



# M. E. N. D.

Mommies Enduring Neonatal Death

## *Subsequent Losses*

More than six long had years passed after Jonathan's stillbirth before my doctors gave me the green light to get pregnant again. Okay, it was actually a bright yellow light. Not long after Byron and I were married, I was diagnosed with a serious kidney disease and was told I would someday need a kidney transplant. A couple of years later we conceived our first baby, Byron, Jr., who is now 19 years old and a freshman in college. When he turned three, I became pregnant with his little brother, Jonathan, who was stillborn due to a cord accident when I was seven months along. Both pregnancies put a lot of stress on my already weakened kidneys, so I was strongly advised not to get pregnant again until after a transplant—and that was ONLY if the transplant was a success and I was doing well, without any episodes of rejection.

My friend Valerie donated one of her kidneys to me 4 ½ years after I suffered the loss of Jonathan. I was told I had to wait 1 ½ years after the transplant before Byron and I could entertain the idea of having another baby. Nineteen months later, with cautions but not a “no” from my many doctors, we conceived our third child. I truly thought this little one would be our “happily ever after” ending to the sufferings we had endured the past few years.

I loved being pregnant and was overjoyed to once again be growing a miracle inside my body. However, I knew all too well that just like Jonathan, I could lose this baby, too. Therefore, I was afraid to get attached. Those close to me would say things like, “God would never let you lose another one.” Oh yeah? I knew numerous families in M.E.N.D. who had lost more than one. Why should I think I was above losing again? I tried to stay positive but would often catch myself telling people, “If I get to bring this baby home...”

A few weeks after the pregnancy was confirmed, I awakened one morning to some light spotting. I prepared myself for the worst, but the next day a sonogram showed my tiny baby still safely in my womb with a strong heartbeat. Two weeks later, I had another sonogram, and again, the baby was healthy and just the size it should be. Yet, I still would not allow myself to fall in love with our youngest child. I loved the idea of having another baby, and I enjoyed being pregnant, but I was too afraid to fall in love again with a child who could so quickly be taken from me.

Ten weeks into the pregnancy I had my fourth doctor's appointment. Because my pregnancy was considered high risk, I was given a sonogram at each of my appointments. I knew from my pregnancy

book that this time I should be able to view my baby's full body and not just make out odd shapes. Maybe today I will finally truly let myself get attached to this little life that is growing inside of me, I thought. As I stood outside the sonogram room, my obstetrician saw me and asked me how I was feeling. I told him, “Great!” I had never had a pregnancy before with good kidney function, so I assumed that was why I had not suffered from much morning sickness and had actually felt wonderful the past few days. He later told me that when I said that, he thought, “Uh oh,” which is why he decided to join the technician for the “viewing.” I just thought he was being overly nice and caring that day. As soon as the procedure began, I noticed the two men whispering to one another with grim expressions and pointing to the screen. I reached up to turn the monitor by my head around so I could see, but the tech quickly turned it away from me. Then I knew. The all-too-familiar hushed voices and facial expressions did not require an explanation. I couldn't believe it happened again!

Since I had journeyed the path of grief before, I knew what I was in for. But my grief was put on hold because I developed a very bad infection and had to undergo another emergency D&C six days later, followed by three days in the hospital. The infection caused me to become more concerned with my health and the stability of my new kidney rather than the miscarriage. Over the next several months, certainly I was sad, but I never fully lapsed into a state of mourning, and I knew at some point I would break. Many times I tried to make myself deal with it, but I could not conjure up the deep sadness that I knew I needed to face. That was actually very scary to me, because I knew that something would cause the hidden sorrow to surface when I had not prepared for it, nor invited it.

Grief finally came one year later during the Christmas holidays. I think the one-year anniversary of my loss started it, but it came full force as we approached Christmas Day. We should have had a little baby with us in Kansas City where we spent Christmas that year with Byron's family. As some of his cousins celebrated their new little one's first

... continued on page 2

### *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 pagina numero 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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## Blindsided

In June 2008, my husband and I decided to add to our family. I thought that within a year I would be holding a sweet little baby in my arms. Well, I was wrong. In March 2009, I was pregnant, and we went in for my eight-week check-up. We went in for a sonogram and were quickly rushed to the doctor's office. The doctor finally came in and told us we had a miscarriage. I just couldn't believe it. I was so hurt and wasn't even sure if I should be upset. I wasn't even sure if I had lost a real baby or if I was even a mother. I felt as if a piece of my heart was missing.

