



M. E. N. D.

Mommies Enduring Neonatal Death

The Holiday Season and Loss

Acknowledging our babies who died during the holidays can be very difficult and emotional. We don't want to leave them out, yet we don't know how far is too far in recognizing a child who is not with us. Fifteen holiday seasons have flown by since we lost our stillborn son, Jonathan, in 1995. I found out I was pregnant with him just before Christmas the previous year and was so excited to think we'd have an extra stocking hanging on the mantle and another set of toys and gifts under the tree the next year. Thinking ahead, after Christmas I purchased four new stockings and stocking hangers so I would be ready to decorate the mantle the following year.

When the holidays rolled around a few months after we lost Jonathan, I was haunted by the thought of what to do with that extra stocking. I dreaded pulling the decorations out of the attic, knowing those brand new cream and gold stockings and angel stocking hangers would jump out at me. Was I supposed to just leave the lone stocking and pretty new hanger in a box by themselves? But once everything was brought down and laid out on the den floor ready to be placed in its appropriate spot, somehow I knew that hanging that fourth stocking up on the mantle, next to the other three, was the right thing to do.

Just before Christmas 2001, six years after losing Jonathan, we miscarried a baby at 10 weeks gestation. Because I still displayed a stocking for Jonathan, I felt I needed one for our other little baby, too. Even though I didn't carry it for very long or know the sex, I felt our youngest baby deserved the same acknowledgement as Jonathan. So the next Christmas my mother-in-law commissioned a lady in her church to make me a tiny gold stocking that was absolutely perfect to represent the tiny baby we had lost. At the time I miscarried Baby Mitchell, I had stopped hanging Jonathan's stocking on the mantle and had begun placing it in the hands of a decorative animated angel instead. Now Baby Mitchell's little stocking is also perfectly placed in the hands of a different decorative angel that is displayed in my home office.

A few years ago I replaced the cream and gold stockings that matched Jonathan's. At first I wasn't sure how I would feel about purchasing a new set of stockings and only buying three, but then I realized that Jonathan and the baby now have their own special stocking that is unique to just them. When people come into our home during the holidays, most don't even notice or realize that these lone stockings are placed in the hands of my angelic decorations. However, on occasion someone does see the subtle commemorations and will sweetly comment on their symbolism.

If, like me, you want to recognize your baby in your home during the holidays, don't be afraid of what others will think or say. It's your house and your child. You can either be as bold about it as I was in the first few years when I placed my stillborn baby's stocking on the mantle along with the others, or you can be a little more private by putting up something like a small ornament on the tree where only you know what it represents. Above all, create special memories that feel right to you and will help you get through the season a little easier.

♥ *Rebekah Mitchell*

mommy to Jonathan Daniel and Baby Mitchell

Nota Español

El artículo de Rebekah Mitchell aparece en cada emisión de nuestro boletín para la audiencia latina.
Para ver el artículo de este mes en español, por favor vea la página número 18.

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

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M.E.N.D. is a member of
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Reader's Corner

Rebekah and Heather,

Heather Fann's article, "Ever Changing, Always Remembering," in the September/October issue reminded me why it is so important to have a newsletter such as M.E.N.D.'s. It is comforting to know I am not the only one fraught with the issues that go along with the loss of a baby. Like Heather, I continue to struggle with whom and when to share the loss of our son Lowell even though it has been five years. There are some moments when I feel like it is my mission to make speaking about infant loss less taboo by sharing our loss, even if it causes the other person to feel uncomfortable. Then there are other times I just want to be seen as "normal" like everyone else, or I am too tired to tell Lowell's precious story with someone I may never see again. The problem is, I feel guilty when I respond "five" to the question, "How many children do you have?" Or I feel guilty when I fail to correct someone who comments on our oldest being our only son. I wonder if my son looks down from heaven and feels disappointed in his mother, taking the easy way out sometimes. I wonder if I will ever feel comfortable in my own shoes with respect to losing a child.

♥ Cheryl Howald,

mother of six, including Lowell in heaven,

Pennsylvania

Thank you for everything that you do for M.E.N.D. I signed up for your newsletter in 2005 after I had my first miscarriage, and it really helped me at that time. We are in the military, so with all of the moves, I somehow got off the mailing list. With time I was able to talk about my miscarriage, but it took a lot of time before I was able to do so without crying. My husband deployed a year later, and when he came home I got pregnant and had my son AJ. He is our miracle baby. I had him overseas. On our way back to the states, I was once again pregnant. I miscarried on my way home from overseas to our new destination. My husband deployed a month later.

So with a young child and my husband gone, I did not have the time to mourn the loss of that baby. Well, I had the time, but not the energy. I was in a new place with not so many friends, and the ones I did have didn't understand. One good friend told me, 'At least you guys are trying.' The comment stabbed me in the heart. I knew her own decision to not have more children was painful for her, so I just let her comment slide by.

My husband returned from his second deployment recently, and once again I was pregnant. I found out today that I miscarried. I thought my pain would be like the last one, that it would just go away. But the last few days I just felt like something was wrong. And sure enough it was.

I just want to thank you for the article you wrote about military families. Yes, we move very often. And although we make good friends here and there, it is hard being away from family when things like this happen. I just realized tonight that because of the deployment, I didn't grieve losing my second child. And now I have to grieve losing my second and third child. I plan on going to a support group because my pain is so great right now. I am so happy to have found your website once again. God bless you and all those that work with you for the wonderful work you do.

♥ Tania Rendon,

mommy to Baby "Peanut," Baby "Button," and Baby Rendon,

Ft. Lewis, Washington

Book Reviews

Choosing To See

By Mary Beth Chapman
ISBN: 978-0800719913

Choosing To See is written by the wife of Christian recording artist Steven Curtis Chapman. In May 2008 they suffered the loss of their daughter, Maria. My first thought when picking up Chapman's book was that she probably would not be able to relate to the grief I went through, because her tragic loss was about her 5-year-old who was accidentally run over by their 17-year-old son. But I wanted to hear their story and how they are doing, because I love Steven's music and even saw him in his first concert after this loss.

Well, I take those thoughts back. This book so relates to what we all have gone through. The love we felt for our little ones, the shock of the loss, the stupid things people say, the pain and suffering, the "why's" that can never be answered, the screams and anger toward God, the "new normal," blogging and journaling—Mary Beth describes all these common experiences. She even quotes the M.E.N.D. scripture from 2 Corinthians in the book. She also talks about the struggles her children have had with the loss and how Mary Beth and Steven are helping them to get through this with counseling.

The main thing is that she understands that we never get over the loss; we only get through it. The only way this happens is walking with our Father, who holds us when we don't think He is there.

I highly recommend this book. It will touch your heart and give you reassurance that God does care and sees every tear that falls. One thing Mary Beth said that will stick with me forever is that the time I had with my child was only a glimmer of the time I will have in eternity.

♥ *Review by Liz Walker,
M.E.N.D.—Dallas*

M.E.N.D. has a complete list of books, Web sites, organizations, and music resources available online at 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.

Fundraising Opportunities... You Can Help!

This year, M.E.N.D. is participating in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) in the Dallas and Houston areas, the Dallas area Texas State Employee Charitable Campaign (SECC), and the Dallas County Charitable Campaign. If you, a family member, or friend work for the federal government, the Texas state government, or Dallas County in any capacity, then you may have a chance to help M.E.N.D. raise some much-needed funds. Ask your employer for more information and make note of our designation codes:

Mommies Enduring Neonatal Death CFC code: 97896

Mommies Enduring Neonatal Death SECC code: 283559



January/February Topic

Subsequent Losses

Deadline: November 30, 2010

March/April Topic

Unplanned and Teenage Losses

Deadline: January 31, 2011

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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Visit our Web site at:
www.mend.org



Birthday Tributes

Happy 5th Birthday, Casey!

Dear Casey,

We miss you sooo much—we have placed our trust in God and know that you are in a better place and that God's will for your life was fulfilled for the short time you were with us. We will never, ever forget you and will see you again one day.

Love always,
Dada, Mama, and Ethan

Casey Rice

Miscarried November 19, 2005

Mommy: Faith Rice

Sibling: Ethan Rice



Happy 3rd Birthday!

Happy Birthday Lil' Fat.

I can't believe this is your third birthday! You are a big boy now! Even though it's been three years, it still seems like it was yesterday. I wish I could hold you in my arms, squeeze you and kiss you all over your beautiful face. Even though my heart still aches for you every day, I was blessed to have you and spend what little time we had together. You are the single most wonderful thing that has happened in my life. Your daddy and I want to wish you a wonderful heavenly birthday! Your Aunt Crystal is with you now, and let her know that we miss and love her, too. Knowing that you two are together makes us happy.

