006
Possible placental blood clot
Parents: Scott and Jodie Gibson
Brothers: Will and Andrew



Carter,

Mommy and Daddy love you and miss you each day. You will always be our precious little boy.

Love,
Mommy, Daddy, and little sister Erin

Carter Patrick Outen
Stillborn November 6, 2000
Unknown cause
Baby Outen
Miscarried April 3, 2001
Baby Outen II
October 5, 2001
Parents: Chris and Shannon Outen
Sister: Erin



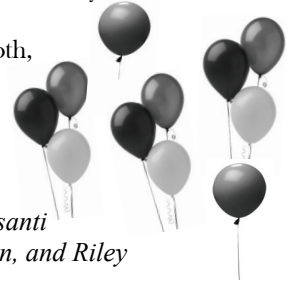
Joshua and Jeromy,

It is hard to believe that you would be in your latter years of grade school right now! Long gone would be the Hot Wheels, swing set and cartoons. They would now be replaced by an Ipod, cell phone and calling girls. Though this age would have been rough for you and me both...I still would have loved to go through it with you!

It has been 11 years and I still think of you, I still hurt...I still love you, my first born!

Miss you both,
Mom

Joshua and Jeromy Barsanti
Stillborn November 21, 1996
Anencephaly
Parents: Randy and DaLana Barsanti
Brothers: Taylor, Collin, Harrison, and Riley



Logan,

Happy first birthday in Heaven. Mommy and Daddy miss you dearly and keep you close to our hearts. We are looking forward to the day when we meet again. Your little brother Landon is expected to arrive in February, and we can't wait to tell him all about you and how special you are. We love you!

Hugs and Kisses,
Mommy and Daddy

Logan James Brewer
December 18-22, 2006, Prematurity
Parents: David and Heather Brewer
Little brother: Landon



Happy 3rd Birthday, Celeste!

Three years ago,
You came into our lives
And touched our hearts with your presence.

Although your life was short,
You have left a legacy
That will never die.

There isn't a day that goes by
That we don't think of you
And wonder what you would have become.

Although we don't hold you in our arms,
You are always in our hearts.
Happy Birthday, Celeste.

Love,
Mommy, Daddy, and Ally

Celeste Kimberly Reid
December 7 - 8, 2004
Neonatal Hemochromatosis
Also remembering Connor Boston Reid
Born to heaven April 27, 2006
Parents: Skip Reid and Andie Boston
Sibling: Allyson Kate



Happy 2nd Birthday, Rylie Grace!

Our precious baby girl,

I can't believe another year has come and gone. I have images in my mind of you running around Heaven with curls in your hair and a big smile on your face. We still miss you so very much, sweet girl. The light you brought into our lives will never grow dim. We think of you each and every day. We pray that God is keeping you safe in His arms until we can hold you again.

I'm sure you already know, but you are a big sister now. On January 25, we were blessed to welcome your little sister Landry Ann into our family. You two would have so much fun playing together. Blake is the best big brother. He is always the first to tell everyone that he has two sisters: one down here and one in heaven. He misses you, too.

Always know that you are cherished in our hearts forever and ever. Have a wonderful second birthday celebrating with Jesus.

Loving you always,
Momma, Daddy, Blake and Landry

Rylie Grace Addison
Stillborn November 21, 2005
Parents: Blaine and Shannon Addison
Siblings: Blake and Landry
Also remembering Baby Addison
Miscarried December 22, 2004

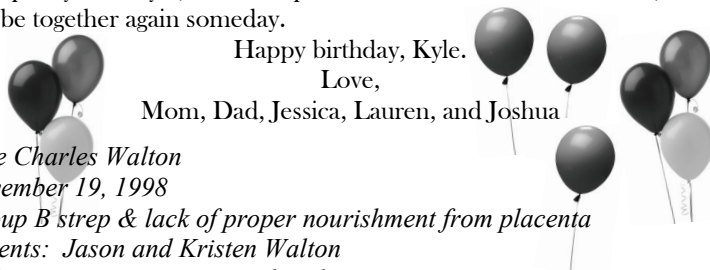


In Memory of Kyle Charles Walton

It has been nine years since you came into our lives and left so quickly and quietly. And yet, we are at peace because families are forever, and we will be together again someday.

Happy birthday, Kyle.
Love,
Mom, Dad, Jessica, Lauren, and Joshua

Kyle Charles Walton
November 19, 1998
Group B strep & lack of proper nourishment from placenta
Parents: Jason and Kristen Walton
Siblings: Jessica, Laura, and Joshua



Remembering my precious Baby Prado

I so waited for the day when I would get to meet you. I was sure that you were going to be absolutely beautiful. Though I am sad that you are gone, I know that you are with the Lord and with all your family there who loves you. Until we meet again, watch over me and know that I love you always!

Your mom, Manuela Prado



Happy 1st Birthday to our sweet Richard Thomas

We love you, son.
Mom and Dad

Richard Thomas Peak
January 18, 2007, Unknown Cause
Parents: Brent and Karin Peak
Siblings: Karianne, Angie, and four more in Heaven



Happy 2nd Birthday Caleb!