The following September we found out we were pregnant again. I was so excited when we got past the eight-week mark. I felt I was safe. I was so excited each time I got to hear his heartbeat. I loved being able to feel my son move and having a pregnant belly to show off. At Christmas time I was already making plans for next Christmas. I was so excited thinking about the presents under the tree and taking him to see Santa.

In January our world came crashing down. We went in for our 24-week check-up and found out we had lost our son. I was completely and totally devastated and blindsided. I couldn't believe this could happen to me again. Two losses in ten months. I had subscribed to a pregnancy magazine before I lost Baby Wheeler, and I was still getting issues in the mail after losing Michael Noah. How could I have had two losses in the duration of one magazine subscription?

It seemed like it was impossible and totally unfair. We were supposed to be buying his crib, not an urn. We were supposed to be decorating his nursery, not planning his funeral. I felt like an empty shell of a person and that my heart would never be put back together. I blamed myself and felt like a horrible person.

As time goes by, things get better. I realize now that it's not my fault, and I'm not a bad person. I also know that I am a mother to two babies in heaven. Sometimes I still get scared thinking that I might never have a baby on earth to take care of. One thing that has really helped me is talking to other M.E.N.D. mommies who have been through the same thing. They know the fear, and they also offer me hope. I see that they now have living children, and maybe I will one day, too. Right now I don't know what the future holds, but I take comfort in knowing who holds the future.

♥ Larissa Wheeler

Mommy to Michael Noah Wheeler  
and Baby Wheeler

M.E.N.D.—Dallas

*Continued from page 1...*

Christmas, seemingly no one remembered that we should have been doing the same with our 6-month-old.

Now that Byron and I are empty nesting, I think of that little baby quite a bit. He or she would now be 8 years old. How strange it is to think that I would still be in the swing of carpools, school plays, and slumber parties. Admittedly, that all sounds exhausting to this 42-year-old mom who has now settled into an older role of motherhood. Yet, I realize if Jonathan and our little one would have lived, I could *not* imagine *not* having them, being my age and already finished raising my kids. Sure, I will always be sad and will forever mourn the deaths of my two sweet babies, but I am so very thankful that the Lord has given me peace and contentment to be satisfied with my life as it is. Never in my wildest imagination as a naive little girl did I ever think I would experience the loss of one baby, let alone two. But as a maturing adult I have seen the hand of God clearly in each of my losses, and I pray that through the process of attempting to make sense of it all, I have not missed any opportunities to use the experiences for good and to glorify Him.

♥ Rebekah Mitchell

mommy to Jonathan Daniel and Baby Mitchell

## Book Reviews

### *And Then You Were Gone—*

#### Restoring a Broken Heart After Pregnancy Loss

By Becky Avella

And Then You Were Gone is a great, encouraging resource for those who have suffered multiple losses and are questioning their faith. Author Becky Avella tells of her four pregnancy losses and how the Lord restored her broken heart. Avella addresses a variety of pertinent issues, such as depression, dealing with insensitive remarks, overcoming bitterness, spiritual warfare, and concludes with a chapter on how to help someone who has experienced pregnancy loss. Many scriptures are referenced and each chapter ends with a prayer.

Order online at [www.WinePressBooks.com](http://www.WinePressBooks.com) or by calling 1-877-421-7323.

♥ *Review by Rebekah Mitchell,  
M.E.N.D.—President*

*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).*

## Readers' Corner

Rebekah and Heather,

Hi, I am a military spouse stationed in Germany, and another spouse who is new to the unit gave birth to a stillborn baby girl last week, four days after her due date. I have another friend who went through a similar situation a year ago, and she sent me a wealth of resources to send to my new friend. In it was a link to your website. I have been reading some of your newsletters and wanted to say thank you for having an issue dedicated to military families. It is often difficult to make great friends we can count on in new duty stations, especially as quickly as we move around at times. Hopefully people will continue to think about our lack of a consistent support network, or at least one that is physically there to hug us or cook us a meal when we're going through a rough time.

♥ *Whitney Watts,  
Germany*

Thank you for your ministry. My husband and I live in a small town in northern California, and there isn't an infant loss group anywhere nearby. We truly appreciate receiving your newsletter. It helps us realize that we are not alone in our loss. Thank you, and God bless!