Lots of hugs and kisses from
Mommy, Daddy, Tata, Tia Candy, Nita,
Granny, and the rest of the gang!

Kenneth Bernard Weddington, Jr.

November 7, 2007

Cause: Unknown

Parents:

Louisa Garza and Kenneth Weddington



Happy 1st Birthday, Lauren!

Forever in our hearts.
Love,
Daddy and Mommy

Lauren Samantha Delgado

November 26, 2009

HLHS and CDH

Parents: Laurence and Lisette Delgado

Sibling: Julian Delgado



Happy 1st Birthday Trenton!

In memory of our sweet little angel Trenton. We love you and want you to know how much we miss you!

Mommy, Daddy, Grandma, Grandpa
and the whole family

Trenton Kohl Woody

December 3, 2009—May 30, 2010

Heart defect

Parents: Marissa Martin and Jered Woody



Happy 1st Birthday, Harmonee!

We miss you, lil' princess! It's your first birthday, and I imagined in my mind what you would of worn and all the presents you would have gotten, but today we will be remembering you with flowers and balloons, for this is now your "angelversary!" We love you so much and wish we could turn back the hands of time to kiss you one more time!

Love,
Mommy, Daddy and Bubba!

Harmonee Rayne Wright

September 6, 2009

Hydrocephalus-sleeping

Parents: Kimberly and Anthony Wright

Sibling: Hunter Wright

Also Remembering:

Kamdyn Christopher Johnston

Incompetent cervix—19 weeks

September 2, 2007



Happy 3rd Birthday, Ethan Kane!

Our hearts still ache, and we vividly remember when you were called to heaven on September 5, 2007.

Hugs and kisses from Grandma Norma

Ethan Kane Spurrier

Stillborn September 5, 2007

Cord accident

Parents: Sandra and Bruce Spurrier

Siblings: Thomas and Jakob



Happy 7th Birthday, David!

Precious David,

We can hardly believe you would be turning seven years old this year! What a big boy you would be by now - starting first grade! We miss you every day, sweet boy. We miss seeing you with your little brother and watching you play together. We miss seeing the young man you would be becoming. We miss the hugs and kisses and bedtime stories and homework. Most of all, we thank God that this separation is only temporary. Give your little siblings some love from us, and know how very loved and missed you are today and every day. Happy birthday, big boy!

Always,
Mommy, Daddy and C.J.

David Atkins Stephens

October 23, 2003

MTHFR Gene Mutation

Parents: Rob and Melissa Stephens

Brother: C.J.

Also Remembering:

Baby Stephens I

June 30, 2008

Ectopic pregnancy

Baby Stephens II

January, 2009

MTHFR Gene Mutation

Baby Stephens III

February 15, 2010

Ectopic pregnancy



Happy 1st birthday, our precious love, Kavya!

We have the Danish flag out for you! You gave us the biggest thrill of our lifetime—giving birth to you! Words cannot describe the enormous joy it was to finally meet you. We loved every single second with you, touching and holding you, recognizing your features from ourselves.

Kavya, you made us a family; we feel so blessed. We know you: you are beautiful, energetic, full of fun and tricks, feisty, intelligent, and the friend with the biggest heart. You are always with us. We are looking forward to once again meeting you, our love.

Butterfly kisses and eternal love,
Mommy and Daddy

Kavya M. Kurishinal

December 17-31, 2009

Omphalocele

Parents: Tina Christensen and Pravin Kurishinal

“Sibling” Dog: Appu P. Kurishinal



Happy 2nd Birthday, Odin!

My dear son, you are so missed. I love you and think of you every day.

Love,
Mommy

Odin Jakob Kon

September 10, 2008

Premature

Mommy: Stacy Lauren-Kon



Happy 4th Birthday, Chloe!

I can't believe it has been four years! Where has the time gone? It seems like only yesterday I was holding you in my arms! You are never far from my thoughts, and you are always on my mind, and you are always in my heart! We love you!

Chloe Madison Kring

September 29, 2006

Umbilical blood clot

Parents: Sherri and Greg Kring

Sister: Lily



Happy 3rd Birthday, Hannah Marie!

Dear Hannah,

I can't believe it has been three years since I held you in my arms and said goodbye. It seems like a moment and an eternity all at once. I miss you every day. Not a single day goes by that I don't think of you and wish you were here with me. I wonder what you would be doing right now, what you would be busy playing with, who you would look like. Every butterfly that Sissy and I see reminds us of you. I know your spirit is always nearby. Happy third heavenly birthday my precious angel. I love you and miss you more than you will ever know.

Love,
Mommy, Daddy, Ashley, Zackary, and Jacob

Hannah Marie Tolman

November 13, 2007

Stillborn

Parents: Teresa and Todd Tolman

Siblings: Ashley, Zackary, and Jacob



Happy 2nd Birthday, Danae!

We can't believe it has been two years since you went to be with Jesus. Mommy and Daddy miss you so much and think of you every single day. We tell your little sister about you all the time and wish you were here to play with her. Enjoy your day celebrating with Jesus and the angels. We can't wait to see again one day.

We love you.
Mommy, Daddy and Reese

Danae Elise Russell
November 12, 2008
Cord accident
Parents: John and Morgan Russell
Sister: Reese Danae Russell



Happy 1st Birthday, Madilynn Isabell!

Beautiful girl, we love you so much and can't believe it's been a year since we had to say goodbye. We know you are having the best birthday party ever with Jesus, your Papaw, your Memaw, and your baby cousin Kaylee. We think about you every day, and it breaks our hearts that you are not with us. At the same time we rejoice for you as you are in heaven with Jesus, one of His beautiful angels. We wish we could be with you for your first birthday, but we'll send some birthday balloons up to heaven for you.

Love,
Mommy, Daddy,
your puppy Gizmo and kitty Rufus

Madilynn Isabell
December 3, 2009
Cord accident
Parents: Cherish and Jeremiah Kelley



Happy 2nd Birthday, Trinady!

Trinady,
Happy birthday, Baby Girl! You are turning two, and I can only imagine what your beautiful face looks like in heaven. Alexah and I love and miss you more than words can describe! We will always remember the day we were blessed and you were brought into our lives. You are alive in our hearts and always will be.

Love,
Mommy and Lexah

Trinady Lynn Vance
November 7—December 12, 2008
Medullablastoma
Mother: Shannon Vance
Sister: Alexah Fite



Happy 1st Birthday, James!

Happy first birthday, my love. I cannot even begin to say how much we have missed you these past months. How chubby you would be. That you would be walking and getting into everything. My arms still ache for you. Your daddy misses the walks you would take every evening. Your brothers talk of all of the things they wanted to teach you. I know it will only seem but a moment for you till we meet again, but for me it seems an eternity. I have comfort knowing that you are in the arms of our Lord and that there is no more pain and sorrow for you.

I love you for always.
Happy Birthday "Checker"

James Chester Reiboldt
November 14—December 14, 2009

Pneumothorax
Parents: Michael and Laura Reiboldt
Siblings: Blaine and Nathaniel
Also Remembering:
Baby May
Miscarried May 2008 (9 weeks)
Baby December
Miscarried December 2008 (11 weeks)



Happy 3rd Birthday, Caley!

Happy birthday, our heavenly little girl! We miss you greatly and hope that you are helping our friend's babies in heaven! You are our pride and joy, and we thank Jesus for you.

Love,
Mom and Dad

Caley Brianna Joyce
November 12-26, 2007
NEC
Parents: Jon and Jennifer Joyce



Happy 1st Birthday, Isabella!

We love you and miss you every day. I feel you with me, and I know you're in heaven watching over us, and we can't wait until we see you again. Your little life has changed ours forever.

Isabella Lynne Bailey
December 21, 2009
Cord constriction
Parents: Ashley and Jeremy Bailey
Also Remembering:
Baby Bailey
Miscarried April 22, 2009



Happy 1st Birthday, Jacob!

It has been one year since you gave us the best present—you. We love you so much! Have fun celebrating with Jesus and Great-Grandpa!

XOXO,
Mom, Dad and Ethan

Jacob Grell
November 21—December 1, 2009
NEC, prematurity
Parents: Kate and Geoff Grell
Twin brother: Ethan



Happy 4th Birthday, Logan!

Dear Logan,

Happy fourth birthday in heaven, sweet boy! It's so hard to believe that it has been four years that we last held you. We feel so blessed to be your parents, and we are so thankful for the time we had here on earth with you. Although your life on earth was too short you taught us so much. We love and miss you!

Love,
Mommy, Daddy, and Landon

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



Happy 1st Birthday, Catherine!