We love you and miss you.
Love,
Daddy, Mommy, Faith, Benjamin, and Hope

Caleb Eugene Andersen
January 6, 2006, Cord Accident
Parents: Kevin and Robyn Andersen
Siblings: Faith, Benjamin and Hope



Austyn,

Happy Birthday, Son!

These are the words I long to tell you and the words that I know you will never get to hear. I wish you could have been here to see your older brother try and blow out your candles or watch your sister steal your cake. You would have gotten to see both of them rip into your presents and try to take them for their own. Mostly I wish you were here with us so that we could lift you up and see that smile in your eye and hear that wonderful laugh that I am sure you would have. I long to be able to feel your warm and tender hugs as we tuck you in at night. Son, I know we can't do these things together right now, but just know that we do these with you every night in our sleep. Until we see each other again.

We miss you and love you,
Mommy and Daddy

Austyn Alan Vincent
Stillborn January 11, 2007
Parents: Desmond and Tiffany Vincent
Siblings: Ayden and Kyndal



Forever Loved

Dearest Ethan & Kayin,

This year, Kayin, you turn three and Ethan, you turn two. Time has gone by so quickly. It seems like we just held you yesterday. You both are so special to all of us. Jordan and Austin miss you terribly. Mommy and Daddy do, too. Your baby sister, Davlyn, is our beautiful rainbow baby. We know you both helped Jesus send her to us. Often times we wonder if you two are helping her find trouble! She is such a great combination of all of her siblings. We are blessed to have all of our five children, both heavenly and earthly! Thanks to God, we know we will one day be together again. Happy birthday you two! We celebrate you always!

Forever loving you,
Daddy, Mommy, Austin, Jordan & Davlyn

Kayin Beaty
Miscarried January 15, 2005
Ethan Merrick Beaty
Stillborn January 31, 2006
Unknown cause
Parents: Nate & Melissa Beaty
Siblings: Austin, Jordan and Davlyn



Happy 1st Birthday Jordan, Honey!

Our Chosen Angel! We love you! We thank God for you! We miss you with every fiber of our being! You are Mommy's firstborn, My "Joseph!" My "Lil Tyke!" Daddy's "Little Buddy!" It's so very difficult to accept that you are already in Heaven before us. Our hearts ache so desperately for you. Although we'd much rather you be here with us, we know there is no greater place than Heaven! So, we trust God's plan, endure this temporary separation and continue celebrating all the love that you are! God chose us for a reason! We know God has chosen our purpose! Happy first birthday, Jordan our love! You are the very air I breathe!

We love you, Jordan, honey!
Mommy & Daddy

Jordan Alexander Booker
January 11, 2007, True Knot in Cord
Parents: Norma Jordan and Mark Booker



To our little Kennady Ann on her 1st Birthday

Kindly, God bestowed us with the most precious gift of all, a darling baby girl!

Endlessly, we planned and prepared ourselves for your arrival.

Not knowing what it was like to be parents, all we could do was hope, dream and pray.

Nevertheless, we would be ready no matter what unforeseen challenges were waiting for us,

And then the most startling news that parents-to-be could ever hear, our little girl was gone, in the blink of an eye!

Days, months and years will come and go, and we'll never know why you have gone on before us.

Yesterday's blissful ignorance of our future with you is now stripped away leaving us wondering what happened,

And leaving us empty and incomplete, without you to hold and love.

Now that time has passed, we now know you are in the most amazing, loving place ever imaginable.

Nonetheless, you're our first thought in the morning, and our last thought at night, now and forever until we meet again.

We know you are celebrating your birthday today with our Lord, Jesus Christ, and our family and friends that have gone on before us.

We love you and miss you so much!

Mommy, Daddy, little brother Cooper,
and the dogs (Bailey, Lily and Yogi)

Kennady Ann League

Stillborn January 17, 2007

Unknown Cause

Parents: Jason and Jeanelle League

Little brother: Cooper



Dear Ashley,

Happy birthday, my precious daughter! I can't believe it's been a year. I miss you so much everyday. I hope you get all the hugs and kisses I send you. My time with you was so short, but I want you to know that it was the happiest time in my whole life. I miss your being in my belly and being the little wiggle worm that you were. You are the most amazing part of my life, and you will always be a part of me. You are never forgotten and constantly loved.

Big hugs and kisses,
Mom

My darling sweet baby girl,

The time that you spent in our lives was the most hopeful and wonderful seven and half months I have ever had. I think about you every day and the games that we would play together and the songs that we would sing. There are so many things that we would do. It is almost your first birthday, and you would probably be babbling by now and maybe trying to walk. I miss you so much. I wish I would have heard your voice and seen your beautiful smile and held you close to me for more than just that one day. You are in my heart every day and always. Happy birthday my darling daughter. I love you Ashley.

Daddy

Ashley Nicole Muirhead

Stillborn January 15, 2007

Unknown Cause

Parents: Craig and Daphne Muirhead



Savannah Kate Stanley

Another year has gone by, but you are in our hearts today as much as ever. We love you and think of what life with you would have been like. Until we meet again.