♥ *Regina Laws,  
Mommy to Gabriel  
California*

### *March/April Topic*

Unplanned and Teenage Losses

Deadline: January 31, 2011

### *May/June Topic*

Mother's Day and Father's Day

Deadline: March 30, 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](http://www.mend.org)



# Birthday Tributes

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

Kaleb,

Each and every day we think about you. There is not a day that goes by that we do not thank God for giving us the opportunity to be blessed by you.

You are our "Popeye," and we can only imagine you sailing the great waves in Heaven. Days have turned into years, and we just want you to know that although you are not here physically with us, you are still a part of our family, and it is not complete without you. You live in our hearts and in our souls. We will never, ever forget you.

We love you Kaleb! Happy Birthday!  
Momma, Ruddy and Kaidyn

*Kaleb E'lil Addison*

*January 29, 2007*

*Premature (29 weeks)*

*Mommy: LaShannon Davis*

*Siblings: Ruddy Mack III and Kaidyn Addison*



## Happy 13<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Maya!

We wish you were here with us. You would be such a big girl now. We love you!

Mom, Dad, Erin, and Brandon

*Maya Denise Ates*

*January 6, 1998*

*Clot in umbilical cord*

*Parents: Horace and Tammie Ates*

*Siblings: Erin and Brandon*



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

It feels surreal that you celebrated your 5th birthday in Heaven. We talk about you often and love to visit your tree. This year your new sister Janie visited it on her first day in America. Mama chose a bright ribbon to decorate it for your special day. We had delicious chocolate cake in loving memory of your birth. You will live in our hearts as long as they continue to beat.

Love,  
Mama and Daddy

*Hope Kirkpatrick*

*November 5-8, 2005*

*Amniotic Band Syndrome*

*Parents: Kirk and Aly Kirkpatrick*

*Siblings: Ian and Janie*



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

It's hard to believe that it's been a year since we last held you. We miss you. God has done amazing things through your life, and we are honored to get to be a part of your legacy. We are so grateful that you are our son.

We love you,  
Mom and Dad

*Hudson Parker Jones*

*January 9, 2010*

*Bladder obstruction*

*Parents: Travis and Jennifer Jones*



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

We cannot believe that it's been four years since you have come and gone. I think about you every day. We love you and miss you so much. Forever in our hearts!

*Joseph R. Espinoza*

*October 24—November 10, 2006*

*Heart failure*

*Parents: Jose and Linda Espinoza*

*Siblings: Celeste, Gracie, Josie and Kina*



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

My precious Kyler Paul,

I can't believe that it is actually been five years since I held you in my arms. I look back over the last five years and I can see how POWERFULLY you have impacted my life. I permanently changed the moment that I looked up at the monitor and saw your still, motionless body, knowing in my heart that you were gone. What I didn't realize that devastating day was the incredible lessons I would learn from the gift of you in my life. Thank you, my sweet baby boy, for teaching me about what really matters. I miss you terribly. I think about you every day...yes, EVERY DAY. Daddy Mac, your siblings, and I talk about you all of the time and celebrate you every chance we get. I love you, my precious Kyler Paul. Happy 5th Birthday!!

P.S. Hug Papaw for us, sweet boy.

*Kyler Paul English*

*January 20, 2006*

*Cord accident*

*Parents: Jon and Laurie Beth McPike*

*Siblings: Kinser, Kelson and Kayden English*





### Happy 14<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Joshua and Jeromy!

Boys...I am so sorry your birthday tribute is late. I forgot to submit the form in time..not that I forgot your birthday.

We had a wonderful day at the grave on your special 14th birthday. The weather was amazing. I only wish that you were with us sharing the wonderful family time!

I know that someday we will all be together in Heaven. I long for the day when ALL of my boys are together surrounding me with joy and laughter!

Till that day, we will go to the grave every year. I love you and cherish all of my memories...

Love, Mom

*Joshua and Jeromy Barsanti*

*November 21, 1996*

*Stillborn/Anencephaly*

*Parents: Randy and DaLana Barsanti*

*Siblings: Taylor, Collin, Harrison, Riley*



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

Happy first birthday, our precious little girl. I can't believe it has been a whole year since we have held you in our arms. We should be watching you learn how to crawl, walk, and say your first words. Instead, you are our angel and with us every day. Please continue playing with your big brother, Cole in his dreams. He loves to wake each morning and tell me about your adventures. We miss you, sweetheart, and wish so badly you were here with us. Happy first birthday in Heaven!

