



M. E. N. D.

Mommies Enduring Neonatal Death

## *Teaching Subsequent Children About Their Siblings*

Unfortunately, my husband Byron and I never had the opportunity to introduce our stillborn baby, Jonathan, to a subsequent baby. We did conceive again six years after his death, but our tiny baby was miscarried at 10 weeks. However, if that little one had lived, I am certain we would have told him or her all about having a big brother in heaven.

My twin sister Rachael gave birth to the next baby in our extended family after we lost Jonathan. Mia was born almost exactly two years following his death. I'm not sure how old she was when she was told about her older cousin—it seems she's always known of him. She used to draw pictures of him in the clouds, and at 12 years old, she still participates in getting something special for us on his birthday. To Mia, Jonathan has always been a very real member of our family.

At the same time I was expecting our little baby that was miscarried, my very close friend Stephanie gave birth to my namesake, Rebekah. I excitedly thought my baby and Little Rebekah would be the best of friends. But one month after she was born, I lost my baby. Over the next three years, Stephanie gave birth to two more little girls, Rachel and Ruthie. One day last summer as I was babysitting the girls (then ages 6, 4, and 3), Rachel noticed the portrait I have hanging on a wall in my office. It is a drawing I had commissioned that was copied from an actual photograph of me holding Jonathan, with my husband and son standing next to us. Rachel curiously wanted to know who the baby was in the portrait, so I told her all about Jonathan, and then got out a photo album to show her more pictures. Unlike most four-year-olds who would have barely glanced at the treasured keepsakes, she intently studied every single one and asked numerous questions. I further told her about the baby I miscarried, who would be about Rebekah's age.

I called Stephanie later that afternoon to warn her that Rachel would probably be coming home talking all about "Big Beka's" babies in heaven. And sure enough, she did. She also informed her grandparents and many others. A couple of weeks ago I babysat them again; ten months had passed since our talk about the babies. Out of the blue Rachel crawled into my lap and matter-of-factly said, "You wanted three little boys, but God just let you have one." I couldn't help but laugh and tell her she was exactly right! I then reminded her that my other two babies are in heaven, and that some day she'll get to meet them.

Over the years of directing M.E.N.D., I've noticed most families have no qualms at all telling their subsequent children about the one (or ones) who came before them. Typically this introduction takes place very early in the child's life. However, I've also noticed there are a handful of families who either waited until their subsequent children were much older, or have chosen not to tell them at all. Really, it is a personal choice. However, my recommendation is to tell them as soon as they could remotely comprehend the concept that they have a sibling in heaven.

During our support groups, many have shared how once they lost their baby, they found out that their grandmother, aunt, or even their own mom had experienced a similar loss. Even though the newly bereaved parents discovered a unique camaraderie with these family members, they also have expressed the shock and hurt that they had never before been told of the losses.

I remember being nine years old when one of my older siblings made mention of our mom's two miscarriages. I was furious that I didn't know anything about it and marched right to my mom and demanded to know why she had never told me before. She explained that she never had a reason to tell me but assured me she was not keeping it a secret. She then proceeded to tell me her stories surrounding the losses.

If you are struggling with the issue of whether or not to tell your subsequent children about their older sibling who is in heaven, just know it's a personal choice; there is no right or wrong. However, do keep in mind that it is highly likely your children will discover it eventually. Keeping it from them could create a sense of resentment, anger, and possibly the idea that it was something shameful and therefore, should not ever be discussed. If you want to tell them but are not sure what to say or exactly how and when to have this conversation, I hope by reading the stories of others in this issue, you will get some helpful ideas and the courage to do it. Most importantly, pray the Lord will give you just the right words to say and will create a perfect time.

♥ *Rebekah Mitchell*

*mommy to Jonathan Daniel and Baby Mitchell*

In This Issue: *From the Mouths of Babes* (pg. 2), *UPDATE: Houston Walk* (pg. 2), *Readers' Corner* (pg. 2), *Book Reviews* (pg. 3), *Memories of Michelle* (pg. 7), *Leadership Conference* (pg. 11), *Remembering Aiden* (pg. 12), *Sweet Erika* (pg. 13), *Enseñanza a Los Hijos Subsiguientes sobre Sus Hermanos* (pg. 14), *Walk To Remember T-Shirt Order Form* (pg. 15)

Regular Features: *Birthday Tributes* (pgs. 4-7), *In Loving Memory* (pg. 8-9), *Chapter Corner* (pg. 10), *Meeting Information* (pg. 12), *Subsequent Births* (pg. 13)

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.

For inquiries, subscription requests, deletions, and submissions to the newsletter, contact us at

M.E.N.D.

P.O. Box 1007

Coppell, TX 75019

Phone and Fax: (972) 506-9000

(Please call before faxing)

E-Mail: [rebekah@mend.org](mailto:rebekah@mend.org)

[heather@mend.org](mailto:heather@mend.org)

Donations make the printing and distribution of this newsletter possible. Your tax-deductible contributions are greatly appreciated and should be sent to the address listed above. If your gift is made in memory of a baby, please include that baby's name (if named), date of birth and/or date of death, the parents' names, and the name of the benefactor. You may also include the cause of death (if known).

#### M.E.N.D. Board of Directors

Rebekah Mitchell

Byron Mitchell, D.D.S.

DaLana Barsanti

Christine Oxendine

Brittney Fish

Shannon Outen

Brandee Dill

Marilyn Brown

#### State Coordinators/Chapter Leaders

M.E.N.D.—NW Arkansas: April Moreton

M.E.N.D.—Kansas: Stephanie Metzger

M.E.N.D.—Georgia: Marie Stockdale

M.E.N.D.—Houston: Jaimie Crump

M.E.N.D.—Texarkana: Monica Davis

M.E.N.D.—Hill Country: Larissa Hallford

M.E.N.D.—Tulsa: Michele Wilson

#### Advisory Board

Sharlene Libby, Yvette Grau, Melissa Stephens, Paula Schear, and Liz Walker

#### Medical Advisor

Gonzalo Venegas, M.D.

#### General Counsel

Dennis G. Brewer, Sr.,

Attorney at Law

#### Newsletter

Editor: Heather Fann

Co-Editors: Byron and Rebekah Mitchell

#### Newsletter Volunteers

Sharlene Libby

Suzanne Schramm

Melissa Stephens

Brittney Fish

Sara Elliott

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

FirstCandle

## *From the Mouths of Babes*

It's still a little early to see if Madison understands about her big siblings in heaven. She's only 21 months old, but Caleb would have been six in December, and Baby August would have been five this year. So our first two children were still very much part of our lives before Maddie joined us. We point out Caleb's pictures and have her say his name when she points and says "baby."

I do have some confidence in how we plan to teach her, though. We've had some lessons with our 6-year-old niece and 3-year-old nephew. Hailey was 18 months old when Caleb died. She attended his funeral, but her awareness of him wasn't clarified until I was pregnant with Madison. She'd say things like, "Aunt Heather's going to be a mommy now," and my sister and I would lovingly clarify that I already was a mommy. Curious, she asked how that I could be since I had no baby at home. Thankfully, she attended a Christian preschool, so she had a basic understanding of heaven and Jesus. We'd explain that I had a baby named Caleb who was born very sick and went to live in heaven with Jesus right after he was born. Many times over the course of my pregnancy we'd have little opportunities to share Caleb with Hailey.