Love,

Mommy, Daddy,
Colton & Danika

Savannah Kate Stanley

January 3, 2004

Prematurity due to Incompetant Cervix

Parents: Calli and Joel Stanley

Siblings: Colton and Danika



To our precious Kyler Paul,

Happy 2nd birthday! We miss you so much. Every day I think about you and wonder what you would look like and wish that we could watch your personality unfold. I imagine you looking a lot like your baby brother Kayden. Each milestone Kayden takes makes me think about you, wishing we could see you playing together with your brothers. We talk about you every day and thank God in our prayers for giving you to us. We can't wait to hold you someday, Kyler. Until then, we will keep your memory alive. Happy Birthday, sweet baby boy.

We love you,

Mommy, Daddy,

Justin, Kinser, Kelson and Kayden

Kyler Paul English

Stillborn January 20, 2006

Cord Accident

Parents: Bob and Laurie English

Brothers: Justin, Kinser, Kelson, and Kayden



Happy 1st Birthday Allison!

"Our Little Angel"

We miss you so much and can't believe a year has gone by already without you in our arms. We think about you every day and wonder what you would be like now. You are in our hearts forever!

We love you,

Mommy and Daddy

Allison Jane Frye

Stillborn January 17, 2007

Twisted Umbilical Cord

Parents: Tim and Kelly Frye

Remembering Baby Frye

Miscarried August 2007



Happy 30th birthday in Heaven, Ann Rebecca!

Happy birthday, twin sister. I miss you!

Love,

Cara

Ann Rebecca Niska

Stillborn February 28, 1978

Parents: Charlie and Eleanor Niska

Twin sister: Cara



Subsequent Births

Shelly and Matthew Kacsmaryk
of Grand Prairie, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Avery Marie
on November 19, 2007,
7 lb., 1 oz., and 19 1/2 inches.
The Kacsmaryks lovingly remember
Tyndale Grace,
stillborn June 18, 2006,
unknown cause.

Aly and Kirk Kirkpatrick
of Fayetteville, Arkansas,
joyfully announce the birth of
Ian Mathias
on December 6, 2007.
He measured 10 lb., 22 inches.
The Kirpatricks lovingly remember
Hope Kirkpatrick,
November 8, 2005,
Amniotic Band Syndrome.

Sean and Vicki Scotney,
along with big sister Hailey Grace,
of Springdale, Arkansas,
joyfully welcome
Luke Hudson.
Luke was born November 13, 2007,
measuring 7 lb., 2 oz., 21 inches.
The Scotneys lovingly remember
Sean Alec,
July 9-11, 2002,
Hydrocephaly and heart defect.

Kent and Karen Baack,
along with sisters Ashlyn Kate, Grace
Elizabeth, Anna Ruth
and Gabrielle Mae
of Corinth, Texas,
lovingly announce the birth of
Josiah Kent
on December 4, 2007.
He measured 7.9 lb., 19 1/2 inches.
The Baacks sweetly remember
Benjamin Kent,
January 10, 2007,
cord accident.

Kevin and Christal Browning,
along with big sister Madison,
of Texarkana, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Spencer Cole,
born December 12, 2007,
measuring 7 lb., 8 oz., 21 inches.
The Brownings lovingly remember
Ava Grace,
March 7, 2006,
severe heart defect.

Jeff and Emily Lovejoy
of Houston, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Benjamin Whit.
Ben was born December 11, 2007,
and weighed 8 lb., 13 oz.
The Lovejoys remember
Scarlett,
stillborn November 24, 2006,
unknown cause.

J. and Shannon Konkle,
along with big sister Caroline,
of Corinth, Texas,
joyfully announce the birth of
Ross Alexander
on December 9, 2007,
measuring 7 lb. and 20.5 inches.
The Konkles lovingly remember
John Robert,
August 11, 2006,
PROM and extreme prematurity.

Jason and Jeanelle League
of Houston, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Cooper,
born December 19, 2007.
He measured 7 lb., 5oz., and 19.5 inches.
The Leagues lovingly remember
Kennady Ann,
stillborn January 17, 2007,
unknown cause.

James and Christie Wingo,
along with big brother Wesley,
of Spring, Texas,
joyfully but with sadness
announce the birth and passing of their son,
Riley Thomas,
born January 3, 2008,
and died one hour after birth
due to Trisomy 18.
He measured 3 lb., 7 oz., and 16 1/2 inches.

Brent and Karin Peak,
along with big sisters Karianne and Angela,
of Owasso, Oklahoma,
joyfully welcome the arrival of
Lucy Joy.
Lucy was born January 18, 2008,
Measuring 5 lb., 12 oz., and 18 inches.
The Peaks lovingly remember
Twin Peak Babies,
miscarried March 17, 2001:
Jason, stillborn June 1, 2003;
Richard, stillborn January 19, 2007;
and Lucy's twin,
miscarried at 10 weeks.