Happy first birthday, sweet girl!
We love you and we miss you.

Catherine Simmons
November 15-24, 2010
Spina Bifida
Parents: Josh and Elizabeth Simmons
Siblings: Caleb, Kyle, and Ann Marie



Happy 2nd Birthday, Boys!

We love you.
Love,
Daddy and Mommy

Jadon and Caleb Sparks
December 21, 2008
Premature birth
Parents: Cecil and Brandie Sparks



Happy 6th Birthday, Cole, Kaylyn and Hannah!

Happy sixth birthday to our angels above.
We send our love and kisses galore.
We want to give you so much more.
We hope you are having a big party in heaven today.
You deserve so much to have a special day.
To our son and daughters turning six,
Know you are so dearly missed!

Sending our love to heaven!
Love, Daddy, Mommy, and big sister Ally

Cole, Kaylyn, and Hannah Busker
December 10, 2004
E-coli infection
Parents: Mike and Kim Busker
Big sister: Ally



Happy 4th Birthday, Boys!

Parker Logan and Riley Carter,

Happy fourth birthday, boys! We can't imagine that it's been four years already. Mommy, Daddy, and Annalise all miss you and remember you every day.

Love always,
Mommy, Daddy, and Annalise

Riley and Parker Davis
November 14, 2006
Prematurity
Parents: Robert and Cheryl Davis
Little sister: Annalise



Happy 4th Birthday, Rachel!

Our dearest Rachel,

All our love goes out to you on what would be your fourth birthday. We can't believe you would be four years old! It seems like such a short time ago that you were here with us. We keep imagining how different our home would be with your splashes of pink, pigtails, dolls, and little girl giggles. Our hearts are still broken and we miss you terribly. We can't wait to be with you again someday where we can celebrate your birthdays together as a complete family.

Daddy, Mommy,
and big brothers Jake and Shane

Rachel Stephanie Blaney
December 6, 2006
Blunt force trauma
due to automobile accident
Parents: Sam and Lori Beth
Siblings: Jake and Shane



Happy 4th Birthday, Scarlett!

Scarlett,

It has been four years since we met you, and not a day goes by that you don't cross my mind. Thank you for everything you have brought into my life. I am blessed for the time I had with you.

Love you,
Mom

Scarlett Jean Lovejoy
Stillborn November 24, 2006
Unknown cause
Parents: Jeff and Emily Lovejoy
Little Brother: Ben



Happy 2nd Birthday, Ella Grace!

To our sweet Ella Grace,

Happy second birthday in heaven. Not a day goes by that we do not think of you. We miss you every day and treasure the precious moments we got to spend with you here on earth. We look forward to all the time we will have one day in heaven together. We are so blessed to have your little brother Brody in our lives now, and when he is older we can't wait to tell him what a special girl his older sister was. Be looking for balloons from us on your birthday. We love and miss you so much.

Ella Grace Ketch
December 15-16, 2008
Severe preeclampsia
Parents: Robbie and Celise Ketch
Sibling: Brody Ketch
Also Remembering:
Baby Ketch
Miscarried March 2008



Happy 2nd Birthday, Mackenzie!

"MyKenzie,"

It's hard to believe two years have passed since you were brought into our lives. Though so much has changed in those two years, one thing that will always remain the same is how much we love and miss you each day. Madalynn makes sure the twins know about their big sister. She likes the idea that when they sleep and let out little giggles, it's you who's coming by to tickle their toes! We wish you a happy, happy birthday and a very Merry Christmas!

Mackenzie Hitchcock
December 21, 2008—January 21, 2009
Herpes Simplex One
Parents: Daniel and Stephanie Hitchcock
Siblings: Madalynn, Paisley, and Mason



Happy 9th Birthday, Catherine Mary!

When I see streams of light shining through the clouds from heaven to earth, I think of you. My heart swells with many emotions, and words are never enough to express what I feel. December 15 is an important day in our family. It's the day you were born. It's the day Daddy and I held you. It's the day you went to heaven, and it's the day your family remembers your birthday every year. We send our love to you always and wish you a happy heavenly birthday, our precious angel.

Love,
Mommy, Daddy, Alex and Allison

Catherine Mary Martin
Stillborn: December 15, 2001
Trisomy 18
Parents: Nancy and Glenn Martin
Siblings: Alex and Allison



Happy 5th Birthday, Hope!

Wow—you'd be five years old! One whole hand! It doesn't seem that long ago that we rocked together while I sang your favorite songs at the hospital. I see your little feet every day at work and wish you were here. I bet you're up in heaven with Pop Pop and Grandma, doing all the things the kindergartners at my school are doing.

This year we're having a Hello Kitty cupcake party for you. We'll decorate your magnolia with bows and balloons, too!

We miss you, Grammy's little pink grandbundle.

Love,
Grammy, Teepa, GrandMimi,
Uncle Ryan and Aunt Kasey

Hope Kirkpatrick
November 5-8, 2005
Amniotic Band Syndrome
Parents: Kirk and Aly Kirkpatrick
Siblings: Ian and Janie



Happy 4th Birthday, Baby Prado!

I can't believe it has been four years since you came in and out of my life. It was the joy of my life to carry you, and to see you, and hear your beautiful heart. I know you are with the Lord and playing with all the other baby angels in heaven. Watch over us all, keep us safe, and know that you are so loved!

Baby Prado
Miscarried December 25, 2006
Mommy: Manuela Prado
Siblings: Emmanuelle and Noah Prado



Happy 4th Birthday, Janelle!

We're going to release four balloons for you and listen to the song "How Magnificent You Are," which reminds us of you.

Janelle, your brothers miss you and talk about you. We know you are watching over us in heaven. Your brief time in our lives has allowed us to have completed trust in the Lord.

We love you!

Daddy, Mommy, Will, Andrew and Isaac

Janelle Marie Gibson

Stillborn November 17, 2006

Clot in placenta

Parents: Scott and Jodie Gibson

Siblings: Will, Andrew and Isaac Gibson

Also Remembering:

Gabriel Gibson

October 31, 2007

Ectopic pregnancy



Happy 10th Birthday, Carter!

It is hard to believe ten years have gone by. I can still remember how it felt to hold you, and I miss that so much. So many things I have missed doing with you, but I hold in my heart the knowledge that we will be together again one day.

We love you, Sweetheart!
Happy birthday to our little man!

Love,
Mommy, Daddy, Erin and Charlie

Carter Patrick Outen

Stillborn November 6, 2000

Unknown cause

Parents: Chris and Shannon Outen

Sisters: Erin and Charlie

Also Remembering:

Baby Outen I

April 2001

Baby Outen II

October 2001



Happy 11th Birthday, Ashley Renee!

Love you and miss you,
Mama, Daddy, Laura, and Katherine

Ashley Renee Dedear

October 29—November 1, 1999

Placental abruption and extreme prematurity

Parents: Tim and Cindy Dedear

Siblings: Laura (twin sister) and Katherine



Happy 1st Birthday, Serenity!

Whispering Hope

Soft as the voice of an angel

Breathing a lesson unheard,

Hope with a gentle persuasion

Whispers her comforting word:

Wait till the darkness is over,

Wait till the tempest is done,

Hope for the sunshine tomorrow,

After the shower is gone.

Whispering Hope, oh how welcome thy voice

Making my heart in its sorrow rejoice

-Septimus Winner

Serenity,

Oh, how your daddy and I miss you so much. We never got the chance to cradle you in our arms, but we rejoice in knowing that you are cradled in the arms of Jesus as He holds you in His rocking chair. Please keep sending us the Whispers of Hope that one day our hearts will rejoice again.

Loving you with all our hearts,
Mommy and Daddy

Serenity Harrison

December 3, 2009

Unknown cause

Parents: Curtis and Jennifer Harrison



Happy 5th Birthday, Rylie!

Happy birthday, sweet Baby Girl! I have so many things to tell you and so many hugs and kisses to give you. I can't wait for the day that our time together will never end. We all miss you terribly. Your brother and sister pray for you every day. Landry asks me all the time how much longer it will be until we can visit you in heaven. Oh, if only it were that easy to see you again, even for a moment. Please know how much we miss you, sweet girl, and that we are always thinking of you. You are a precious part of our family, and we love you so very deeply. We will cherish you in our hearts forever and ever. Have a wonderful fifth birthday celebrating with Jesus!

Loving you always,
Momma, Daddy, Blake and Landry

Rylie Grace Addison

November 21, 2005

Stillborn

Parents: Blaine and Shannon Addison

Siblings: Big brother Blake and little sister Landry

Also Remembering:

Baby Addison

Miscarried December 22, 2004



Happy 2nd Birthday, Nicholas!