It wasn't until one day when I asked her to hold my hand so Grandpa could carry her brother that I realized she really understood. "Sure, you have to be careful with Baby Maddie in your tummy," she said so sweetly. "But she's not your first baby. Caleb was your first baby...Caleb's dead." It was so matter-of-fact that it took my breath away and I wanted to burst out laughing—yes, laughing. What she had said was completely true. Kids are very literal.

Since then she's learned to soften her comments, and when she lists all the grandbabies, she always lists Caleb and Baby August, adding that they're in heaven being rocked to sleep by Jesus. I pray that we can give Madison the same picture of peace and understanding about her siblings.

♥ Heather Fann,

mommy to Caleb Scott and Baby August  
Missouri

## *Readers' Corner*

Rebekah and Heather,

I wanted you both to know I just loved the poem entry written by Terri Billingsley. I think that is my favorite submission ever! What a touching and wonderful story!

♥ Marie Stockdale,

M.E.N.D.—Georgia Chapter Director

## *UPDATE: Houston's Walk To Remember*

Plans continue for M.E.N.D.—Houston's 2009 Walk to Remember on Saturday, October 10, featuring Christian author Nancy Guthrie. Additionally, Guthrie and her husband David will address *Hearing Jesus Speak Into Your Sorrow* on Friday evening October 9 at Metropolitan Baptist Church.

All M.E.N.D. members from other chapters, as well as family and friends, are welcome to attend. Please mark your calendar for this wonderful weekend event. For more information, please email chapter director Jaimie Crump at [jaimie@mend.org](mailto:jaimie@mend.org). To view other works by Nancy Guthrie, visit her website at [www.nancyguthrie.com](http://www.nancyguthrie.com).

## Book Reviews

### *Rain On Me:*

#### Devotions of Hope and Encouragement for Difficult Times

By Holley Gerth  
Summerside Press, 2008

Holley Gerth's latest work, *Rain on Me*, is a place of calm and peace. Written as a devotional to be completed in 40 days, this gem of a book invites the reader to ponder the impact of life's difficult paths. Each entry is beautifully written, pulling examples from literature, culture, and the author's personal experiences. Gerth ends each entry with suggested readings from scripture, a few questions upon which to reflect and a short section to record personal thoughts.

Among the book's many strengths is that the author acknowledges that loss is hard—we often ask why; we want the pain to go away. This is not a book that ignores the hard questions loss brings, but instead embraces each reflectively as a means to greater understanding and ultimately, to hope. The author's musings are not mere intellectual exercises, though you will certainly be challenged intellectually. Her reflections are not an attempt at theological analysis, though you will likely ponder the Almighty God. Instead, her thoughts are deeply personal, highly applicable, and ultimately encouraging for those who need hope for the journey.

Gerth relates to M.E.N.D. families. She, too, has lost a precious baby. Isn't it easier to embrace the thoughts and encouragement from another whom you know has walked the same path? That is exactly what Holley offers: an invitation to ponder the rainy days in a way that points to the Source of hope.

♥ *Review by April Moreton,*

M.E.N.D.—NW Arkansas Chapter Director

### *The One Year Book of Hope*

By Nancy Guthrie  
ISBN: 978-1-4143-0133-4  
Tyndale House Publishers Oct 2005

This one-year daily devotional is for those who are hurting. The hope-filled devotionals help the reader grown closer to the Source of all comfort and offer many opportunities to dig deeper into scripture. There are weekly reflection questions and meditations to help those who are suffering focus on the Giver of all good things. Weekly guided prayers are also offered. Over the next 52 weeks, for ten minutes each day, let this devotional be your companion in your pursuit of God's hope.

♥ *Review by Jaimie Crump,*

M.E.N.D.—Houston Chapter Director

*M.E.N.D. has a complete list of books, Web sites, organizations, and music resources available online at [www.mend.org](http://www.mend.org).*

*If you would like to submit a review of books, music, Web sites or other resources dealing with infant loss, please email them to our newsletter editor Heather Fann at [heather@mend.org](mailto:heather@mend.org).*

### *September/October Topic*

Who am I?—Finding a new identity in grief

Deadline: July 31, 2009

### *November/December Topic*

Holiday Issue

Deadline: September 30, 2009

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.

### **Reprint Policy:**

Articles printed in the M.E.N.D. newsletter are copyrighted by M.E.N.D. and/or by the individual authors of certain articles. Articles may not be reprinted without permission from the editor, Heather Fann, or president, Rebekah Mitchell. The newsletter may be reproduced for the purpose of providing it to pregnancy loss support group members or other bereaved families so that they may also have access to the information. The material may not be reproduced in any way, shape or form for profit. Some authors of articles included in the newsletter may carry their own copyright and their articles may only be reprinted with permission from the author.

**Letters to the Editor** should be sent to [heather@mend.org](mailto:heather@mend.org). All letters submitted to the editor are subject to be published in future issues, both in the print version and online, unless a letter's author expressly requests that it not be published.

Visit our Web site at:  
[www.mend.org](http://www.mend.org)



# Birthday Tributes

## Happy 6<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Matthew!

Dear sweet Matthew,

Can it be six years already? We will never forget that day six years ago when we held you in our arms for the first and last time. You were so perfect and we loved you so much! We miss you so much, and it hurt terribly to say goodbye to you for now. We love you more and more every day. You would be in kindergarten this year, and I miss going on this adventure with you, but I know you're happy in heaven with Jesus!

So we all wish you a happy birthday, Matthew! We think of you every single day and love you forever. We can't wait to see you again!

With all our love,  
Mommy, Daddy, Thomas and Michelle

*Matthew Joel Mifflin*  
*June 6, 2003*  
*True knot cord accident*  
*Parents: Dennis and Janet Mifflin*  
*Siblings: Thomas and Michelle*  
*Also remembering:*  
*Little One*  
*Miscarried February 6, 2006*  
*Lil' rosebud*  
*Miscarried March 10, 2007*



## Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday, Sweet One!

Wow, I cannot believe it's been a year since we were so blessed by your short, but oh-so-precious life. Who would have ever thought we'd get to have a surprise pregnancy? What a joy you were, and still are, in our lives. It pains us that we cannot have you here with us, but your presence in paradise has made the anticipation of eternity there even sweeter for us. Give your siblings some hugs and kisses up there until we can do it ourselves!

We love you, Precious One!  
Mommy, Daddy and C.J.

*Baby Stephens III*  
*June 30, 2008*  
*Tubal Pregnancy*  
*Parents: Rob and Melissa Stephens*  
*Big Brother: C.J. Stephens*  
*Also Remembering:*  
*David Atkins Stephens*  
*Stillborn October 23, 2003*  
*Baby Stephens IV*  
*Miscarried January 2009*



## Happy 9<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Colton!

Happy birthday, our sweet little one.  
Nine balloons filled with love float gently up to heaven.  
Hugs and kisses,  
Grandma Kathy Menough

*Colten Benjamin Ballmer*  
*May 28, 2000*  
*Umbilical cord stenosis*  
*Parents: Jamieson and Regan Ballmer*  
*Little brother: Logan*



## Happy 6<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Abby!

We love and miss you though we know you are perfect and singing beautiful songs to Jesus.  
Love,  
Mommy, Daddy, Cami, and Karli

*Abigail Grace Crump*  
*Stillborn July 1, 2003*  
*Trisomy 18*  
*Parents: Gerald and Jaimie Crump*  
*Little sisters: Cami and Karli*



## Happy 5<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Noah!

I can't believe that you are FIVE!! It feels like only yesterday that I held you in my arms. I bet your fifth birthday in heaven is the greatest, being with our Lord and Savior... and although we miss you, we know in our hearts that God had a bigger plan for you. Until we meet again.