Spencer and Jennifer Wingate,
along with siblings Haley, Emma and Ian,
of Spring, Texas,
sadly announce the passing of
Gabriel,
miscarried on December 3, 2007.
The Wingates lovingly remember
Sara Anne,
born July 2 – 9, 2004,
Pallister Killians Syndrome.

Jason and Cheryl Bush
of Dallas, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Willow Jane,
born January 28, 2008,
weighing 8 lb., 6 oz.
The Bush family lovingly remembers
Emmett Franklin,
stillborn December 4, 2005,
cord accident.

Reggie and Kena Johnson,
along with Lauren, Lindsay and Logan,
of Edwards, California,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Laci Denea,
born January 9, 2008,
weighing 6 lb., 7 oz.
The Johnson family lovingly remembers
Jordan Leigh,
November 11-15, 1996,
CHARGE Syndrome.

Kimberly and Terry Ragon,
along with siblings Heather, Tiffany,
Morgan, Sarah, Joseph, and Lucas,
of North Richland Hills, Texas,
announce the arrival of
Annmarie Grace,
December 31, 2007,
weighing 6 lb., 3 oz.
The Ragons lovingly remember their triplets
Joshua, Jacob, and Jordan,
February 12, 2003,
incompetent cervix.

Erik and Brittani Widman,
along with big sister Zoe,
of Spring, Texas,
sadly announce birth and death of their twins,
Drake and Delaney
January 10, 2008,
stillborn due to loss of amniotic fluid.
Drake measured 1 lb., 13 oz., 14 inches;
Delaney measured 1 lb., 10 oz., 13.5 inches.
The Widmans also remember
Jude-Michael,
stillborn November 10, 2006,
and Baby Gonzalez,
miscarried February 10, 2003.

In Loving Memory



Caleb Eugene Andersen

Stillborn January 6, 2006
Cord Accident
Parents: Kevin and Robyn Andersen
Given by Jim and Erin Shorney

Jordan Alexander Booker

Stillborn January 11, 2007
Cord Accident / True Knot in Cord
Parents: Norma Jordan
& Mark Booker
Separate donations given by
Catherine Davies
TR and JC Turner
Joanna Jadlow
Patricia Riddley
Maureen Jones
Joe and Maria Nolan
Marcia and Dudley Calhoun
Kym McDaniel
Jeralyn Carter
Denise Robison
Ross and Donna Robertson
Tonya Culton
Ashley Davis

Jordan Alexander Booker

Stillborn January 11, 2007
True Knot in Cord
Parents: Norma Jordan
& Mark Booker
Given by mommy Norma Jordan

Wendy Arlene Burnett

September 19, 1963
Given by mom Patricia Daidone

Gift of Support

First Baptist Church of Texarkana

Kaylyn, Cole, and Hannah Busker

December 10, 2004
E-Coli Infection
Given by parents Mike and Kim Busker
and big sister Allison

James Newton Cochran

Stillborn May 18, 2007
Cord Compression
Given by parents Stuart and Sallie Cochran

Abigail Grace Crump

July 1, 2003
Trisomy 18
Given by parents Gerald and Jaimie Crump
and little sisters Cami and Karli

Abigail Grace Crump

July 1, 2003
Trisomy 18
Parents: Gerald and Jaimie Crump
Little sisters: Cami and Karli
Given by Brian and Tara Murray,
John and Sharon Murray,
Mike and Kris Murray,
and Brian and Bridget Malmberg

Abigail Grace Crump

July 1, 2003
Trisomy 18
Parents: Gerald and Jaimie Crump
Little sisters: Cami and Karli
Given by Elizabeth and Benjamin Pickrel

Riley and Parker Davis

November 14, 2006
Prematurity
Given by parents Rob and Cheryl Davis

Kyler Paul English

Stillborn January 20, 2006
Cord Accident
Given by parents Laurie and Bob English
and brothers Justin, Kinser, Kelson, and Kayden

Hallie Anne Fantine

Stillborn September 22, 1997
Cord Accident
Given by parents Laurie and Richard Fantine
and brothers Alex and Brandon

Micah Fibiger

August 29 - 30, 2006
Trisomy 18
Parents: Mary and Brian Fibiger
Sibling: Ainsley
Given by Norm and Nancy Fibiger

James Forner

Stillborn January 5, 2007
Unknown Cause

Baby Forner I

Miscarried May 2007

Baby Forner II

Miscarried June 2007
Parents: Jennifer and T.J. Forner
Given by great-grandparents
Doreen and Jack Peacock

Michael Garabedian, Jr.

Stillborn February 2, 1998
Cord Accident / Velamentous Cord Insertion

Adam Michael Garabedian

Stillborn July 25, 2001
Cord Accident
Parents: Mike and Cindy Garabedian
Sisters: Victoria, Elizabeth, and Catherine
Given by Garabedian Properties

Michael Garabedian, Jr.

Stillborn February 2, 1998
Cord Accident / Velamentous Cord Insertion

Adam Michael Garabedian

Stillborn July 25, 2001
Cord Accident
Parents: Mike and Cindy Garabedian
Sisters: Victoria, Elizabeth, and Catherine
Given by John and Rhonda Grote

Michael Garabedian, Jr.