We love you and miss you so very much. It gives us comfort to know that you are in heaven and we will one day see you again. Thank you for watching over us, especially your little sister Isabella.

With all of our love,
Mommy and Daddy

Nicholas Jan Szajek
December 6, 2008
Unknown cause
Parents: Peter and Nicole Szajek
Little sister: Isabella Sophia Szajek
Also Remembering:
Baby Szajek
Miscarried July 2009



Happy 9th Birthday, Andrew!

Happy ninth birthday in heaven, Sweetheart.
We love you.

Andrew Girard
October 22, 2001
PROM
Parents: Crystal and Josh Girard
Siblings: Dylan, Reese and Emily



Happy 7th Birthday, Caleb!

It's impossible to believe you would have been seven years old this year! God has blessed our family with you, Baby August, and your little sister, Madison Grace, and he continues to bless us as we begin the very long process of adopting your little brother or sister from Colombia.

This year Madison was a flower girl in Uncle Jason's wedding. She walked down the aisle with your cousin Hailey. I missed you so much as I realized that you would have walked down as a ring bearer with your cousin James. Although I don't look for it, I'm so very often reminded when I look at your sister and your cousins that there's a "stair step" missing. You are always loved and always missed, our dear first born.

Love you always,
Mommy, Daddy, and Maddie

Caleb Scott Fann
December 1, 2003
PROM
Parents: Jonathan and Heather Fann
Little Sister: Madison Grace
Also remembering
Baby August
Miscarried August 13, 2004



Happy 7th Birthday, Marissa Joy!

Dear, sweet Marissa Joy,

Oh, how we all wish that we could celebrate with you and watch you blow out seven candles and rip open your birthday presents! I wonder what kind of party you would have liked this year...a princess theme, horses, or maybe just a lot of decorations in purple and pink! This year you would have been able to read all your cards on your own and written your own thank-you notes; what a big girl you would have been! In my heart and mind I still see you as the beautiful, little baby that I held in my arms those seven years ago. How I have missed you so! You now have four little brothers that Mommy, Daddy, Stephen, Season and Ethan can tell about you and show your pictures to. You have been, are now, and always will be so very special to us all. We love you so much and miss you lots! Happy seventh birthday!

Love,
Mommy, Daddy, Stephen, Season, Ethan, Marshall, Clay,
Gavin and Gage

Marissa Joy Jordan (our wished for child)
November 26, 2003
Thanatophoric Dysplasia
Parents: Sean and Sarah Jordan
Siblings: Stephen, Season, Ethan,
Marshall, Clay, Gavin and Gage
Also remembering
Baby Jordan
Miscarried October 8, 1999



Happy 8th Birthday, Brett!

We miss you and love you so much! Mommy wonders if you would have bright blue eyes that sparkle like Bryce's, or dimples and the sweetest smile like Bryer. Your brothers want to send a balloon to you on your birthday, so watch for it. It will be filled with lots of hugs, kisses and love. Enjoy heaven and all of the grandparents and uncles you have there. Until I see you again, know you are always in my heart forever, my sweet little one.

I love you!
Mommy

Brett Anthony Smith
November 8, 2002
Unknown cause
Parents: Tom and Cindy Smith
Siblings: Triplet brothers Bryer and Bryce



Happy 3rd Birthday, Little One!

You were with us such a short time, yet three years have past since you left us. You are missed every day; however, we take comfort knowing you are in heaven.

We love you!

Mommy, Daddy, Rachel and Braden

Baby Bass

Miscarried December 26, 2006

Parents: Travis and Heather Bass

Siblings: Rachel and Braden



Happy 6th Birthday, Cece!

So much time has passed since we held you in our arms.

The memory still seems like yesterday.

You are and will always be a part of our lives,

Each and every day.

Even though it seems we are far apart.

You're only a breath away and always in our hearts.

Celeste Kimberly Reid

Neonatal Hemochromatosis

December 7 – 8, 2004

Parents: Andie Boston and Skip Reid

Little Sister: Allyson

Also remembering

Connor Boston Reid

Trisomy 13

April 27, 2006



Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas, Trinity MarLynn King!

My beautiful Trinity MarLynn,

It's going to be so hard not having you here for the holidays, because this year would have been your first Thanksgiving and Christmas. Your daddy was so excited about keeping the tradition of buying you a red wagon for your first Christmas. I know you are in heaven now, being a big girl. I can see you now just singing and talking to the angels. Trinity you are our first child, and your daddy and I love you so, so much. We will always love you...forever and a day.

Trinity MarLynn King

Stillborn August 10, 2010

Unknown cause

Parents: Marlin and LaVonda King

“Christmas In Heaven”

I see the countless CHRISTMAS TREES around the
world below
with tiny lights like HEAVEN’S STARS
reflecting on the snow.
The sight is so SPECTACULAR
please wipe away that tear
for I am spending CHRISTMAS WITH JESUS CHRIST
this year.

I hear the many CHRISTMAS SONGS
that people hold so dear
but the SOUND OF MUSIC can’t compare with the
CHRISTMAS CHOIR up here.

I have no words to tell you of the JOY their voices bring
for it is beyond description to HEAR THE ANGELS SING.
I know HOW MUCH YOU MISS ME,
I see the pain inside your heart
for I am spending CHRISTMAS WITH JESUS CHRIST
this year.

I can’t tell you of the SPLENDOR or
the PEACE here in this place
Can you just imagine CHRISTMAS WITH OUR SAVIOR
face to face
I’ll ask Him to LIFT YOUR SPIRIT
as I tell Him of your love
so then PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER
as you lift your eyes above.

Please let your HEARTS BE JOYFUL and let your
SPIRIT SING
for I am spending CHRISTMAS IN HEAVEN and I’m
walking WITH THE KING.
~ by Wanda Bencke

Merry Christmas, Jordan, my love!
We love you dearly!
Love,
Mommy and Jazz

Jordan Alexander Booker

January 11, 2007

True knot in cord

Parent: Norma Jordan

Puppy Dog: Jazz

In Loving Memory



Lindsay Clair Alexander

May 24 - 27, 2009

VLCAD

Given by parents Lane and Leslie Alexander and sibling Haley

Brandon Isaiah Alfaro

October 19, 2007– February 7, 2008

Spinal Muscular Atrophy

Gifts given by

Mommy Jennifer Alfaro
and little brother Ethan Noel
Grandparents Diana and Tim Seynaev

Alex Backs

January 11 - October 8, 2000

Drowning

Gifts given by

Parents Tony and Staci Backs
and siblings Autumn, Aidan, and Ashton
Grandparents Karen and Jim Griffin