Love Always,  
Mommy, Daddy,  
A.J, Dada, Nick, Abby, Grandma and Popo

*Noah Adam Barron*  
*July 5-July 19, 2004*  
*Hypo-plastic Lung Syndrome*  
*Parents: Clem and Lupe Barron*  
*Siblings: Anthony, Damien,*  
*Naomi, and Nicholas*



## Happy 4<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Emma!

Dearest Emma,

You would have been four this year. It is hard to imagine having a little four-year-old. With time, you would think I would miss you less, but in some ways I miss you more. Because now I don't miss just who you were, but also who you would be now. Keep planning that special celebration for when we join you in heaven.

With Love,  
Mom

*Emma Anne Lein*

*July 14, 2005 - February 22, 2006*

*Heart defects and respiratory issues*

*Parents: John and Miriam Lein*

*Siblings: Elise, Will, and Seth*



## Happy 7<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Michelle!

You will always be a treasured member of our family. Until we meet again...

Love,  
Dad, Mom, Caleb, Audrey, Claire, and Luke

*Michelle Grace Stockdale*

*August 22 - September 16, 2002*

*Ebstein's Anomaly (CHD)*

*Also remembering:*

*Baby Stockdale*

*Miscarried February 2003*

*Parents: Joe and Marie Stockdale*

*Siblings: Caleb, Audrey, Claire, and Luke*



## Happy 5<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Baby August!

It still seems like yesterday when we were surprised to learn about you and see your tiny heartbeat. Then two short weeks later we were saddened to learn that you had returned to heaven.

Our lives would not be the same without you and your big brother Caleb...you two be good!

Hugs and kisses to you, little one!

Love,  
Mommy, Daddy, and Madison

*Baby August Fann*

*Miscarried August 13, 2004*

*Also remembering:*

*Caleb Scott Fann*

*December 1, 2003*

*PROM*

*Parents: Jonathan and Heather Fann*

*Little sister: Madison Grace*



## Happy 12<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Erika!

Your sweetness so fresh on my mind, still I miss you more than ever. We are remembering you throughout these 26 days in a very special way as our memories grow deeper each day...

We love you sweet little one!

## ¡Felice Cumpleaños, Erika!

Tu dulzura todavía fresca en mi mente, aun todavía te extraño más que nunca. ¡Te recordamos durante estos 26 días en una manera muy especial mientras nuestras memorias crecen más profundo cada día... Te adoramos nuestra pequeña dulzura!

*Erika Brienne Grau*

*July 9 - August 3, 1997*

*Anoxic Brain Injury due to VBAC*

*Parents: Ray and Yvette Grau*

*Siblings: NikRyan and Nataly*



## Happy 3<sup>rd</sup> Birthday, Alivia Elizabeth-Grace!

Livi,

We can't believe you will be three. To look back at the things that have happened since you came and went home to be with Jesus is amazing. God has been so good to our family. We wish you were here to share with us the so many different things your little brother, Jaxson, is doing. His favorite word is WOW!!! And all we can say is WOW, how amazing that he is here and we know you are in heaven. We can't wait to see you in heaven, but until then we will enjoy moments like the one when Jaxson walked right up to your stone and touch the memorial poem so gently and smiled. God sends us moments like those just to let us know you are okay and in His kingdom.

We love you and happy birthday!

Love,  
Mommy, Daddy, Jaxson, Jaylyn,  
and "Walker" your doggie

*Alivia Elizabeth-Grace Walker*

*July 24, 2006*

*Incompetent Cervix*

*Parents: Liz and Robert Walker*

*Siblings: Jaxson and Jaylyn*



*Continued on page 6...*

Continued from page 5...

### Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday, Gracey!

Missing you and wishing you a very  
happy first birthday!

Love,  
Mommy, Daddy, Bubba, Emi, and Breanne

*Gracey James Adams*

*August 14, 2008*

*Hydrops*

*Parents: Chad and Cari Adams*

*Siblings: Brad, Emi, and Breanne*



### Happy 3<sup>rd</sup> Birthday, Theo!

Little boy, unknown  
You light our hearts to this day  
Love always, Theo  
- Aunt Farah

Happy birthday darling baby boy.  
We love you and miss you dearly,  
Mommy, Daddy, Ysabel, and the entire family

*Theo Fleurima Shannon*

*Stillborn, August 10, 2006*

*Stroke*

*Parents: Ted and Geri Shannon*

*Sibling: Ysabel*



### Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday, Kyle!

Dear Kyle,

We can't believe it has been a year since you entered the world. Your dad and I love and miss you so very much, but we also know that God's plan is perfect and you couldn't be in a better place than in heaven. I will always remember your kicks and just how active you were. You are thought of daily and talked about often. We hope one day to make you a big brother—but we'll keep you posted on that! In the meantime, just know that we love you, miss you, and look forward to being with you one day.

Loving you always,  
Mom and Dad

*Kyle Bell*

*Stillborn August 2, 2008*

*Severe Preeclampsia and IUGR*

*Parents: Stephanie and Derek Bell*



### Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday, Charlie!

The first year is already here, and we are not wanting for this day to come near. Cause this day was the first and last we had with you here. Many thoughts come to mind on this twelfth day of July. What have we missed? Your first step, first words, first tooth, first tricycle ride, first birthday party, and first taste of birthday cake.

Mom and Dad think of you each day and each night before we go to bed. As we pray that you may come back to us someday, we have realized that you are already here. We see the hope and love that lives on in your big brother's eyes as he talks about you and squeezes his favorite bear, "Charlie." We see the inspiration and hope that drives us to be better parents and better people. We see the miracles that bless our lives and give us reason to believe. Our gift to you this year is simple. A great big "Thank You" for watching over us and guiding us closer to you.

"We held you in our arms for a little while, we now hold you in our hearts forever."

We love you!

Mom, Dad, big brother William,  
and soon to be baby brother Jack

### Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday Charlie, from Nana!

There is not a day that goes by that I don't think you, Charlie.

All the excitement, hope and promise of  
holding him and watching him grow  
was not to be...in this place.

For our family, broken hearts  
that time will heal  
but never forget...in this place.

Through tears, faith, prayer  
and the promise that we will all be reunited  
someday brings me peace...in this place.

Charlie, knowing that you are held in the arms of GG Irene can make me smile...in this place.

With Love,  
Nana Burnett

*Charles "Charlie" Michael Burnett*

*July 12, 2008*

*Premature due to Incompetent Cervix*

*Parents: Michael and Kristen Burnett*

*Siblings: William and soon to be Baby Jack*



## Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday, Lesli!

Precious Angel,

It's been a year since we first kissed your beautiful face. Not a day goes by that we don't think of you and wonder what you would be like. It's very hard without you, but your big sister Laci often reminds us that it's okay because "Jesus is holding Baby Sister Lesli, and that's the best place to be."