Stillborn February 2, 1998
Cord Accident / Velamentous Cord Insertion

Adam Michael Garabedian

Stillborn July 25, 2001
Cord Accident
Parents: Mike and Cindy Garabedian
Sisters: Victoria, Elizabeth, and Catherine
Given by Mary Olivetti

Elizabeth Gentry

Stillborn August 24, 2006
Cystic Hygroma & Anasarca

Baby Gentry

Miscarried May 10, 1997

Meghan "Meggie" Elizabeth Gentry

June 3, 2001, Kidney Abnormality
Given by parents Shary and John Gentry
and siblings Alison and Mark

Janelle Marie Gibson

Stillborn November 17, 2006
Possible placental blood clot
Given by parents Scott and Jodie Gibson
and big brothers Will and Andrew

M.E.N.D.

gratefully acknowledges these gifts of love given in memory of a baby, relative, friend, or given by someone just wanting to help. These donations help us to continue M.E.N.D.'s mission by providing this newsletter and other services to bereaved parents free of charge. Please refer to page 2 of this newsletter for more information regarding where to send your donations and what information to include.

Thank you so much!

Thanks to the following sponsors who helped make the M.E.N.D.—Texarkana Christmas candlelight ceremony possible:

Appearances, Atlanta Therapeutic Massage, Beauty Control, Beech Street FBC, Beech Street FBC Children's Ministry, Benita's Blossoms, Card & Party Factory, Christus St. Michael Health & Fitness, Cracker Barrel, Dana Walls Photography, Ellis Pottery, Fan-Fare Gifts & Collectibles, First Baptist Church-Texarkana, Hobby Lobby, Jerry and Melanie Cross, Johnny Carino's, Junior League, Lawyer's Title Agency, Lifeway Christian Stores, McAlister's Deli, Michael's Arts & Crafts, Olive Garden Italian Restaurant, On the Border, Outback Steakhouse, Pace Glass, Ra'Nachel's Custom Jewelry, Red Lobster, Sam's, Starbucks, Sterling Images, Terry's Treasures

Janelle Marie Gibson

Stillborn November 17, 2006
Possible placental blood clot
Parents: Scott and Jodie Gibson
Big brothers: Will and Andrew
Given by grandparents Mama Jan and Ed Provancha

Gift of Support

GoodSearch

Molly Catherine Harper

Stillborn May 11, 2007
Unknown Cause
Parents: Scott and Melanie Harper
Siblings: Oliver and Mitchell
Given by grandparents Pat and Gail Poth, grandparents Morris and Nancy Harper, aunt and uncle Russ and Ruth Harper, aunt and uncle Angela Poth and Jeff Wilson, great-aunt and uncle Neil and Anne Harper and parents Scott and Melanie Harper

James Jackson "Jack" Henvey

July 4, 2001
Tetralogy of fallot

Baby Henvey

Miscarried October 2003
Parents: Renee and Chris Henvey
Siblings: Evan and Luke
Given by grandparents Jim and Sandy Henvey

Adrian James Hernandez

July 14, 2007
Failed Intestines
Parents: Jackie and Fito Hernandez
Given by aunt and uncle Minerva and Rodrigo Guevara

Gift of Support

IBM Charities

Gift of Support

Junior League of Texarkana

Catherine Mary Martin

Stillborn December 15, 2001

Baby Martin I

Miscarried June 14, 2002

Baby Martin II

Miscarried September 2002
Blighted Ovum
Parents: Nancy and Glenn Martin
Siblings: Alexander and Alison
Given by Barron Vending

Two May Babies

Lost due to miscarriage
Given by parents Jennifer and Brandon May

Gift of Support

Metropolitan Baptist Church of Houston, Texas

Madeline Jane Meyer

November 28, 2006 - January 28, 2007
Trisomy 18
Parents Natalie and Dave Meyer
Given by Aunt Dawn, Uncle Kevin, and cousins Julianna, Jared, and Janelle Ripple

Jonathan Daniel Mitchell

Stillborn June 24, 1995
Cord Accident
Baby Mitchell
Miscarried December, 2001
Given by parents Byron and Rebekah Mitchell and big brother Byron, Jr.

Jonathan Daniel Mitchell

Stillborn June 24, 1995
Cord Accident
Baby Mitchell
Miscarried December 2001
Parents: Byron and Rebekah Mitchell
Big brother: Byron, Jr.
Given by grandparents Dennis and Sue Brewer

Timothy "Schuler" Morren II

September 28 - December 23, 1997
Parents: Tim and Pam Morren
Siblings: Ashton, Alexa, and Benjamin
Given by grandmother MaryLynne Riebel

Ashley Nicole Muirhead

Stillborn January 15, 2007
Unknown cause
Given by parents Craig and Daphne Muirhead

Gift of Support

Cara Niska

Carter Patrick Outen

Stillborn November 6, 2000
Unknown Cause

Baby Outen I

Miscarried April 3, 2001

Baby Outen II

Miscarried October 5, 2001
Parents: Chris and Shannon Outen
Sister: Erin
Given by grandmother Patricia Boedecker