We love and miss you always,  
Mommy, Daddy, and Cole

*Carly Elizabeth Crews*

*December 20, 2009*

*Umbilical cord accident*

*Parents: Paul and Stacy Crews*

*Brother: Cole*



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

Another year has come and gone, but our love for you is as strong as it was six years ago. How blessed we are to know that we will be reunited in heaven. You are our eternal sweetheart!

*Savannah Kate Stanley*

*January 3, 2004*

*Prematurity*

*Also remembering*

*Baby Stanley*

*November 10, 2004*

*Partial molar pregnancy*

*Parents: Joel and Calli Stanley*

*Siblings: Colton, Sara and Danika*



### Happy 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Kassandra!

My Sweet Kassandra,

This is a milestone birthday for you, my angel. This year would be your 18th birthday. I see my friends planning graduations, college applications, buying prom dresses and visiting college campuses and can only imagine what you and I would be doing together this year. It breaks my heart to know that I will never see you graduate from high school or college, that I will never get to see you fall in love and will never get to plan your wedding or see you walk down the aisle. Not a single day has gone by since the day we so suddenly lost you—expecting to go in and have a baby and finding out God had another plan—that I haven't thought of you and how very much I love you. My life has changed so very much because of you. Without you I would not be the person or the mommy that I am today. I love you, my beautiful daughter...we will be together again someday.

All my love,  
Mommy

*Kassandra McHone*

*November 11, 1992*

*Cord accident*

*Also remembering*

*Baby McHone*

*September 20, 2002*

*Fetal demise*

*Mommy: Michelle McHone*

*Siblings: Ryan and Eryn*



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

Four years ago we held you and marveled at how perfect you were. Not a day goes by that we don't think of you and miss you. We will hold you again in Heaven, and until then, we will love you in our hearts.

Love,  
Mommy, Daddy, Bella and Jackson

*James Forner*

*January 5, 2007*

*Cord accident*

*Also remembering*

*Baby Forner 1*

*May 2007*

*Baby Forner 2*

*June 2007*

*Parents: TJ and Jennifer Forner*

*Siblings: Annabelle and Jackson*



Continued on page 6...

Continued from page 5...

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

Baby Grace,

You are always in our hearts, so deeply missed and loved.

Mommy, Daddy and Laura

Grace Melendez  
December 23, 2006  
Trisomy 10  
Parents: Tony and Kimberley Melendez  
Sister: Laura



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

Baby Skylar - We can't believe it has already been a year since you passed. We miss you so much and wish that you were here with us so we can hold you and love on you. One day we will be with you, and this year for your first birthday you get to spend it in Heaven. Love you baby girl!

Love, Mommy and Daddy

Skylar Faith Metcalfe  
January 27, 2010  
Unknown  
Parents: Albert and Ashlee Metcalfe  
Siblings: Anastacia, Triton, Baylee, and Preslee



### Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday, Baby Boy!

We miss you more than words can say,  
and simply take things day by day.

We'll be together in God's good time,  
until then you're our guardian angel, Momma's and mine.

One year ago you went away,  
to God's right hand forever to stay.  
Know that you'll forever be our pride and joy,  
Happy Birthday to our Baby Boy!

Love,  
Momma and Daddy

Michael Noah Wheeler  
January 27, 2010  
Unknown  
Also remembering  
Baby Wheeler  
Miscarried March 2009  
Parents: Jim and Larissa Wheeler  
Puppy: Tootsie Lou



### Happy 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday, Alexis!

Alexis,

We want to wish you a happy second heavenly birthday! We can't believe it's almost been two years. We love and miss you every day!

Love you, Mommy and Daddy

*"Dearest baby, may you know our greatest blessing was having you."*

Alexis,

It's hard to believe it's been two years since you were born. We remember that day like it was yesterday. We miss you so much. We see you in all the children your age and wish you were here. We send you our love and know you will have a wonderful birthday in heaven with Jesus. You are our "Greatest Blessing."

We LOVE you!  
Grandpa Mark and  
Grandma Ruth Sonnenberg

Alexis Raine Sonnenberg  
January 24, 2009 – February 3, 2009  
Complications of diaphragmatic hernia  
Parents: Alex and Lindsey Sonnenberg



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

Happy fourth birthday, my sweet first-born son. I miss you and wonder who you would be every day. Though your time with me was so very short, I am so proud to be your mommy.

Benjamin Kent Baack  
January 10, 2007  
Cord accident  
Parents: Kent and Karen Baack  
Siblings: Ashlyn, Grace, Anna, Gabrielle, Josiah



### Happy 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday, Jorden!

Happy second birthday to the most amazing little boy. You are greatly missed. Not a day goes by that we don't think of you. You will forever be in our hearts.