Carter Bevins

Stillborn September 18, 2005

Lucy Bevins

May 8, 2008

Unknown cause

Given by

Parents Micah and Kimberly Bevins

Caitlyn Marie Boelsma

July 30, 2009

Given by parents Kelly and Carol Boelsma

Jordan Alexander Booker

Stillborn January 11, 2007

True knot in cord

Parents: Norma Jordan and Mark Booker

Gifts given by mommy Norma Jordan

Julianne and Christopher Rompel
Marcia and Dudley Calhoun

Logan James Brewer

December 18 - 22, 2006

Premature

Given by parents Heather and David Brewer and little brother Landon James

Abigail Marie Buddin

April 13 - June 17, 2006

SIDS

Parents: Nathan and Cara Buddin

Siblings: Alexander and Anthony

Also given in memory of

Emily Fields Buddin Honeycutt

Given by Jean Donald

Cole, Kaylynn, and Hannah Busker

December 10, 2004

E-coli infection

Given by parents Mike and Kim Busker

and big sister Allison

Carly Elizabeth Crews

December 20, 2009

Cord accident

Parents: Stacey and James Crews

Brooke Sophia Daily

March 11, 2010

Vasa Previa

Given by parents Jeremy and Lisa Daily

Riley and Parker Davis

November 14, 2006

Prematurity

Given by parents Robert and Cheryl Davis

and little sister Annalise

Abigail Grace Crump

Stillborn July 1, 2003

Trisomy 18

Given by parents Gerald and Jaimie Crump

and little sisters Cami and Karli

Westin Dobbins

Stillborn August 8, 2010

Parents: Randy and Cortney Dobbins

Gifts given by

Roger and Neva Dobbins
Layne and Beverly Ramsey

Kyler Paul English

Stillborn January 20, 2006

Cord accident

Parents: Bob English and Laurie McPike

Gift given by Jon and Laurie McPike

and brothers Kinser, Kelson, and Kayden

Logan Wayne Fish

September 17, 2002

Skeletal Dysplasia

Given by parents David and Brittney Fish

and brothers Landry and Hudson

Mackenzie Noelle Frederickson

Stillborn June 17, 2009

Baby "Skyler" Frederickson

January 2, 2010

Ectopic pregnancy

Given by parents

Mike and Ashley Frederickson

Janelle Marie Gibson

Stillborn November 17, 2006

Clot in placenta

Gabrielle Gibson

Miscarried October 31, 2007

Ectopic pregnancy

Given by parents Scott and Jodie Gibson

and siblings Will, Andrew, and Isaac

Daniel Joseph Goodson

Miscarried July 4, 2005

Baby Taylor Goodson

Miscarried April 6, 2010

Baby Goodson III

Miscarried July 4, 2010

Parents: Phil and Katie Goodson

Given by Grandparents

Randy and Libby Jeffers

Samuel Mark Hintz

Stillborn October 29, 2008

Unknown cause

Baby Hintz

Miscarried February 2010

Unknown cause

Given by parents Greg and Sara Hintz

Taryn Kennedy

December 11, 2008 - January 9, 2009

Congenital heart defect

Given by parents Vi and Steve Kennedy

Given by Bless Her Heart

John Robert Konkle

August 11, 2006

PPROM and extreme prematurity

Given by parents J and Shannon Konkle

and siblings Caroline and Ross

Emma Krymkiewicz

May 5, 2009

Neonatal Hemochromatosis

Baby Girl Krymkiewicz

Miscarried June 13, 2008

Given by parents

Hernan Krymkiewicz and Ana Ayon Lopez

Kavya Marie Kurishingal

December 17 - December 31, 2009

Complications due to Omphalocele

Given by parents

Pravin Kurishingal and Tina Christiansen

Marissa Joy Jordan

November 26, 2003
Thanatophoric Dysplasia

Baby Jordan

Miscarried October 8, 1999
Given by parents Sean and Sarah Jordan
and siblings Stephen, Season, Ethan,
Marshall, Clay, Gavin, and Gage

Joseph Charles Libby

Stillborn May 26, 1999
Cord accident
Given by parents Wim and Sharlene Libby
and siblings Will, John, and Mary Grace

Avery Merae L.

August 2 - 3, 2007
Possible stroke
Parents Neil and Jamie L.
Little sister Halle Merae
Given by Grandparents
Don and Annette L.

Andrew Mallette

March 21, 2008
CMV
Gifts given by
Parents Michael and Nicole Mallette
Grandparents Todd and Kathy Rutherford

Catherine Mary Martin

Stillborn December 15, 2001
Trisomy 18

Baby Martin I

Miscarried June 14, 2002

Baby Martin II

Miscarried September, 2002
Given by parents Glenn and Nancy Martin
and younger siblings Alex and Allison

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

Baby Muirhead

Miscarried October 2005
Given by parents
Craig and Daphne Muirhead
and little sister Brooke Ann

Samuel James Nienhuis

Stillborn October 14, 2006
Factor V Leiden
Given by parents Seth and Marcie Nienhuis
and siblings Landon and Olivia

Braelyn Grace Pinto

October 13, 2009
True knot in cord
Gifts given by
Mommy Kelly Pinto
Grandparents Gerald and Margaret Pinto
Troy and Deena Bevil
Charles and Elizabeth Metrailler

Julian David Rodriguez

April 1, 2007
Premature
Given by mommy Rachael Prado Wall

Emma Routh

April 15—July 16, 2008
Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome
Given by
Parents Sonia Lopez and Brian Routh

Morgan Schear

Miscarried March 28, 2006
Given by parents Nobel and Paula Schear
and big brother Isaac

Theo Fleurima Shannon

Stillborn August 10, 2006
Stroke
Parents: Geri and Ted Shannon
and little sister Ysabel Fleurima
Given by grandmother Arlette Fleurima

Rylan Elizabeth Slate

October 17-October 20, 2008
Cause unknown
Given by parents Daniel and Kristah Slate
and siblings
Camden, Everett, and Anna Claire

Mindy and Maggie Smith

November 4, 1997
TTTS and Polyhydramnios
Parents Scott and Karla Smith
Siblings Travis and Julia
Given by
AT&T Employee Giving Campaign

Ethan Kane Spurrier

Stillborn September 5, 2007
Cord accident
Parents: Sandra and Bruce Spurrier
Siblings: Thomas and Jakob
Given by Grandma Norma Bomar

Savannah Kate Stanley

Stillborn January 3, 2004
Prematurity / incompetent cervix

Baby Stanley

Miscarried November 10, 2004
Given by parents Joel and Calli Stanley
and siblings Colton, Sara, and Danika

David Atkins Stephens

October 23, 2003
MTHFR mutation

Baby Stephens I

June 30, 2008
Ectopic pregnancy

Baby Stephens II

January 2009
MTHFR mutation

Baby Stephens III

February 15, 2010
Ectopic pregnancy
Gifts given by
Parents Rob and Melissa Stephens
and brother C.J.
Zachary and Christina Corbin
Jill and Mark Eddings
Ron and Donna Diermeier
Brian Kozel

Aidan Shaw Vander Cruyssen

October 2 - December 3, 2005
PKD
Given by
Mommy Shane Vander Cruyssen - Meyer
and little sister Cameron

Alivia Elizabeth Grace Walker

Stillborn July 24, 2006
Incompetent cervix
Given by parents Robert and Liz Walker
and little brother Jaxson

Owen Patrick Webb

Stillborn April 30, 2009
Unknown cause
Given by parents Brian and Melissa Webb
and twin sister Sophia Gail

Continued on page 23...

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!



M.E.N.D.

Chapter Meeting Information

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.—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.—Tulsa

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

M.E.N.D.—SW Missouri

Meets the 1st Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
Project H.O.P.E.
1419 S. Enterprise
Springfield, Missouri 65804
Director: Heather Fann
heather@mend.org, (417) 818-0489

M.E.N.D. Chapter Updates

Kansas

M.E.N.D.—Kansas had a great turnout for our Zubma fundraiser. We raised around \$400 and had a great time doing it! A big thank you to Amy Hayden who was our Zumba instructor for the evening. She also brought with her a lot of ladies from her classes. Call me at 620-343-6357 or email stephanie@mend.org for more information about our local chapter.

Stephanie Metzger

Houston

We are looking forward to our Candlelight Christmas Ceremony on December 4 at 7:00 p.m. This is always such a special ceremony that takes place at the beginning of a difficult season that centers around family and children. This ceremony strives to help families remember that their babies were precious gifts to be treasured with joy, not to be remembered in constant sorrow. For more information or to RSVP, please email jaimie@mend.org or call 281-374-8528.

Jaimie Crump

Texarkana

M.E.N.D.—Texarkana will be hosting their 4th Annual Candlelight Ceremony on Saturday, December 4, at 6:30 p.m., in the fellowship hall at Beech Street First Baptist Church. For more information, contact Monica Davis. The multi-family garage sale was a huge success. This would not have been possible without the help of Dawn Kennedy, Tania Greer, Toni Sherman, Melissa Thomas, and First Baptist Church, Nash, for allowing us to use their parking lot.

Monica Davis

Tulsa

M.E.N.D.—Tulsa has been busy the past few months holding a very successful Bunco Bash fundraiser and our first Walk to Remember ceremony on October 16. There are so many people to thank for their help. Nothing could have been accomplished without our advisory board: Sara Hintz, Angi Jackson, Marcie Nienhuis, Erika Huff, Julie Dulin, and Katie Goodson. Thank you for all your hard work and for having a passion for this ministry. A very special thanks goes to Caleb and Louis Hintz for their endless energy in helping to set up for our fundraiser!!

Michele Wilson

SW Missouri

M.E.N.D.—Southwest Missouri is finalizing plans for our first annual Christmas Candlelight Ceremony on Thursday, December 9, at 7:00 p.m., at Elfindale Chapter, 1701 S. Fort Ave., Springfield. We're hoping to have a great turnout and would like to invite the former Northwest Arkansas Chapter to join us. Reservations are requested. Please contact Heather Bass at 417-844-1727 or hrbass5@aol.com to RSVP. For information about our monthly support group meeting or to assist in planning the ceremony, please contact me at heather@mend.org.

Heather Fann

Bryan/College Station

M.E.N.D.—Bryan/College Station is growing and reaching more women than ever! Our information is now given out by both of the large hospitals in our area. God has really been opening doors for us! We are very excited about joining M.E.N.D.—Houston for their Christmas Candlelight Ceremony on December 4. M.E.N.D.—Bryan/ College Station also has a Facebook page now. Please e-mail me at jennie@mend.org for more information.