Samuel Rakestraw Roach

November 18, 2001
Stillborn due to cord accident
Given by parents Mark and Geniffer Roach and siblings Cameron, Collin, Evan, Caroline & Erin

Alexis Leigh and Nicole Leigh Rudeen

Stillborn March 11, 2002
Unknown Cause
Given by parents Sherri and Randy Rudeen and sisters Julie, Sara, Jordyn Leigh and Sydney Leigh

Christian Allen Scott

June 1, 2005
Bilateral Renal Agenesis

Savannah Scott

Miscarried January 7, 2003
Given by parents Scotty and Mary Scott and siblings Lenny, Will, and Ariel

Rianne Ellisa Scrivner

March 4 - 7, 1997
Severe Hydrocephaly
Parents: Bill and Rae Scrivner
Little sisters: Chanie, Casidy, and Canlie
Given by Pinnacle Mergers & Acquisitions II, LTD

Hannah Grace Sherman

August 12, 2005
Parents: Toni and Randy Sherman
Given by grandparents Narene Pope and Ira Edmondson
Our sympathies are with this family at the loss of Narene Pope on December 19, 2007, after she lovingly made this donation.

Mindy and Maggie Smith

Stillborn November 4, 1997
Twin to Twin Transfusion Syndrome and Polyhydramnios
Given by Parents Scott and Karla Smith and siblings Travis and Julia

David Atkins Stephens

October 23, 2003
Omphalocele
Parents: Rob and Melissa Stephens
Little brother: C.J.
Given by Alissa Barber

Aidan Shaw VanderCruyssen

October 2 - December 3, 2005
Polycystic Kidney Disease
Given by mom Shane VanderCruyssen and little sister Cameron

Michael Walton

September 1, 2002
Given by mom Michele Walton

Melissa Ann Weaver

November 19, 2006
Baby Weaver
February 13, 2007
Given by parents Rebecca and Jeremy Weaver

Gift of Support

West Conroe Baptist Church of Conroe, Texas

Emma Wilcox

July 13 - 18, 2007
Hemorrhage
Given by parents Leah and Jason Wilcox and sibling Raegan



M.E.N.D. Chapter Corner

Chapter Meeting Information

M.E.N.D. - NW Arkansas

Meets the 1st Tuesday from 7:00—8:30 p.m.
Jones Center for Families, Room 206,
922 East Emma Avenue,
Springdale, AR 72765
Director: April Moreton
April@mend.org, (479) 524-3500

Subsequent pregnancy group meets in the same place the 4th Tuesday, 7:00—8:30 p.m., led by Pam Morren (pam@mend.org).

M.E.N.D. - Kansas

Meets the 2nd Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
at Cora Miller Hall/Newman
Division of Nursing, Room 107
1127 Chestnut, Emporia, KS 66801
Director: Stephanie Metzger
Stephanie@mend.org., (620) 343-6357

M.E.N.D. - Houston

Meets the 3rd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
HEALTHSOUTH Houston
Rehabilitation Institute
17506 Red Oak Drive, Houston, TX 77090
Director: Jaimie Crump
Jaimie@mend.org, (281) 374-8528

Subsequent pregnancy group meets in the same place the 1st Thursday, 7:30 p.m., led by Sarah Winebrenner (swinebrenner2004@yahoo.com).

M.E.N.D. - Georgia

Offers peer support through phone and e-mail contact.
Director: Marie Stockdale
Marie@mend.org, (770) 954-1115

M.E.N.D. - Texarkana

Meets 3rd Thursday 7:00 p.m.
CHRISTUS St. Michael Rehab Hospital
2400 St. Michael Drive
Texarkana, TX 75503
Director: Monica Davis
Monica@mend.org, (903) 490-1210

M.E.N.D. - Nacogdoches

Meets the 2nd Thursday at 7:30 p.m.
The Badders Law Firm
4002 North St., Nacogdoches, TX 75961
Director: Lori De La Torre
Lori@mend.org, (936) 569-1739

To find other organizations that offer support groups in your area, visit www.mend.org or call Rebekah at (972) 506-9000.

M.E.N.D. Chapter Updates

NW Arkansas

As 2007 has drawn to a close, I am very grateful for the special year for the Arkansas chapter of M.E.N.D. We embraced new families, welcomed five subsequent babies, hosted a successful fundraising event, and enjoyed our 2nd Annual Christmas Candlelight Ceremony. As I look back on the year, I am incredibly humbled by the fact that those of us in M.E.N.D. have walked a life-altering road and can testify at some point in our journeys that God has sustained us and that His presence in our lives continues to meet our deepest needs. A special thank you to Pam Morren for her faithful friendship, to Aly Kirkpatrick for her diligent support during our fundraiser and Candlelight Ceremony and to Chrissy Peplinski for hosting M.E.N.D.'s Texas Hold'Em Tournament. The year 2007 was definitely a team effort!