It saddens our hearts that we cannot hold you right now, but we do find comfort in knowing that one sweet day Mommy, Daddy and Laci will hold you in heaven for eternity. Until that day, please shine down on us baby girl, and help us get through this difficult time without you. Thinking about you always, loving you always, and missing you every second of every day.

Happy first birthday, baby girl!

Love,

Mommy, Daddy, and big sister Laci

I love you buncha muncha, baby Lesli!

Love,

Laci

*Lesli Michelle Larsen*  
*August 3 - 25, 2008*  
*Trisomy 9 Mosaic Syndrome*  
*Parents: Rick and Kelli Larsen*  
*Sibling: Laci Nicole*



## Happy 1st Birthday, Junior!

There isn't a day that goes by and we don't think about you. It's hard to believe that it has almost been a year since we were able to hold you in our arms. We will be sending you balloons on your birthday...make sure you watch for them!

We love you!  
 Mommy and Daddy

*"Junior" Rutschman*  
*Stillborn August 29, 2008*  
*Cord Accident*  
*Parents: David and Tammy Rutschman*



## Happy 8<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Addie Grace!

I can hardly believe it has been eight years since you were born! Have a party with Jesus today! We love you!

Love,  
 Daddy, Mommy, Colin, and Meg

*Addie Grace Metzger*  
*August 1, 2001*  
*Undiagnosed Vasa Previa*  
*Parents: Philip and Stephanie Metzger*  
*Siblings: Colin and Meg Metzger*



## Memories of Michelle

After our firstborn child, Michelle, died in 2002. Keeping her memory alive has been an easy and natural way of life.

We placed pictures of Michelle around our house within days of her death. A dear friend painted and framed a beautiful picture of Jesus holding our baby, which we hung in a prominent location in our home. Many other family and friends gave us little keepsakes that we added to the decor of our home.

I was quick to make a scrapbook of Michelle's life and death. As each of our four subsequent children have been born, I have added their photos, keepsakes, and scrapbooks to the decor of our home.

By having Michelle's photos up, the children know Michelle is still much loved and just as much a part of our family as each of them. Our children have grown up, always knowing of their big sister Michelle. The keepsakes and pictures have led to their questions, which in turn has led to frequent discussions of her life and death. They especially love hearing how God brought so much joy to our lives once again with each of their births.

Our older two children talk more frequently about Michelle than even my husband and I do. Just the other day a clerk at the mall commented on the size of my family and was rather shocked to see me shopping with four young children. Caleb, my eldest, hearing her remark, looked at me expectantly and asked, "Mommy, aren't you going to tell her you really have five children?"

♥ *Marie Stockdale,*  
*mommy to two babies in heaven*  
*Michelle, August 22-September 16, 2002*  
*and Baby Stockdale, February 2003*  
*and four on earth, Caleb, Audrey, Claire, and Luke*  
 M.E.N.D.—Georgia Chapter Director

## In Loving Memory



### **Jordan Alexander**

February 26, 2009  
Unknown cause  
Given by mommy, Jessie McGuire

### **Brandon Isaiah Alfaro**

October 19, 2007 - February 7, 2008  
Spinal Muscular Atrophy  
Mommy: Jennifer Alfaro  
Given by grandparents  
Tim and Diana Seynaeve

### **Colten Benjamin Ballmer**

May 28, 2000  
Umbilical cord stenosis  
Parents: Jamieson and Regan Ballmer  
Little brother: Logan  
Given by grandparents  
Kathleen and Gilbert Menough

### **Matthew and Mason Bass**

April 10, 2008  
Premature birth 22 weeks gestation  
Given by parents  
Chad Bass and Leah Robilotto-Bass

### **Jackson and Tyler Light**

February 23, 2009  
Placental abruption  
Given by parents Diana and Kirk Light

### **Jordan Alexander Booker**

Stillborn January 11, 2007  
True knot in cord  
Parents: Norma Jordan and Mark Booker  
Given by mommy Norma Jordan

### **Sydney Lynne Brown**

May 18, 2000  
Cord problem and other unknown conditions  
**Ashley MacKenzie Brown**  
Antiphospholipid antibodies  
May 18, 2001  
Given by parents Brian and Marilyn Brown  
and little brother Samuel

### **Abigail Grace Crump**

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

### **Abigail Grace Crump**

Stillborn July 1, 2003  
Trisomy 18  
Parents: Gerald and Jaimie Crump  
Little sisters: Cami and Karli  
Given by grandparents  
Gerald and Ellie Crump

### **Abigail Grace Crump**

Stillborn July 1, 2003  
Trisomy 18  
Parents: Gerald and Jaimie Crump  
Little sisters: Cami and Karli  
Given by great uncle and aunt  
Rick and Wendy Crump

### **Abigail Grace Crump**

Stillborn July 1, 2003  
Trisomy 18  
Parents: Gerald and Jaimie Crump  
Little sisters: Cami and Karli  
Given by grandparents  
Russ and Rosemary Massey

### **Abigail Grace Crump**

Stillborn July 1, 2003  
Trisomy 18  
Parents: Gerald and Jaimie Crump  
Little sisters: Cami and Karli  
Given by uncle and aunt  
Ryan and Amy Massey

### **Abigail Grace Crump**

Stillborn July 1, 2003  
Trisomy 18  
Parents: Gerald and Jaimie Crump  
Little sisters: Cami and Karli  
Given by uncle and aunt  
Chuck and Lori Adam

### **Abigail Grace Crump**

Stillborn July 1, 2003  
Trisomy 18  
Parents: Gerald and Jaimie Crump  
Little sisters: Cami and Karli  
Given by Adam and Jamie Savona

### **Joshua and Caleb Davis**

Stillborn April 14, 2000  
Incompetent cervix  
Parents: Shawn and Monica Davis  
Siblings: Landon and Kylie  
Given by grandparents  
David and Lajuan Fannin,  
and Uncle Pat Fannin

### **Riley and Parker Davis**

November 14, 2006  
Prematurity  
Given by parents Robert and Cheryl Davis  
and little sister Annalise

### **Baby Dill**

Miscarried May, 2002  
**Cooper Graham Dill**  
May 26, 2003  
Twin to twin transfusion / cord accident  
Given by parents Jim and Brandee Dill  
and siblings Avery, Tate, and Paxton  
(Cooper's twin)

### **Brooklynn Rae Doshier**

Given by Colin Muirhead

### **Gracie Renee Dorr**

May 15, 2007  
Prematurity from unknown causes  
**Emma Grace Dorr**  
October 16, 2008  
Incompetent cervix  
Given by parents Dustin and Janine Dorr

### **Kyler Paul English**

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

### **Dylan Carlos and Trystan Macario Estala**

December 11, 2008  
PROM, pre-term labor at 22 weeks  
Given by parents  
Stephanie and Adrian Estala

### **Baby Henderson I**

Miscarried August 2007  
**Baby Henderson II**  
Miscarried March 2008  
Given by parents Leah and Collin Henderson  
and siblings Victoria, Kelly, and Riley

### **Avery Grace Kargel**

July 13, 2006  
Unknown cause  
Given by parents Jason and Heather Kargel  
and brothers Peyton and Reice