Love always,  
Mommy, Daddy, Peepaw, and everyone else

Jorden McGuire-Vela  
February 26, 2009  
Unknown cause  
Parents: Jessie McGuire and Colton Vela



### Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday, Our Little Valentine!

Wow, sweet little one, I can't believe it's been nearly a year since you were with us. What an amazing Valentine's gift you were for us last year. Your life was such an incredible surprise, and losing you was so very heart-wrenching. It was a wild ride that was over far too soon, wasn't it? Well, just know that your daddy and I wouldn't have missed it for the world. Though we miss you so very much, we know we will have eternity together in the presence and peace of our Heavenly Father. For this, we are ever thankful. Happy heavenly birthday, our little love!

*Baby Stephens III  
February 15, 2010  
Ectopic Pregnancy*

### Happy 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday, Sweet Baby!

Our January surprise, how strange to think we've been apart for two years now. If things had gone differently, if we could have known how to help you at the time, how different our family would be now! But you know what? God knew the number of your days through all eternity, and we trust His plan, precious child. We do miss you and love you so much. Happy heavenly birthday, Baby!

Lovies and squeezes to you both (and your big siblings)!  
Mommy, Daddy and C.J.

*Baby Stephens II  
January, 2009  
MTHFR Gene Mutation  
Also remembering  
David Atkins Stephens  
October 23, 2003  
MTHFR Gene Mutation  
Baby Stephens I  
June 30, 2008  
Ectopic Pregnancy  
Parents: Rob and Melissa Stephens  
Brother: C.J.*



### Happy 3<sup>rd</sup> Birthday, Precious Boy!

We love you so much and see you living through your brothers and little sister. We know that you are loving your time in the presence of the Lord and can't wait to see you again one day. Happy birthday, baby!

*Maddox Stanfield  
January 23, 2008  
Trisomy 18  
Parents: Kenzie and Dusty Stanfield  
Siblings: Deacon, Faith Clare, and Scout*



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

Faith,

My little angel, my love. As a year approaches, mommy misses you so much. Mommy has a very big hole in her heart. I wish I could just see your little tiny face one more time. My love, my angel, when I first saw you I knew your name would be Faith, because at that time that's what mommy had. Your big sister Ashley was so ready to share her bedroom with you. Your daddy was ready to be the best dad anyone could ever ask for. Then destiny took a turn, and you left us to go play with your sister, Amani, and all of the other little angels up above. Loving you and missing you and your sister.

Love,  
Mommy, Daddy, Ashley, and Grandma

*Faith Jada Harp  
January 10, 2010  
Premature at 18 weeks  
Also remembering  
Amani Jada Harp  
April 28, 2009  
Premature at 21 weeks  
Baby Harp  
Miscarried October 18, 2008  
Parents: Thomas and Janette Harp  
Big sister: Ashley*



### Happy 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday, Leah!

To our little angel in the sky,

Time passes by so quickly. It is hard to imagine that you are two years old. We know that you have been watching over your little brother Ellis throughout his first year, and we wish that you could be here to hold his hand. Sometimes he looks up in the air and smiles, and we know that he is smiling at you. We are also sure that you were there at the gate to welcome your great-grandfather Eliseo and your Nana into heaven. We hold on to the fact that we will both one day join you.

Leah, your mother and I love you with all of our heart, and we thank you for letting us set our eyes on the world's most beautiful daughter. You were here for only a short time, but we gained a love that will last for an eternity.

Love,  
Dad, Mom, and Ellis

*Leah Grace Cockrell  
February 6-8, 2009  
Hydrops  
Parents: Clint and Joahanna Cockrell  
Siblings: Ellis Cockrell*



*Continued on page 8...*

Continued from page 7...

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

Happy birthday to our precious girls. We miss you more than words can say.

*Brooklynn Bailey*  
*January 1, 2010*  
*Incompetent Cervix*  
*Jillian Bailey*  
*January 2, 2010*  
*Incompetent Cervix*  
*Sydney Bailey*  
*January 2, 2010*  
*Incompetent Cervix*  
*Also remembering*  
*Emma Bailey*  
*April 23, 2008*  
*Incompetent Cervix*  
*Parents: Chad and Melissa Bailey*



### Happy 4<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Jordan, My LOVE!

My precious little son,

Happy birthday! It is truly hard to believe that it has been four years since God blessed me with you and called you home to heaven. I miss you, Jordan, my love. I truly do. Be sure to enjoy your fourth birthday celebration in heaven with Jesus and know that Mommy is lovingly celebrating you here on earth. I wish I were there with you, but I have to TRUST God's plan, endure this temporary separation and continue celebrating all the love that you are!