April Moreton

Kansas

We finished out the year with a successful fundraiser that was well-attended and turned out to be a great time of fellowship. Thanks again to all who helped with our Bunko night. It has been a blessing to see God at work throughout the year in the lives of the bereaved families of our area. We now look ahead to what God has planned for 2008.

Stephanie Metzger

Houston

Our group held a beautiful Christmas candlelight ceremony in December. It was a special time of sharing and remembering our babies and a touching way to wrap up the year.

As I look back on 2007, I give thanks to the Lord for all he has done in our chapter and ask for His guidance in 2008 as we work to reach out to hurting families with the comfort He has given us. I especially want to thank my Assistant Directors, Brandy Wilson and Sarah Winebrenner for being wonderful Godly women, for being available for any member of our chapter and for everything they do in the light and behind the scenes for M.E.N.D. Houston.

Jaimie Crump

Georgia

The Atlanta chapter continues to minister to hurting families through email and by phone. Though our support group meetings have been postponed for the last year, it is our prayer and desire that God will in the future once again open the door to resume our support group meetings. Please pray about ministry opportunities available through M.E.N.D.-Georgia. If you feel led to apply as a chapter leader or assistant, please email Rebekah@mend.org or Marie@mend.org for more information or call Rebekah Mitchell at 972-506-9000.

Marie Stockdale

Texarkana

We had our first Christmas Ceremony on Monday, December 3, 2007. We were able to minister to over 40 people. A huge thank you to Tania Greer, Jennifer Mills, and Toni Sherman for all of their hard work.

Monica Davis

Nacogdoches

We have officially been ministering to bereaved families of Nacogdoches through M.E.N.D. for over a year now, and it has been a blessed, humbling experience. I thank God for the opportunities he has given us and look forward with anticipation to His plans for us in the coming year.

Lori De La Torre

M.E.N.D. would like to express our gratitude to Macy's and their Shop for a Cause promotion. The event helped raise awareness and funds for M.E.N.D. In addition, Macy's awarded \$1200 to our organization because our charity sold more coupons than any of the other participants. Pictured at the event are Brandee Dill and Melissa Stephens.



"I've had people say 'Oh I lost a baby, I had a miscarriage at eight weeks' and I'm thinking I'm sorry, but it's not the same thing...I never had a miscarriage so I'm not going to demean anybody who feels that way...but I just can't imagine it's the same, and you're right, it's often grouped together...because she was so young I get grouped with that a lot and I say No, No, No...that's why it's important for me and for others to see her picture...Now that you see her, you tell me that's the same as an eight-week miscarriage."

Another explained:

"All of our baby deaths are different...I guess the common link would be...uhm...SIDS – they, they could all relate together; a miscarriage, all together...in situations where it's so rare...it's hard...to connect with that kind of person...I can only imagine what a grieving mother feels about SIDS. Just like that mom...can relate to me but doesn't know what I went through when I felt that explosion in my stomach knowing...I'm going into an emergency situation, waking up to being told she has to be gone...every situation is different."

These excerpts richly inform the basis upon which participants viewed their grief and loss as unique from other forms of grief and loss.

Membership in a Special Subgroup of Parents

Many participants found participation in parent loss support groups to be beneficial; however, even with shared experiences and support from other couples that had experienced a newborn loss, feeling a part of these groups of parents was very difficult. The study parents felt isolated in their grief as was explained by a mother of four previous children with a surviving twin sibling to the daughter born with lethal congenital defects when she stated "I feel sort of isolated" and revealed that she does "not [often] have the opportunity to talk with [other] parents that have had babies on life support and had to remove them." This sentiment was echoed by the mother of a daughter with congenital heart disease who said, "This is not something that you normally hear [from most other parents]...people who have had similar experiences taking them off life support." Whereas none of the parents expressed "regret" over their decision to remove life support, some of the parents commented that they would like the opportunity to discuss "doubts" they occasionally experience regarding some aspect of what was or was not done at the time of the decision-making with others having had to make that same horrific decision.

Brevity of the Infant's Life

Parents repeatedly expressed anger and hurt when family and friends would minimize their loss based on the infant's short length of life.

"The reality that there was a child and a life that came and went was ...seemed to have been lost on a lot of people."

"So those are things...not treating her as if she was a person that was here...is hurtful."

As one parent reported to family members who viewed a loss due to SIDS as a 'real loss' compared to the death of his 25-week daughter at three days of age:

"They said well, there's a difference between [a child that lived] a year compared to three days. No, it is not. I said we had our hopes and dreams shattered right before our eyes. Once you hold a child, regardless of their size, there's a lot of things going through your mind. You're thinking about for their future and all the fun times you're going to share as a family and all that stuff."

These powerful descriptions set the stage for the intense grief experienced by the study participants as they moved forward without having their deceased infants as a physical part of their ongoing worlds. Throughout this study, abstraction of the interviews led to the emergence of the core theory, *The Process of Holding a Place*, which describes the basic social process parents used to carry their deceased infant forward with them in their daily lives. This theory contains three thematic concepts and their sub-themes: 1) facing the decision (no real choice, time with the infant); 2) life goes on (listen to your heart, an abiding loss, not left out); and 3) lives forever changed (new perspectives, preparing to meet again). ♥

If you were a part of this study and would like a copy of Ms. Armentrout's dissertation chapters, please e-mail her at Debra.C.Armetrout@uth.tmc.edu.