#### 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!**



**Joseph Charles Libby**

Stillborn May 26, 1999

Cord accident

Given by parents Wim and Sharlene Libby and siblings Will, John, and Mary Grace

**Scarlett Lovejoy**

Stillborn November 24, 2006

Unknown cause

Given by parents Jeff and Emily Lovejoy and brother Benjamin

**Andrew Mallette**

March 21, 2008

CMV

Given by parents

Michael and Nicole Mallette

**Andrew Mallette**

March 21, 2008

CMV

Parents: Michael and Nicole Mallette

Given by grandma Kathy Rutherford

**Matthew Joel Mifflin**

Stillborn June 6, 2003

True knot in cord

**Little One**

Miscarried February 6, 2006

**Lil' Rosebud**

Miscarried March 10, 2007

Given by parents Dennis and Janet Mifflin and siblings Thomas and Michelle

**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

**Ashley Nicole Muirhead**

Stillborn January 15, 2007

Unknown cause

Given by parents

Daphne and Craig Muirhead

**Gift of Support**

Metropolitan Baptist Church

Houston, Texas

**Baby Murray**

Miscarried August 2007

Given by parents Brian and Tara Murray and siblings Madison, Drew, Tanner, and Cade

**Baby Prado**

Miscarried December 25, 2006

Given by mother Manuela Prado and siblings Noah Xavier and Emme Margarita

**Carter Patrick Outen**

Stillborn November 6, 2000

Unknown cause

**Baby Outen**

Miscarried April 3, 2001

**Baby Outen II**

Miscarried October 14, 2002

Given by parents Chris and Shannon Outen and little sisters Erin and Charlie

**Hannah Grace Sherman**

August 12, 2005

Cystic Hygroma

Given by parents Randy and Toni Sherman and big sister Kaitlin

**Mindy and Maggie Smith**

Stillborn November 4, 1997

Twin-to-twin transfusion syndrome and Polyhydramnios

Given by parents Scott and Karla Smith and little siblings Travis and Julia

**Aidan Shaw VanderCruyssen**

October 2 - December 3, 2005

Polycystic Kidney Disease

Given by mommy Shane VanderCruyssen and little sister Cameron

**Babies VonHeimburg I and II**

Miscarried June and October 2008

Parents: Jed and Julie VonHeimburg

Given by grandparents

Gerald and Ellie Crump

**Babies VonHeimburg I and II**

Miscarried June and October 2008

Parents: Jed and Julie VonHeimburg

Given by great uncle and aunt

Rick and Wendy Crump

**Johnston Walker**

September 12-18, 2006

SIDS

Given by parents Kevin Walker and La Monica Whittaker-Walker

**Baby Wilson I**

Miscarried January, 2007

**Baby Wilson II**

Miscarried June, 2007

Given by parents Doug and Michele Wilson and little brother Gabe

**Elaine Kelly Wilson**

Stillborn February 28, 2000

Unknown cause

Given by parents Bryan and Brandy Wilson and siblings Emma, Evelyn, Ezekiel, Eli, and Everett

**Elaine Kelly Wilson**

Stillborn February 28, 2000

Unknown cause

Parents: Bryan and Brandy Wilson

Siblings: Emma, Evelyn, Ezekiel, Eli, and Everett

Given by Glen Alan Salon

on behalf of aunt and uncle Tonya and Glen Woods

**Elaine Kelly Wilson**

Stillborn February 28, 2000

Unknown cause

Parents: Bryan and Brandy Wilson

Siblings: Emma, Evelyn, Ezekiel, Eli, and Everett

Given by Atlantic Methanol

on behalf of grandparents

Rick and Sharon Dickson

**Shauna Elisabeth Winebrenner**

April 12, 2003

Trisomy 18

Given by parents

Sarah and Tim Winebrenner

and siblings Saul and Ella

**Adrian Joseph "AJ" Zuckerman**

Stillborn March 30, 2007

Cord accident

Parents: Al and Amber Zuckerman

Brothers: Eli and Isaac

Given by Rob and Cheryl Davis

**Adrian Joseph "AJ" Zuckerman**

Stillborn March 30, 2007

Cord accident

Parents: Al and Amber Zuckerman

Brothers: Eli and Isaac

Given by Jeannine Calhoon

**Gift of Support**

Beta Tau Beta Sigma Phi

of Emporia State University/ Emporia, KS

**Gift of Support**

West Conroe Baptist Church

Conroe, Texas



## M.E.N.D. Chapter Corner

### Chapter Meeting Information

#### M.E.N.D. - NW Arkansas

Meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday from 6:30—8:00 p.m.  
Jones Center for Families, Room 206,  
922 East Emma Avenue,  
Springdale, AR 72765  
Director: April Moreton  
april@mend.org, (479) 524-3500

#### 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 bi-monthly  
on the 3rd Thursday at 7:30 p.m.,  
led by Sarah Winebrenner  
(swinebrenner2004@yahoo.com).

**Daddy's group** meets quarterly on the 3rd  
Thursday at 7:30 p.m.,  
led by Tim Winebrenner  
(swinebrenner2004@yahoo.com).

#### M.E.N.D. - Georgia

Offers peer support via phone and email contact.  
Director: Marie Stockdale  
maries@mend.org, (678) 634-3686

#### M.E.N.D. - Texarkana

Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. - Hill Country

Meets the 1st Thursday at 7:00 p.m.  
Gillespie County Historical Society Building  
312 W. San Antonio St.  
Fredericksburg, TX 78624  
Director: Larissa Hallford  
larissa@mend.org, (830) 456-4178

#### M.E.N.D. - Tulsa

Meets the 3rd Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.  
Canyon Crossing  
1651 E Old North Rd.  
Sand Springs, Oklahoma 74063  
Michele Wilson  
michele@mend.org, (918) 694-4325 (HEAL)

## M.E.N.D. Chapter Updates

### *NW Arkansas*

M.E.N.D.—NW Arkansas continues to welcome new members to its chapter. In early June, we hosted a fundraiser for 2009. Many thanks to Pam Morren, Aly Kirkpatrick, Dana Graves, Cindy Compton, and Kaysha Thompson for helping with the event and to those who donated items. I deeply appreciate the M.E.N.D. families who have shared their lives and stories with others and who now help the NW Arkansas chapter.

*April Moreton*

### *Kansas*

M.E.N.D.—Kansas has suffered some tough losses this year and we continue to grow closer as a result. We are asking God to grant those families grace in their journey of grief and myself wisdom to know how best to help them. We continue to desire to serve those hurting families in our area. If you know of parents with losses in need of help, please contact me at [stephanie@mend.org](mailto:stephanie@mend.org).

*Stephanie Metzger*

### *Houston*

M.E.N.D.—Houston had a great time at our 4th Annual Texas Hold'em Fundraiser. We raised more than anticipated and had fun at the same time! Thank you to each of these families for helping out during the tournament, donating prizes and/or playing: Robyn Andersen, Leah and Chad Bass, Diana and Kirk Light, Daphne and Craig Muirhead, Manuela Prado, Kayla Scott, Shane Vander Cruyssen, Emily and Jeff Lovejoy, Tim and Sarah Winebrenner, Bryan and Brandy Wilson, Nicole and Michael Mallette, Byron and Rebekah Mitchell, Gerald and Jaimie Crump.

*Jaimie Crump*

### *Georgia*

The Atlanta chapter continues to minister to hurting families through email and by phone. For more information, email [rebekah@mend.org](mailto:rebekah@mend.org) or [maries@mend.org](mailto:maries@mend.org) or call Rebekah Mitchell at 972-506-9000.