Jennie Drude

Amarillo

M.E.N.D.—Amarillo continues to visit doctors offices, hospitals, and funeral homes. We have met many great people that are very happy to spread the word of our support group. If you know of any families in the Amarillo, Texas, area, who could benefit from our support group, please give them our information or contact me at becky@mend.org or (806)570-4344.

Becky Anderson

NW Washington—New Chapter Opening

M.E.N.D.—Northwest Washington held our first chapter meeting on October 11, and it was very well attended. We had 23 in all! What a blessing from God as we were praying for just one person to attend! We sadly welcomed ten new families and we were honored to have M.E.N.D. president Rebekah Mitchell and board directors Paula Schear and Brandee Dill in attendance. We are so excited to be starting on this journey and look forward to many more months of meeting together.

Susan Crow

M.E.N.D.—Bryan/College Station

Meets the 2nd Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.
Hawthorn Suites
1010 University Drive East
College Station, Texas 77840
Director: Jennie Drude
jennie@mend.org, (979) 220-7851

M.E.N.D.—Amarillo

Meets the 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.
First United Bank of the Colonies
(Lonestar Room)
One First United Bank Parkway
45th and Soncy
Amarillo, Texas
Director: Becky Anderson
becky@mend.org, (806) 570-4344

M.E.N.D.—NW Washington

Meets the 2nd Monday at 6:30 p.m.
Harrison Medical Center
(Iris Room)
1800 Myhre Rd.
Silverdale, Washington
Director: Susan Crow
susan@mend.org, (360) 516-8617

M.E.N.D. Support Group Meetings in the Dallas Metroplex

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.,
from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

*A time for dads to meet together and
discuss topics relevant to them as fa-
thers. 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 Liz Walker:
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.*

This group is currently inactive, but if
you are interested in reviving it, please
contact Rebekah@mend.org.

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

**All main chapter support group
meetings are held at:
NEW LOCATION JANUARY 2010
Wells Fargo Bank
800 W. Airport Freeway
Irving, TX 75062**
(Located in the Crystals Pizza parking
lot, between MacArthur and O'Connor)
Meetings will be in the bank board room,
located on the first floor.
For more information,
call (972) 506-9000.

Infertility group
*For families experiencing
infertility after a loss.*
This group is currently inactive, but if
you are interested in reviving it, please
contact Rebekah@mend.org.

Thanksgiving: A Day to Be Truly Thankful, Even When It Hurts

I love autumn. I hate autumn. It has been this way ever since 1999, when we experienced the miscarriage of our second child in October, and even more so since 2003 when our fifth child died in November. I have a huge internal conflict over this season of the year.

I really do love fall: the colors, smells, tastes, and the feel of my favorite jeans and sweater. My husband and I have been blessed so far with nine children. Seven of them are with us here on earth, and two are waiting in heaven. Five of those nine births have ended in the fall, three of them the week of Thanksgiving. Our eldest son was born a few days before Thanksgiving, our only surviving daughter was born on Thanksgiving Day, and seven years ago, Marissa Joy was born and died 55 minutes later on the day before Thanksgiving.

Last year on Thanksgiving Day marked six years since Marissa's passing. As the date and day loomed over me, I felt myself getting tense and edgy. How could I pull myself together to celebrate a day set aside for thankfulness when all I could see were my losses? How could I make food for and smile at our family get-together when I just wanted to stay in bed and cry? It all seemed so trivial. Well, I didn't and still don't have the answers to those questions, and I'm sure I will be faced with them again. Yet, for me, for that occasion, God comforted me and showed me that I needed to focus on the gain and not the loss.

I have a wonderfully supportive husband. At the time I had six healthy children, with another on the way. I have great friends and a caring, extended family, a good church, and an AWESOME God! I have 31 weeks of memories of carrying Marissa, our special time together, and I had time after her passing to hold her, kiss her and take pictures. Priceless, indeed.

Marissa lived only 55 minutes, and due to some medical complications with me, I did not get to hold her while she was alive. She had already passed when I came to. I have one little, lucid memory, more like a hazy dream really, of my husband pressing her warm, tiny, life-filled body against my face. That is the memory that I chose to cling to last Thanksgiving Day. Marissa's life, no matter how brief, was my gain...our family's gain. With that in my mind I could truly be thankful, even though it still hurt. Praise the Lord!

Oh, on a final note, I did tear up last Thanksgiving, but not in the way I expected. My dear family made me laugh so hard that tears of joy ran down my face and my then-pregnant belly ached from the laughter! What a blessed day it was when looking back. I will probably always have a love/hate relationship with fall and Thanksgiving, but with God I know that I can get through it and come out all the better.

♥ Sarah Jordan,
mommy to Marissa Joy, November 26, 2003
and Baby Jordan, October 8, 1999
Ohio

Thankful

When the holidays come around, people often ask about things that make you thankful. After losing a baby, sometimes it really is hard to think of a good response to that question. When I think back to my time with Michael, it really does surprise me how much I have to be thankful for. I am so thankful I got to hear his heartbeat and see him move around on a sonogram. I am thankful for all the times I got to feel him move around and kick me. I am thankful that I know that my son definitely had his daddy's personality! I still fondly remember that time my husband came in and said, "Hello ladies" to me and our dog. Michael gave a good, hard kick to let his daddy know that he was NOT a lady! I am even thankful for the morning sickness, leg cramps, and heartburn my son gave me. I am thankful I had the chance to hold Michael in my arms and tell him how much I love him and would miss him. Most of all, I am thankful that my son has taught me the unending love a mother has for her son. Michael, Mama and Daddy love you and miss you so much! We will hold you in heaven!!

♥ Larissa Wheeler,
mommy to Michael Noel
M.E.N.D. —Dallas



Subsequent Births

Tristen and Jessyca Wentling,
of Springfield, Missouri,
along with big brother Jakeb,
joyfully announce the
arrival of
Zekariah Luke,
born August 6, 2010,
measuring 5 lb., 13 oz.,
and 19 inches long.
The Wentlings lovingly remember
Elijah Nicodemus,
August 5, 2009,
Exencephaly.

Sean and Sarah Jordan,
of Columbus Grove, Ohio,
along with siblings Stephen, Season,
Ethan, Marshall, Clay, and Gavin,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Gage Timothy,
born March 2, 2010,
measuring 7 lb., 9 oz.,
and 19 1/2 inches long.
The Jordan family lovingly remembers
Marissa Joy,
November 26, 2003,
Thanatophoric Dysplasia
and Baby Jordan,
miscarried October 8, 1999.

Dustin and Daphne Petrey,
of Fleetwood, North Carolina,
along with big sisters
Ruthie and LeeAnne,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Julee Karen,
born June 9, 2010,
measuring 8 lb., 8 oz.
The Petrey family loving remembers
Daniel Lee,
January 26-28, 2007,
and Baby Petrey,
miscarried at 12 weeks,
September 2007.

Seth and Marcie Nienhuis,
of Tulsa, Oklahoma,
along with big brother Logan,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Olivia Ruth,
Thursday, August 12, 2010,
measuring 7 lb., 15 oz.,
and 21 inches long.
The Nienhuis family lovingly
remembers
Samuel James,
stillborn October 14, 2006,
Factor V Leiden.

Chad and Carie Adams,
of Houston, Texas,
along with siblings
Brad, Emily and Breanne,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Madison Lee,
born August 4, 2010,
measuring 7 lb., 15 oz.,
and 20 1/4 inches long.
The Adams lovingly remember
Gracey,
August 14, 2008,
Hydrops.

Brian and Bonnie Bibeau,
of Houston, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Kyla Allena,
born April 25, 2010,
measuring 7 1/2 lb.,
and 20 1/2 inches long.
The Bibeau family lovingly remembers
Caitlyn,
March 19-20, 2009,
heart failure.

Troy and Nichole Rowan,
of Tomball, Texas,
along with big sister, Lauren,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Faith Michelle,
born September 3, 2010,
measuring 5 lb., 13.5 oz.,
and 19 inches long.
The Rowan family lovingly remembers
Rylie Ranae,
stillborn on October 23, 2009,
unknown cause.

Cory and Heather Wells,
of Waxahachie, Texas,
along with big brother, Dallas,
joyfully announce the arrival of twins
Addison Nevaeh Evalynn
and
Charleigh Isabella Grace,
born September 16, 2010.
Addison measured 6 lb., 11oz.,
and 19 inches long.
Charleigh measured 5 lb., 5oz.,
and 16 3/4 inches long.
The Wells family lovingly remembers
Scarlett Nikole Odessa Wells Snow,
August 4 - September 30, 2008,
Viral Meningitis.