M.E.N.D. Support Group Meetings

Join us for a time of sharing experiences.

M.E.N.D. main chapter meetings

are held the 2nd Thursday of every month
from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Daddies group

meets the 2nd Thursday of

March, June, Sept. and Dec., 7:30—9:00 p.m.
A time for dads to meet together and discuss topics relevant to them as fathers. Our moms and dads meet together for introductions before dividing into two groups for discussion.

Food and Fellowship

A time to relax and meet with other M.E.N.D. parents in a social setting
Contact Brittney Fish: Brittney@mend.org

Subsequent pregnancy group

meets the 4th Tuesday from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Led by Suzanne Schramm:

Suzanne@mend.org

For families who are considering becoming pregnant or are currently pregnant after a loss.

Playgroup

For families with children born prior to or subsequent to a loss. Meeting at various locations.
Contact Mary Steen or Brandee Dill for more info: Mary_Steen@hotmail.com
or dillsforchrist@yahoo.com

Mommies AND daddies are both welcome at all M.E.N.D. meetings.

All main chapter support group meetings are held at:

Suggs Law Firm

**1522 W. Airport Freeway, Suite 200
Irving, TX 75062**

(Located on the south side of the highway,
Between MacArthur Boulevard
and Story Road)

For more information, call (972) 506-9000.

Infertility group

Meets the 3rd Monday from 7:30—9:00 p.m.

Led by Melissa Stephens:

Melissa@mend.org

For families experiencing infertility after a loss.

M.E.N.D. Mommies Enduring Neonatal Death
 P.O. Box 1007, Coppell, TX 75019
 USA
 (972) 506-9000
Return Service Requested

Nonprofit Organization U.S. Postage Paid Coppell, TX 75019 Permit No. 139
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"... that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God" (2 Corinthians 1:4)

M.E.N.D. Fundraisers

As a non-profit organization, M.E.N.D. is funded solely by private donations and fundraisers. Any assistance you can give us by participating in any or all of these fundraisers is greatly appreciated.

- **Kroger grocery stores** donate a percentage of all purchases of those shoppers who have and use a Kroger Share Card in Texas and Louisiana back to M.E.N.D. To obtain your Share Card, contact Rebekah (Rebekah@mend.org) and let her know how many you need.
- **Tom Thumb** also has a program in Texas that can benefit M.E.N.D. If you have a Tom Thumb Reward Card, please ask your Tom Thumb cashier to link your card with M.E.N.D. Our number is **6265**. Reward cards can also be used at Randalls and Simon David stores.
- Shannon Outen, a M.E.N.D. member, operates **Oh! For Keepsakes**, which offers photographic keepsakes and quilts. For every order that is placed in which the purchaser mentions M.E.N.D., Shannon will donate \$2 to M.E.N.D. Visit her business at www.ohforkeepsakes.com.
- **Glenn Martin** is looking for M.E.N.D. families willing to grant space for small gumball machines in order to raise funds for M.E.N.D. If you have a retail business or connections to a high traffic location in the Grapevine, Southlake, or metroplex area, Glenn will place, stock, and service the equipment and give M.E.N.D. 35 percent of the proceeds. Glenn can be contacted at (817) 874-5366 or glmartin@attg.net.
- M.E.N.D. can now earn funds through **i.think inc.**, an online marketing research firm. You can help by signing up as a survey panel member and designating us as the recipient of your fee. Just go to the website at <http://www.ithink.inc.com> and choose "Sign up to become an i.think inc. panel member." Fill out the sign-up survey. Under the "Funds for Charity" section, select M.E.N.D. from the list of names.
- **Little Beads & Macaroni & Cheese**, owned by M.E.N.D. member Marilyn Brown, offers custom jewelry. Her keepsake angel bracelets are \$20 each, and ten percent of each angel bracelet sale will be donated to M.E.N.D. Marilyn can be reached at 817/996-1920 or msbrown16@hotmail.com.
- M.E.N.D. member Michelle McHone is a consultant with **Arbonne International**, offering pure Swiss skin care, color, nutrition, and aromatherapy. E-mail her at michellemchone@msn.com to place any order and 35% of the sale will go back to M.E.N.D.
- **IBM** employees may now make charitable donations to M.E.N.D. through automatic payroll deductions. Choose Charity Code 0M562 from the *IBM Employee/Retiree Approved Charity List*.
- **GoodSearch.com** is a search engine that donates half its revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Powered by Yahoo!, it is used like any other search engine. To earn money for M.E.N.D. using Goodsearch.com, go to www.goodsearch.com and designate M.E.N.D. as your charity of choice.
- **Ebay** has a charitable giving program that can benefit M.E.N.D. If you sell items on Ebay and would like to designate a percentage of your revenue to M.E.N.D., visit www.missionfish.org to find out how.