I love you, "Lil' Tyke!"

Mommy and Jazz (Your Puppy-Doggie)

*Jordan Alexander Booker*  
*January 11, 2007*  
*True knot in cord*  
*Mommy: Norma Jordan*  
*Puppy-Doggie: Jazz*



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

I cannot believe its been a year since you went to heaven. We miss you so much. Your big sister still calls you her little bear. Even though you are gone we still speak your name. You will ALWAYS be in our hearts forever! We love you so much. Keep a look out for our balloons we are sending to you!

Mommy, Daddy, Trinity and Vicky

*David Jr.*  
*February 5, 2010*  
*Unknown*  
*Parents: David and Samantha ??*  
*Siblings: Trinity and Vicky*



### Happy 4<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Sweet Ashley!

We miss you so much. We think about you all the time and wish you were here so we could hug and kiss you. You are always in our hearts.

Lots of love,  
 Mommy and Daddy

*Ashley Nicole Muirhead*  
*January 15, 2007*  
*Unknown cause*  
*Also remembering*  
*Baby Muirhead*  
*October 2005*  
*Baby Muirhead*  
*November 2010*  
*Parents: Craig and Daphne Muirhead*  
*Sister: Brooke Ann*



### Happy 4<sup>th</sup> Birthday, My Sweet Allison!

As each year passes I miss you more and more! Seems like forever ago that I was able to hold you in my arms. I wonder who you would look more like and what cute things you would be saying now. I always watch for butterflies and other signs you might be sending my way. I love you, my sweet little angel!

Love,  
 Mommy and Daddy

*Allison Frye*  
*January 17, 2007*  
*Twisted cord*  
*Also remembering*  
*Baby Frye 1, Miscarried August 2007*  
*Baby Frye 2, Miscarried November 2008*  
*Baby Frye 3, Miscarried March 2009*  
*Baby Frye 4, Miscarried August 2010*  
*Parents: Tim and Kelly Frye*



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

Dear Tristin,

It has been a year since you left our family, but I remember it as if it were just last week. Your big brother Kyle tells everyone about his little brother in heaven, and he is so proud of you. Losing you was the hardest thing I have gone through, but I thank God every day for what your loss has taught me and our family. You are always in our hearts and minds every day. Hugs and kisses.

Love,  
 Mommy, Daddy, and big brother Kyle

*Tristin Patton*  
*Miscarried February 15, 2010*  
*Unknown cause*  
*Parents: William and Christina Patton*  
*Big brother: Kyle*





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

Daisy and Ellie,

We miss you so much! We can't believe you are already a year old! You are such big girls now! We love you and miss you so very much! Have a happy birthday, and be nice to each other!

Love,  
Mommy and Daddy

*Daisy and Ellie Ott  
February 22, 2010  
Preterm labor  
Parents: Chiara and Michael Ott*



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

We love you and still miss you every day! We imagine what you would be doing if you were still with us, but we know what you are doing now is far greater. You are in the presence of our Heavenly Father, and I look forward to the day we are with you in His presence.

We love you.

Dad, Mom, Faith, Benjamin, Hope and Joy

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



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

Wishing our sweet little angel a happy fourth birthday! We will be celebrating here with a cake and balloon for you. We love and miss you dearly and will be thinking of you every second of the day. XOXO

*Kennedy Ann League  
January 17, 2007  
Unknown cause  
Parents: Jason and Jeanelle League  
Siblings: Cooper and Camden*



### Happy 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday, my Sweet Princes!

We see your face in his smile  
We see your hands as he grips ours  
His toes are just as precious as yours  
He looks like you in every way  
And reminds us of your love  
And the great gift you gave us  
We miss you and we love you

*Jackson and Tyler Light  
February 23, 2009  
Placental abruption  
Parents: Kirk and Diana Light  
Brother: Brayden Christopher*



### Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday, Tomas and Isabela!

Our precious twins, we love you and miss you sooo much! Lots of hugs and kisses on this special day.