Robert and Carrie Walsingham,
of Bedford, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival twins,
Andrew James
and
Natalie Grace,
born October 4, 2010.
Andrew measured 4 lb., 4 oz.,
and 17 1/4 inches long.
Natalie measured 4 lb., 7 oz.,
and 17 1/2 inches long.
The Walsingham family lovingly
remembers
Ayden Drake,
May 3 - May 22, 2009,
infection.

Sonia Lopez and Brian Routh,
of Tulsa, Oklahoma,
along with big sister Lidia,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Oliver Santiago Routh,
born July 13, 2010,
measuring 6 lb., 10 oz.,
and 19 1/4 inches long.
The Lopez-Routh family lovingly
remembers
Emma Routh,
April 15—July 16, 2008,
congenital heart defect.

Continued on page 19...



Decorando durante los días festivos desde el corazón

Reconociendo a nuestros bebés que murieron durante los días festivos puede ser muy difícil y emocional al mismo tiempo. Nosotros no queremos dejarlos fuera, sin embargo todavía no sabemos cuán lejos es demasiado lejos, es reconocer a un niño que ya no está con nosotros. Quince años de estas celebraciones han pasado desde que nuestro hijo Jonathan nació prematuramente en 1995. Me di cuenta que estaba embarazada de él un año anterior justo antes de Navidad, y yo me emocione tanto al pensar de que tendríamos una bota navideña más colgando de la chimenea y otro conjunto de juguetes y regalos debajo del árbol de navidad para el próximo año. Con este pensamiento en mi mente, después de que paso Navidad fui a comprar cuatro botas navideñas con sus colgadores para estar preparada con la decoración del próximo año.

Cuando la Navidad del siguiente año se acercaba, yo ya había perdido a Jonathan unos meses antes y me perseguían los pensamientos en mi mente deQue voy a hacer con la bota navideña extra que compré? Temía sacar las decoraciones del ático, sabiendo que las botas doradas con beige y los colgadores de angel nuevos que había comprado me aparecerían al no más abrir las cajas..... y pensaba..... se supone que deje esa bota extra con su colgador solos en la caja? Pero cuando todo fue sacado y colocado en el piso de la sala, listo para poner todo en el lugar donde correspondía, de alguna manera yo sabía que colgando esa cuarta bota navideña al lado de las otras tres, era lo correcto por hacer.

Justo antes de la Navidad del 2001, seis años después de haber perdido a Jonathan, tuve un aborto involuntario de mi bebé de 10 semanas de gestación. Como todavía usaba la bota navideña de Jonathan, sentí que necesitaba una bota navideña para nuestro pequeño bebé también. A pesar de que no lo tuve en mi vientre por mucho tiempo y nunca supe el sexo, yo sentí que merecía ser reconocido de la misma manera que Jonathan, así que la siguiente navidad mi suegra le encargó a una señora de la iglesia que me hiciera una pequeña bota navideña en color dorado la cual era totalmente perfecta para representar al pequeño bebé que habíamos perdido. En el momento que perdí al bebé Mitchell, yo ya había dejado de colgar la bota de Jonathan sobre el manto y había empezado a colocarla sobre las manos de un ángel decorativo. Ahora la pequeña bota del bebé Mitchell está perfectamente colocada en las manos de otro ángel decorativo que mantengo en la oficina de mi casa.

Unos años atrás yo reemplacé las botas doradas y beige que eran las que combinaban con la bota de Jonathan. Al principio no estaba segura de cómo me sentiría acerca de comprar un nuevo juego de botas solo de tres, ya que la última vez que redecore había comprado cuatro, pero entonces realicé que Jonathan y el bebé Mitchell tienen sus propias botas navideñas que son únicas y especiales solo para ellos. Cuando las personas entran a nuestro hogar durante las fiestas, no se dan cuenta de estas botas colocadas en las manos de nuestros ángeles decorativos, pero ocasionalmente alguien si nota la sutil conmemoración y luego comentan dulcemente sobre su simbolismo.

Si usted es como yo y quiere reconocer o representar a su bebé en la casa durante los días festivos, no tenga miedo de lo que las otras personas puedan pensar o decir, ya que es su casa y es su hijo, usted puede ser fuerte y defender su idea, así como yo cuando coloqué la bota de Jonathan mi hijo fallecido al lado de las otras tres, o puede hacerlo de una forma más privada colocando un pequeño ornamento en el árbol de navidad donde solo usted sabrá lo que representa. Sobre todo se trata de crear recuerdos especiales que sienta correctos para usted y que la ayudaran a atravesar de una manera más fácil estas temporadas.

♥ *Rebekah Mitchell*

mama de Jonathan Daniel y Bebé Mitchell

Continued from page 17...

Anthony and Alicia Bean,
of Houston, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Isaiah Anthony,
born July 6, 2010, at 29 weeks
and came home from the hospital on
September 8, 2010.
The Bean family lovingly remembers
Ashlyn Kailey,
December 1, 2008,
HELLP Syndrome.

Derek and Stephanie Bell,
of Katy, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Kenadie Lauren,
born June 23, 2010,
measuring 4 lb., .6 oz.,
and 16.4 inches long.
The Bell family lovingly remembers
Kyle,
August 2, 2008,
severe preeclampsia,
and Baby Bell,
miscarried September 2009.

James and Kimberly Downing,
of North Richland Hills, Texas,
joyfully announce the adoption of
Levi James,
born September 2, 2010,
weighing 8 lb., 5 oz.
The Downing family lovingly
remembers
Eden Grace,
Stillborn September 21, 2009,
preterm labor/incompetent cervix.

Bill and Dena Hauser,
of Ellwood City, Pennsylvania,
along with big sister Valerie Rose,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Trisha Marie,
born September 14, 2010,
measuring 7 lb., 7 oz.,
and 19 1/2 inches long.
The Hauser family lovingly remembers
Twin Baby Hausers,
miscarried June 28, 2008,
and Baby Hauser,
miscarried June 9, 2009.

Marshall Levit and Abigail Neiman,
of Houston, Texas,
joyfully announce
the arrival and adoption of
Hannah Judith,
born September 22, 2010,
weighing 8 lb., 3 oz.
The Neiman-Levit family lovingly
remembers
Chaim Rafael Neiman-Levit,
August 3-5, 2009,
preterm birth.

Andre and Erica Lewis,
of Plano, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Nathan Alexander,
born October 4, 2010,
weighing 8 lb., 5 oz.
The Lewis family lovingly remembers
twins
Aiden and Cameron,
January 1, 2009,
incompetent cervix.

Bill and Cheryl Darnell,
of Colorado Springs, Colorado,
along with siblings Avery and Nathan,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Jared Wesley,
born September 30, 2010,
measuring 8 lb., 7 oz.,
and 21 inches long.
The Darnell family lovingly
remembers
William Thomas "Billy" Darnell,
November 1, 2007—March 29, 2008,
SIDS.

Tulsa Sponsors

*Special thanks to the generous contributors
who helped make M.E.N.D.—Tulsa's 2nd
Bunco Bash fundraiser a success:*

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of Hideaway Pizza in Broken Arrow
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Walks To Remember Across the Country



DALLAS, TEXAS: On October 2 we held our 14th annual Walk to Remember at Calvary Church in Irving, Texas. It was an absolutely beautiful day as more than 600 people attended to recognize 220 babies. Lisa Young, wife of Ed Young of Fellowship Church, was our guest speaker. Lisa encouraged us to create something positive from our pain.

Dallas was not the only chapter hosting a M.E.N.D. Walk to Remember this year. Our Houston chapter, led by Jaimie Crump, hosted their Walk to Remember also on October 2 and had a record number of people in attendance.

Our Tulsa chapter, led by Michele Wilson, hosted their first Walk on October 16. I was privileged to speak at their Walk as more than 100 of us remembered more than 40 babies.



Rebekah Mitchell,

M.E.N.D.—*Founder and President*



M.E.N.D.—**Dallas: Top:** More than 600 release balloons to 220 babies at Calvary Church.

Left: Attendees heard from guest speaker Lisa Young discuss finding a positive in your pain.

Right: Robert, Liz and Jaxson Walker hang their angel ornament, remembering Alivia-Elizabeth Grace, July 24, 2006, due to incompetent cervix. (Photos by Brittney Fish)

HOUSTON, TEXAS: What a beautiful fall day for our 5th Annual Walk to Remember. We had more than 500 people, representing 108 babies. Jenny Hander, author of *A Place of Peace*, had such a wonderful message to give us about putting our faith in the Solid Rock, which is Christ. We will post her notes as well as a slideshow of the Walk on our web site, www.mendhouston.com.