*Marie Stockdale*

### *Texarkana*

M.E.N.D.—Texarkana recently had a fundraiser selling Scentsy products. Thanks to all who supported us! A huge thank you to Amanda Graham for donating her efforts and profits to M.E.N.D. We've also recently started meeting for Food and Fellowship on the first Tuesday of each month at Baker Brothers Restaurant at 6:30. For details email [monica@mend.org](mailto:monica@mend.org).

*Monica Davis*

### *Hill Country*

Last month M.E.N.D.—Hill Country held an ice cream social to give a bit of extra support to the members, most of whom lost their babies in June. We continue to reach out to grieving families in our community and hope to spread the word of M.E.N.D., so that no family feels alone in their grief.

*Larissa Hallford*

### *Tulsa*

M.E.N.D.—Tulsa continues to grow as we minister to families of NE Oklahoma who have lost babies. Planning is underway for a fall Bunco Bash, so please be in prayer that this will be a successful fundraising event. A huge thanks to Laura Bracken for already providing two incredible event prizes!!

*Michele Wilson*

## *Fourth Annual Leadership Conference*

In April more than 50 M.E.N.D. board members, advisory board members, chapter directors, and volunteers gathered in Irving, Texas, for our annual leadership conference. The two-day event offered leadership sessions covering a variety of topics designed to continue to improve the ministry throughout our various chapters. Members discussed legal issues, fundraising, ways to improve the membership experience at events and support group meetings, and ways to improve this newsletter.

Your leadership team gives countless hours to meeting the needs of each chapter. From taking that late night call from a hurting mom or dad, to ensuring that your baby's name is spelled correctly on an ornament at a Walk, these members are dedicated to excellence. Thank you to each member and chapter that was represented at the conference.

If you have any suggestions you wish to offer for your chapter or other aspect of the M.E.N.D. ministry, contact your chapter director or Rebekah Mitchell at [rebekah@mend.org](mailto:rebekah@mend.org).



M.E.N.D.  
*Board of Directors*

*Top to Bottom:*  
Byron Mitchell  
Rebekah Mitchell  
Brandee Dill  
Shannon Outen  
Marilyn Brown  
DaLana Barsanti  
Brittney Fish  
*Not pictured:*  
Christine Oxendine



M.E.N.D.  
*Chapter Directors*

*Top to Bottom:*  
Larissa Hallford (Hill Country)  
April Moreton (NW Arkansas)  
Rebekah Mitchell (Irving, Texas)  
Stephanie Metzger (Kansas)  
Monica Davis (Texarkana)  
Jaimie Crump (Houston)  
*Not pictured:*  
Marie Stockdale (Georgia)

### 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

#### **Daddies group**

meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of March, June, Sept. and Dec., from 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](mailto:brittney@mend.org)

#### **Subsequent pregnancy group**

meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Led by Liz Walker:  
[liz@mend.org](mailto:liz@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 Paula Schear or Brandee Dill for more info: [pkschear@yahoo.com](mailto:pkschear@yahoo.com) or [dillsforchrist@yahoo.com](mailto: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 Paula Schear:  
[pkschear@yahoo.com](mailto:pkschear@yahoo.com)

*For families experiencing infertility after a loss.*

## *Remembering Aiden*

---

“Is this Aiden’s picture?”

I finish straightening up the sheets before I look up.

Sebastian asks again, “Mommy! Is this a picture of Aiden?!”

Fighting the urge to ask him to be just a bit more gentle I answer, “Yes, honey that is Aiden.”

Sebastian studies the photo a bit longer. I wait—either for him to break the frame or ask another question. Neither happens, since Sebastian decides to dive into my freshly made bed, and crush my pillows. Carefully I pick up Aiden’s picture, wipe off the smudge marks and set his picture back down next to those of his brothers.

I wonder what Sebastian sees through his four-year-old eyes. I look again at the tiny photo myself. Aiden’s newborn photo looks nothing like his brothers’ photos. Does Sebastian see the beautiful little boy I see—or a wrinkled little person? Is he a bit frightened? Does he understand? Was I right to leave the photo out? You see, Aiden’s picture is that of a stillborn baby who was born way too soon at 20 weeks.

Like all bereaved mommies, I vowed to never forget my baby—nor let anyone else. His picture is displayed along with stuffed tigers and a scrapbook that chronicle his short life and my journey of grief. Porcelain angels, stuffed bears and cards—all from the hearts of family and friends who tried desperately to ease my hurt—grace our shelves. A tree stands in the yard with a constant blue ribbon in his memory. It is so easy to remember, for we will not forget. But how do you remind someone...who doesn’t remember? Who wasn’t here yet? Having myself lost my father as a toddler, I understood the remoteness of losing someone you didn’t know or remember. So how do you make a memory?

As a parent we try so hard to shelter our children from anything frightening or sad. So how do you present a sibling that is dead? I mean, that is sad, and frightening. Stumped, I thought back to my childhood. Somehow I had always known my father had died. It was a fact. There was never that life-changing “Aha!” moment. I was not frightened that my mother or stepfather would die, nor was I afraid I would die. This is how I wanted Sebastian and later Benjamin to feel. To know, to understand. There would be no pressure for grief that they might not feel, but an acknowledgment that someone was missing. So we talk about Aiden, and sometimes I even cry. We release balloons on Aiden’s birthday and hang a stocking at Christmas, and I pray I know the right balance.

Another morning, and again I hear the scraping of picture frame against nightstand. This time it is Benjamin’s pudgy little hands grasping Aiden’s picture. Our resident pitcher has the frame poised for an overhand shot, giggling at the prospect of frame in flight! Before I can stop him, Sebastian runs in.

“NO!” he screams, “That’s Aiden’s picture—it’s special!”

And with all the finesse of a big brother, he wrestles the picture out of Benjamin’s hand. While Benjamin howls his protest, Sebastian hands me the photo. “Here, mom.”

So maybe I do have it right—or at least Aiden is still a part of our daily life...

♥ *Angelique Sohn,*  
*mommy to Aiden Xavier*  
M.E.N.D.—Dallas

### *Houston Sponsors*

*M.E.N.D.—Houston would like to thank the following sponsors of our 4th Annual Texas Hold’em Tournament:*

- |                                    |                               |                                    |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Dr. and Mrs. Dennis Vaughn       | • George and Rachel Fritz     | • Lady Luck Hair Salon             |
| • Chuck and Lori Adam              | • Brian and Tara Murray       | • Urban Retreat Day Spa            |
| • Dr. and Mrs. Bill Couch          | • Adam and Jamie Savona       | • Longwood Golf Club               |
| • Atlantic Methanol                | • Glen Alan Salon             | • Canongate at The Woodlands       |
| • Avery Kargal Memorial Foundation | • James P. and Susan O'Connor | • Advantage Baseball Batting Cages |
| • Russ and Rosemary Massey         | • Ben and Elizabeth Pickrel   | • Shane Vander Cruyssen            |
| • Brian and Carolyn Benandi        | • Francesca's Collections     | • Plants For All Seasons           |

### *New Giving Opportunity*

For those of you who shop online, please consider registering with iGive.com and make your online purchases through them. There are more than 700 retail stores that participate, and once you register M.E.N.D. as your charity of choice, they will donate a certain percentage of sales to our organization. If you have questions, please contact Rebekah Mitchell at [rebekah@mend.org](mailto:rebekah@mend.org).