Love you always, Mommy and Daddy

*Tomas Andres Castillo  
January 11, 2010  
Isabela Castillo  
January 18, 2010  
Premature at 20 and 21 weeks  
Parents: Marisela and Jesus Castillo*



### Happy 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday, Gabriel!

We miss you just as much now as we did the day you went to be with Jesus. We love you more than words can say, and we are looking forward to the day we can hold you in our arms once again. Sending lots of hugs and kisses to you, our little man. XOXO

Love, Mommy and Daddy

*Gabriel Laws  
December 17, 2008  
Hydrops  
Parents: Joe and Regina Laws*



### Happy 2<sup>nd</sup> "Angelversary," Sweet Boy!

Mommy, Daddy and your sisters miss you so much. We celebrate your life every day of ours, but today is even more special. I don't understand why you were taken so soon, but I am so very thankful to have had nine months with you. I'd give anything to hold you in my arms again. Please keep sending mockingbirds our way! We love and miss you so much! Happy second birthday in heaven, Bubba!

*Landon Schuchman  
February 12, 2009  
True knot in cord  
Parents: Paul and Missy Schuchman  
Siblings: Kylee and Vivian*



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

To our sweet baby girl Hope,

We had such dreams for our family, and the arrival of you. We never got to meet you, and we all are saddened by your death. We love you, our sweet angel. Mommy, Daddy, and your brothers, and Grandma Rie.

*Hope Marie Delwiche  
November 12, 2010  
Miscarriage (21 weeks)  
Also remembering  
Florence Theresa Delwiche, May 26, 2000  
Miscarriage (27 weeks)  
Baby Girl Sherman, Miscarriage (32 weeks)  
Parents: David and Mary Delwiche  
Siblings: Justin Sherman and Sean*



## In Loving Memory



### **Brandon Isaiah Alfaro**

October 19, 2007– February 7, 2008  
Spinal Muscular Atrophy  
Mommy: Jennifer Alfaro  
Little brother: Ethan Noel  
Given by grandparents  
Diana and Tim Seynaev

### **Malen Huck Anderson**

Stillborn February 4, 2008  
Possible Heart Attack  
Given by parents Wes and Becky Anderson  
and siblings Lenea and Nathan

### **Apple Hope and Blueberry Faith Barrientos**

July 7, 2010  
Premature  
Parents: Priscilla and David Barrientos  
Little sister: Violet  
Given by Maranot Real Estate Services

### **Joshua and Jeromy Barsanti**

Stillborn November 21, 1996  
Anencephaly  
Given by parents  
Randy and DaLana Barsanti  
and little brothers  
Taylor, Collin, Harrison, and Riley

### **Matthew and Mason Bass**

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

### **Cole, Kaylynn, and Hannah Busker**

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

### **Jackson Dean Cochran**

April 24 - May 19, 2004  
Prematurity  
Given by parents  
Stacey and Deanna Cochran  
and little brother Christian

### **Abigail Grace Crump**

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

### **Baby Dill**

Miscarried May, 2002

### **Cooper Dill**

May 26, 2003  
Twin to Twin Transfusion Syndrome/  
Cord Accident  
Given by parents Jim and Brandee Dill  
and siblings Avery, Tate, and Paxton

### **Crystal Lynn Durand**

June 4, 1984

### **Andrew Joseph Durand**

July 7, 1988  
Parents: Robin and Sue Durand  
Given by Marsha and Stephen Peterson

### **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

### **Dylan Carlos and Trystan Macari Estala**

December 11, 2008  
PROM, 22-weeks  
Given by parents  
Adrian and Stephanie Estala  
and siblings  
Isabella Dylan and Olivia Trystan

### **Caleb Scott Fann**

December 1, 2003  
PROM

### **Baby August Fann**

Miscarried August 13, 2004  
Parents: Jonathan and Heather Fann  
Little sister: Madison Grace  
Given by Patricia Ervin

### **Janelle Marie Gibson**

Stillborn November 17, 2006  
Clot in Placenta

### **Gabrielle Gibson**

Miscarried October 31, 2007  
Ectopic Pregnancy  
Parents: Scott and Jodie Gibson  
Siblings: Will, Andrew, and Isaac  
Given by grandparents  
William and Joyce Esser

### **Erika Brianna Grau**

July 9 - August 3, 1997  
Anoxic brain injury due to ruptured uterus  
due to VBAC  
Gifts given by  
Parents Ray and Yvette Grau  
and siblings Nikryan and Nataly  
Inspired by Dreams (Nataly's business)

### **Lauren Paige Grimes**

Stillborn March 6, 1999  
Unknown Cause

### **Baby Grimes**

Miscarried January 25, 2001  
Given by parents Paula and John Grimes  
and sister Raleigh