I want to thank several people whose help made the event possible. First, thanks to all of the husbands and mothers who looked after our kids and went without us for a Saturday. Without them, none of you could have given the time and energy needed to make the Walk great! They played an integral but silent role! And thanks to my amazing committee members: Leslie Alexander, Ana Ayon, Robyn Andersen, Leah Robilotto-Bass, Gerald and Jaimie Crump, Randy Crye, Jennie Drude, Shane Meyer, Kayla Scott, Bryan and Brandy Wilson, and Tim and Sarah Winebrenner. And thank you to Metropolitan Baptist Church for their support of this ministry and use of their grounds.

♥ *Jaimie Crump,*

M.E.N.D.—*Houston Chapter Director*



M.E.N.D.—**Houston:** Eric and Janie Lewis hang their ornament remembering Sophia Elise, March 25, 2009, Trisomy 69. (Photo by: Billy Winebrenner)



Local Houston chapter members Andy and Christine Miles hang their angel honoring Kinley, March 14, 2009, due to placental abruption. (Photo by: Billy Winebrenner)

TULSA, OKLAHOMA: On Saturday, October 16, M.E.N.D.—Tulsa held our first Walk to Remember at Evergreen Baptist Church in Bixby, Oklahoma. We were blessed with a sunny day as our guest speaker, Rebekah Mitchell, inspired us to focus on the beauty found in our babies and separate it from the sorrowful circumstances of our loss. We had about 113 in attendance, representing more than 35 babies. A special thanks goes to the M.E.N.D.—Tulsa Advisory Board for their hard work to make this event happen. To see a slideshow of our first Walk, you can go to www.mendtulsawalktoremember.com.

♥ Michele Wilson,

M.E.N.D.—Tulsa Chapter Director

M.E.N.D.—Tulsa: A great crowd of more than 100 attended the first annual Walk to Remember in Bixby, OK.

Right: Marcie and Seth Nienhuis, with son Landon, write on their balloon to Samuel James, October 14, 2006, Factor V Leiden. (Photos by: Abby Jeffers)



Walk To Remember Sponsors Dallas

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Black-Eyed Pea

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Carole D. Henry

First Baptist Church of Tulsa

Doug and Michele Wilson

Greg and Sara Hintz

Seth and Marcie Nienhuis



Christmas In Heaven

Author Unknown

'Tis Christmas in heaven
What a beautiful sight!

It's my first one here;
Everything is all right.

The crib is adorned
With the brilliance of stars,
Wisemen have come
From Venus and Mars.

I've met all our dear ones
Who preceded us here;
The reunion was lovely,
An event full of cheer.

And tonight we'll all gather,
In reverence we'll kneel,
For the Babe in the cradle
Up in heaven is real.

I think of my family
that I left behind
And I pray that your Christmas
Is as blessed as mine.

Please shed no more tears,
For my soul is at rest,
Just love one another;
Live life to its best.

Yes, it's Christmas In heaven,
So I've heard them say,
Yet, Christmas in heaven
Happens every day.

♥ *Submitted by*
Stephanie Hitchcock,
mommy to Mackenzie
M.E.N.D.—Houston

Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day



The month of October is Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness month, but on October 15 a day is set aside for families to remember their babies. It is tradition that parents who have lost a baby light a candle at 7:00 p.m. around the world for one hour on October 15. Because we all light our candles in our own time zones, essentially a “wave of light” is the effect.

There were several organizations hosting candle lighting events on October 15, and many of our M.E.N.D. family members participated. Rebekah Mitchell sent the M.E.N.D. membership around the country information about the special day, and one member sent us this note and the picture above of her candle:

Hi Rebekah,

Thank you for informing us of these special days/occasions. I have attached a picture of our home's candle—remembering our daughter Kavya Marie Kurishingal. I hope your home is special and peaceful at this hour as well.—Tina Christensen

As we approach the holiday season, we know that many of you have traditions you use to remember your babies. We'd LOVE for you to send pictures to us! I can't guarantee there will be space for everything you send in, but I'd love to feature them in a “Holiday Wrap-Up” in our January-February issue. Remember our deadline is November 30, so you might have to stage it for me!

♥ *Heather Fann, editor*
mommy to Caleb Scott and Baby August,
M.E.N.D.—SW Missouri Chapter Director

Looking Ahead

December 4

- M.E.N.D. —Houston
Christmas Ceremony

- M.E.N.D. —Texarkana
Christmas Ceremony

December 7

- Christmas Ceremony
in Irving, TX

December 9

- M.E.N.D. —SW Missouri
Christmas Ceremony



Who Stole Christmas?

Have you ever seen the movie “*How the Grinch Stole Christmas?*” Do you remember the little girl singing her heart out, “Where are you Christmas, why can’t I find you”? Every year since Alivia’s passing I have asked myself this question.

Before our loss, Christmas was my favorite holiday of the year. The lights, decorations, gifts and people just seem to be genuinely happy. But I haven’t felt that way since the loss. Everything is still beautiful, but there is one thing that is missing each year: a little girl with two pigtails and Christmas pajamas.

The holidays for so many of our M.E.N.D. families are such painful ordeals because we see our living children who are so excited and other children as well, but we wonder what our babies would be like. What toy would they want with all their hearts? It really brings to the realization that on this earth we will never be able to buy a gift for them that they will hold. Never see the biggest smile of joy or play with paper and boxes instead of toys. We will see what we see every day: nothing.

I have to focus and remember the true meaning of Christmas, the birth of a King, who died for my sins on a cross that He chose to go up on for me. How He loves me that much and that He is taking care of my princess until I get there. One day I will be able to see her smile the biggest smile ever and see her play with the toys of heaven. The time I am without her is only a glimmer of the time I will have with her in heaven.

Where are you Christmas? I know You are in heaven with my little princess, but I also know You are here with me every day in my heart. And until I can join You both in heaven I will bring the joy of Christmas to others. Joy is everywhere during Christmas, and one way to spread joy is to remember what it stands for: **Jesus Others Yourself**. So in that order, I will give this holiday. I will give Jesus all of the worship He deserves. I will give a child the same age of mine that is with Jesus, a Christmas, and for myself the joy of my family during this time.

To all the M.E.N.D. families, I hope that this holiday season you are able to find Christmas in your hurting hearts and allow Him—the only one true King—to give you joy, because one day you will be able to see your little one in eternity. How wonderful it will be! Merry Christmas.

♥ *Liz Walker,*
mommy to Alivia Elizabeth Grace
M.E.N.D.—Dallas

“In Loving Memory”
Continued from page 13...

Baby Wheeler

Miscarried
March 2009

Michael Noah Wheeler

Stillborn January 27, 2010
Unknown cause

Given by parents Jim and Larissa Wheeler

Baby Wilson I

Miscarried January, 2007

Baby Wilson II

Miscarried June, 2007

Gifts given by

Parents Doug and Michele Wilson
and little brother Gabe
Aunt Angie and Uncle Bob Harmon
Aunt Pam and Uncle Noel Bennett

Trenton Kohl Woody

December 3, 2009 - September 30, 2010
Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome
Parents: Marissa Martin and Jered Woody
Given by grandmother Carole Henry

Adrian Joseph “AJ” Zuckerman

Stillborn March 30, 2007

Cord accident

Gifts given by

Parents Amber and Al Zuckerman
and brothers Eli and Alex,
Friends: Marie Bannister
Michael and Jane Gartenhaus

Gifts of Support

West Conroe Baptist Church, Conroe, TX
Metropolitan Baptist Church, Houston, TX
Second Baptist Church, Springfield, MO
Kasey Knowlton
Faith Rice
Calvary Church, Irving, TX

Legacy Giving

Losing a child has changed each of our lives forever. We appreciate all financial support of the services our organization gives to bereaved parents—no matter the size of the contribution. However, some of you may have the capacity and desire to give a lifelong gift to M.E.N.D.

If you’re interested in creating a legacy gift or endowment in honor of your baby, M.E.N.D. would be happy to assist you in gathering the necessary information to remember our organization in your will or trust. Please contact Rebekah Mitchell at rebekah@mend.org for more information about legacy giving.

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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 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) 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 contact Rebekah (rebekah@mend.org) to obtain the Customer Letter. You must only present this letter one time to link your card to M.E.N.D. 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.
- 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 msbrown16@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 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.
- **Igive.com** will donate a penny a search and a portion of each purchase made through their website to M.E.N.D. Sign up today! M.E.N.D.’s cause number is 52025.
- **Angel Bracelets** creates a variety of remembrance bracelets. Buyers can designate M.E.N.D. and Angel Bracelets will make a donation to from each sale. Visit www.angelbracelets.org.