## *Subsequent Births*

### **Anthony and Kristin Ries**

of Littleton, Colorado,  
along with big brother Logan,  
joyfully announce the  
arrival of triplets born April 21, 2009.

Hailey Beth  
measured 5 lb., 5 oz.,  
and 18 inches long.

Alexis Faith  
measured 5 lb., 7 oz.,  
and 18 1/2 inches long.

Hunter Anthony  
measured 4 lb., 10 oz.,  
and 18 1/2 inches long.

The Ries family lovingly remembers

Hannah Rachelle,  
February 6-8, 2007,

Hypoplastic Right Heart Syndrome

due to Trisomy 18,  
and Lily Anne,

miscarried June 20, 2008.

### **Daniel and Barrette Williams,**

of Spring, Texas,  
along with big sister Bailey,  
announce the arrival of

Bella Grace,  
born April 9, 2009 (33 weeks),  
measuring 4 lb.,  
and 16 1/2 inches long.

The Williams family  
lovingly remembers

Baylor Wyatt,  
stillborn from an unknown cause,  
July 13, 2008.

### **Jason and Julie Dulin**

of Tulsa, Oklahoma,  
joyfully announce the arrival of  
Mary "Quinn",  
born April 13, 2009,  
measuring 8 lb., 13 oz.

The Dulin family lovingly remembers

Nathan Dulin,  
stillborn June 20, 2007,  
unknown cause.

**Jamie and Jonathan Duck**  
of Marietta, Ohio,  
along with siblings Isaac and Adelaide,  
joyfully announce the arrival of  
Erin McGinley,  
born April 24, 2009,  
measuring 7 lb., 13 oz.,  
and 21 inches long.

The Duck family lovingly remembers  
Isaac Thomas,  
September 8-9, 2006,  
hypoxic ischemic enceph,  
prolonged delivery.

### **Doug and Michele Wilson**

of Owasso, Oklahoma,  
joyfully announce the arrival of  
Gabriel Neihl,  
born December 23, 2008,  
measuring 8 lb., and 22 inches long.

The Wilson family lovingly remembers

Baby Wilson I,  
miscarried January 2007,  
and Baby Wilson II,  
miscarried in June 2007.

### **LaToya and Terry Johnson**

of Houston, Texas,  
joyfully announce the arrival of  
Kendall Alexander,  
born April 17, 2009,  
measuring 5 lb., 12 1/2 oz.,  
and 18 1/2 inches long.

The Johnson family  
lovingly remembers  
Terrance Alexander,  
stillborn April 9, 2008,  
37-week cord accident.

## *Looking Ahead*

*October 3*

- Walk To Remember  
in Irving, TX

*October 9*

- M.E.N.D. - Houston  
Night With Nancy Guthrie

*October 10*

- M.E.N.D. - Houston  
Walk To Remember

*December 8*

- Christmas Ceremony  
in Irving, TX

## *Sweet, Erika*

My second-born child, Erika, was  
born July 9, 1997, and her eternal  
birthday is August 3, 1997.

In October 1999, I had the subse-  
quent birth of my sweet truffle, Na-  
taly. In thinking back, I know I never  
planned exactly how I would tell Na-  
taly about Erika—it just happened.

Since the birth of my first-born,  
NikRyan in 1994, I began singing a  
particular tune each night with his  
name. As soon as I found out I was  
pregnant with Erika, I added her  
name to the tune and kept it in our  
routine even after she died. Likewise,  
as soon as I found out I was expect-  
ing again, I added Nataly's name.  
Before she was even born Nataly  
heard Erika's name daily. This song  
was—and still is—our bedtime song.

Early on, I think Nataly thought  
Erika's pictures around our house  
were of her. Eventually she con-  
nected the name in the song to the  
pictures she was seeing around the  
house and other photos I'd started  
showing her.

From that point on, Erika was part  
of her very early vocabulary. As  
early as she could begin drawing,  
every family picture Nataly would  
draw in her own sweet way would  
always include her brother Nik and a  
middle female child with wings to  
identify her sister in heaven. It's been  
that way ever since.

To this day it's very natural for  
Nataly to speak of Erika, look at pic-  
tures of her, and as time goes on, ask  
more detailed questions about her.

For our family, sharing Erika's life  
and memories with her younger sister  
seemed natural and effortless. Nataly  
adores, loves, and yes, actually  
misses her sister she never met here  
on earth. Although she wishes her  
sister could be here with her, she  
knows that she will meet her one day  
in heaven.

♥ *Yvette Grau,*  
*mommy to Erika,*  
*M.E.N.D.—Dallas*



## *Enseñanza a Los Hijos Subsiguientes sobre Sus Hermanos*

Desafortunadamente, mi marido Byron y yo nunca tuvimos la oportunidad de introducir a nuestro bebé mortinato, Jonathan, a un bebé subsiguiente. Concebimos otra vez seis años después de su muerte, pero nuestro bebé diminuto fue aborto involuntario a las 10 semanas. Sin embargo, si había vivido, estoy segura que nosotros le hubiéramos dicho todo acerca de su hermano mayor en el cielo.

Mi hermana gemela, Rachael, dio a luz al próximo bebé en nuestra familia después de que perdimos Jonathan. Su hija Mia nació casi exactamente dos años después de la muerte de Jonathan. No estoy segura qué edad ella tenía cuando ella fue informada acerca de su primo más grande que falleció —parece como si ella siempre ha tenido conocimiento de él. Ella hacía dibujos de él en las nubes, y teniendo 12 años, todavía toma parte en consiguiéndonos algo especial para celebrar los cumpleaños de Jonathan. A ella, él siempre ha sido un miembro muy verdadero de nuestra familia.

Durante el mismo tiempo que yo esperaba a nuestro último bebé pequeño que fue abortado involuntariamente, mi muy buena amiga Stephanie dio a luz a mi tocaya, Rebekah. Pensé con entusiasmo que Rebekah pequeña y el bebé que llevaba serían mejor amigos. Pero un mes después de que Rebekah pequeña nació, perdí al bebé. Sobre los próximos tres años, Stephanie dio a luz a dos más niñas, Rachel y Ruthie. Un día durante el verano pasado cuide a las niñas (edades 6, 4, y 3), cuando Rachel advirtió el retrato que tengo colocado en una pared en mi oficina. Es un dibujo que había comisionado, que fue copiado de una fotografía verdadera de Jonathan en mis brazos, y mi marido e hijo parados a nuestro lado. Rachel curiosamente quiso saber quién era el bebé en el retrato. Así fue que le dije todo acerca de Jonathan, y entonces saque un álbum para mostrarle más fotografías de Jonathan. En una manera muy especial, ella estudió atentamente cada recuerdo estimado, e hizo numerosas preguntas. Aún, yo le platique más acerca nuestro bebé que aborté involuntariamente, que tendría más o menos la edad de Rebekah. Esa misma tarde le llamé a Stephanie para advertirle que Rachel probablemente hablaría todo acerca de los bebés de “Beka Grande” en el cielo cuando llegara a casa. Tal como lo esperaba, si lo hablo. Ella también le informó a sus abuelos, y a quien sabe cuántos otros. Hace un par de semanas los cuide otra vez— 10 meses habían pasado desde que habíamos hablado de los bebés. De repente, Rachel se me acercó y se sentó sobre mis piernas y me dijo, “usted deseaba a tres chicos pequeños, pero Dios solo le permitió tener uno.” Al oír su comentario, me reí y le dije que ella tenía razón. Le recordé que mis otros dos bebés están en el cielo, y que algún día ella los conocería.

Entre los años de dirigir M.E.N.D., he advertido que la mayoría de las familias no tienen ningún problema en hablar con

sus niños subsiguientes acerca de un (o unos) bebé(s) que vino antes de ellos. Típicamente esta introducción sucede muy temprano en la vida del niño subsiguiente. Sin embargo, también he advertido que algunas familias se esperaron hasta que sus niños subsiguientes fueran mucho más grandes, o han escogido no decirles nada. Realmente, es una elección personal. Pero mi recomendación es de decirles tan pronto como ellos podrían comprender remotamente el concepto que ellos tienen a un hermano/a que ahora está en el cielo. Durante nuestro grupo de apoyo, muchos han compartido que cuándo ellos perdieron a su bebé, se dieron cuenta que la abuela, la tía, o aún su propia mamá había experimentado una pérdida semejante. Aunque los padres nuevamente afligidos descubrieran un compañerismo extraordinario con este miembro de la familia, también han expresado el golpe y dolor que ellos nunca fueron informados de las pérdidas anteriormente.

Me recuerdo tener 9 años cuando uno de mis hermanos más grandes mencionó los dos abortos involuntarios de mamá. Estaba furiosa porque yo no supe nada acerca de ellos. Marche directamente a mi mamá y le exige que me explicara por qué ella nunca me había dicho antes. Ella me explicó que ella nunca tuvo una razón para decirme, pero me aseguró que ella no lo mantenía un secreto, y entonces continuó en platicarme sus historias que rodean las pérdidas. Si usted lucha con el asunto de que si o no decirles a sus niños subsiguientes acerca de su hermano/a más grande que está en el cielo, sean asegurados que es una elección personal; o sea, no hay manera correcta o equivocado. Sin embargo, tengan en mente que es sumamente probable que sus niños lo descubran eventualmente. Manteniéndolo de ellos podría crear un sentido de resentimiento, enojo, y posiblemente la idea que fue algo vergonzoso, y que por lo tanto no debería jamás ser discutido. Si usted desea decirles, pero no está seguro de cómo y cuándo tener esta conversación, yo espero que usted consiguiera algunas ideas útiles y el valor para hacerlo mientras lee estas historias de otros sobre este asunto. Más importante, ore que el Señor le daría las palabras correctas y la oportunidad perfecta.

♥ *Rebekah Mitchell*

*mama de Jonathan Daniel y Bebé Mitchell*

**Walk to Remember T-Shirt Order Form**

*Deadline is August 31 (no exceptions).*

Name:

Address:

City :  State:  Zip:

Phone:  E-mail address:

Monogram: (ex. Celia Jones Remembering Jason Alexander)

Select Quantity Per Size: Adults:  S  M  L  XL  XXL Kids:  XS (2-4)  S (6-8)  M (10-12)  L (14-16)

Check here if you will be picking up your t-shirt:

Check if you would like your t-shirt shipped to you:

**Payment Info:**

Make checks payable to M.E.N.D. Credit Card orders are now accepted:

Type of Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Name on Card:

Credit Card Number:  Expiration: /  Security Code:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Tax rates differ for Dallas and Houston. Prices below **INCLUDE** tax.

**DALLAS Monogrammed:** # of shirts \_\_\_\_\_ x \$17.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

**DALLAS:** # of shirts \_\_\_\_\_ x \$12.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

**HOUSTON Monogrammed:** # of shirts \_\_\_\_\_ x \$16.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

**HOUSTON:** # of shirts \_\_\_\_\_ x \$11.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Postage & Handling (\$3 per order **ONLY** for those orders being shipped) = \_\_\_\_\_

**Total \$** \_\_\_\_\_

*Orders for the Irving, Texas Walk: return to M.E.N.D. P.O. Box 1007, Coppell, TX 75019*

*Orders for the Houston, Texas Walk: return to M.E.N.D. 13121 Louetta Rd., #505, Cypress, TX 77429*

**Walk to Remember Sponsorship Opportunities**

Each October M.E.N.D. hosts a Walk to Remember, which is a ceremony that honors and commemorates our babies. This year M.E.N.D. will host two ceremonies: one in Irving (DFW Metroplex) and one in Houston. The Irving Walk will be held Saturday, October 3 at 2 p.m. at Calvary Church. The Houston Walk will be held October 10 at 3 p.m. at Metropolitan Baptist Church in Houston. Reservations are requested for each.

These events require months of planning, thousands of dollars, and are only made possible by generous donations/sponsors. If you would like to help M.E.N.D. in this way, here's how you can help:

1. A monetary donation. For gifts of \$25 or more, your name will be listed on the back of the program and in the November/December newsletter. Donations can be given by you individually or if you own or work for a business, please consider donating as a corporation. Be sure to put "Walk Sponsorship" in the memo of the check, and to specify which of the two events you wish to support.
2. FOR DALLAS WALK ONLY. Raffle item(s). We have a raffle to offset our expenses. If you work for a company that would be willing to donate something, please consider asking. We request that ALL raffle items be valued at no less than \$25. Items usually include movie tickets, tickets to sports events, airline tickets, hotel gift certificates, restaurant gift certificates, electronics, etc.

To be included in the program, all monies and items must be received **no later than August 31**. For questions or to register for the Dallas Walk, contact Rebekah Mitchell at [rebekah@mend.org](mailto:rebekah@mend.org). To register for the Houston Walk, contact Jaimie Crump at [jaimie@mend.org](mailto:jaimie@mend.org).

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

*“... 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 in Texas and Louisiana who have their Kroger Plus Card linked to M.E.N.D. To link your card, contact Rebekah ([rebekah@mend.org](mailto:rebekah@mend.org)) to obtain the Kroger Customer Letter. You must only present this letter one time to link your card to M.E.N.D.
- **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.
- **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](mailto: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 Web site 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 and Macaroni and 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 [mbsbrown16@hotmail.com](mailto:mbsbrown16@hotmail.com).
- **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](http://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](http://www.missionfish.org) to find out how.
- **Top to Toe Designs**, owned by M.E.N.D. member Heather Klaassen, offers custom hand-painted frames and room décor. She would like to donate 10 percent of purchases made at [www.toptotoedesigns.com](http://www.toptotoedesigns.com) that mentions our charity.
- **Tastefully Simple** consultant Angie Saurer would like to offer 10 percent off purchases to M.E.N.D. members, and then donate 10 percent of purchases to M.E.N.D. Call or email your orders to Angie at (952) 322-1343 or [angelasaurer@yahoo.com](mailto:angelasaurer@yahoo.com). Shop the entertaining, cooking and home décor products online at [www.tastefullysimple.com/web/asaurer](http://www.tastefullysimple.com/web/asaurer).
- **Mary Kay** consultant Trina Echols would like to donate 15 percent of all sales when you mention M.E.N.D. If you live in the Houston area and are interested in a free facial, please call (832) 276-3664 or shop online at [www.marykay.com/trinaechols](http://www.marykay.com/trinaechols).