### **Elizabeth Abigail Jackson**

January 27, 2010  
Trisomy 18  
Given by parents Jeromye and Angi Jackson  
and little sister Emily

### **Michael David & Jake Thomas Klubinik**

September 7, 2010  
Infection

### **Baby Klubinik**

Miscarried June 8, 2010  
Given by parents Jon and Tiffany Klubinik

### **Emma Krymkiewiez**

May 5, 2009  
Neonatal Hemochromatosis  
**Baby Girl Krymkiewiez**  
Miscarried June 13, 2008  
Given by parents  
Hernan Krymkiewiez and Ana Ayon Lopez

### **Tomas and Isabela Castillo Lares**

January 11 and January 18, 2010  
Preterm Labor  
Given by parents  
Jesus and Marisela Castillo Lares

### **Joseph Charles Libby**

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

#### 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!**

**Jackson Glen and Tyler Ray Light**

February 23, 2009  
Placental Abruption  
Given by parents Kirk and Diana Light  
and little brother Brayden Christopher

**Avery Merae Longgood**

August 2 - 3, 2007  
Possible Stroke  
Parents: Neil and Jamie Longgood  
Little sister: Halle Merae  
Given by grandparents  
Don and Annette Longgood

**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.  
Gifts given by:

Grandparents Dennis and Sue Brewer  
Aunt and Uncle Brenda and James Barth

**Daisy Jade and Ellie Marie Ott**

February 22, 2010  
Pre-term Labor  
Given by parents Michael and Chiara Ott

**Carter Patrick Outen**

Stillborn November 6, 2000  
Unknown Cause

**Baby Outen I**

Miscarried April 3, 2001

**Baby Outen II**

Miscarried October 5, 2001  
Given by parents Chris and Shannon Outen  
and sisters Erin and Charlie

**Jacob Theodore Oxendine**

April 29, 2001  
PROM  
Given by parents  
Chip and Christine Oxendine  
and little siblings Emily and Eric

**Morgan Schear**

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

**Elizabeth Mai Nettles Schockmel**

Stillborn May 13, 2002  
Intrahepatic Cholestasis  
Parents: Nathan and Karen Schockmel  
Siblings: Alexandra, Benton, and Catherine  
Given by grandparents "Bigga and Moonie"  
David and Connie Stone

**Mindy and Maggie Smith**

November 4, 1997  
TTTS and Polyhydramnios  
Given by parents Scott and Karla Smith  
and siblings Travis and Julia

**Aiden Xavier Sohn**

October 13, 2002  
HELLP Syndrome  
**Hope**  
Miscarried May, 2003  
**Whisper**  
Miscarried October, 2003  
Given by parents Doug and Angelique Sohn  
and little brothers Sebastian and Benjamin

**Jett Josiah Steinhable**

February 25 - March 9, 2010  
Renal Failure  
Given by Mommy Andrea Steinhable  
and siblings Justin, Zoe, Dokota, America,  
Jeremy, and JonJon

**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.  
Grandparents Ron and Vicki McNally

**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

**Christian Graham Wells**

July 11, 2010  
Unknown Cause  
Parents: Glen and Mitzi Wells  
Big brother: Michael  
Given by G.W. Air Services

**Baby Wheeler**

Miscarried March 2009  
**Michael Noah Wheeler**  
Stillborn January 27, 2010  
Unknown Cause  
Given by parents Jim and Larissa Wheeler

**Gifts of Support**

West Conroe Baptist Church, Conroe, TX  
Metropolitan Baptist Church, Houston, TX  
Second Baptist Church, Springfield, MO  
Byron Griggs  
Sherrill Johnson

**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](mailto:rebekah@mend.org) for more information about legacy giving.

"If you know someone who has lost a child, and you're afraid to mention them because you think you might make them sad by reminding them that they died—you're not reminding them. They didn't forget they died. What you're reminding them of is that you remembered that they lived, and that is a great gift."

♥ Elizabeth Edwards



M.E.N.D.

***Chapter Meeting Information*****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 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.—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.—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. Chapter Updates*****Kansas***

After five years in Emporia, M.E.N.D.—Kansas is closing. We have loved our time here and have fulfilled a purpose during that time. You all have blessed me, and I have enjoyed the journey. You will still continue to receive the bi-monthly newsletter. Thank you again for five wonderful years!

*Stephanie Metzger****Houston***

Our fifth annual Christmas Candlelight Ceremony was again a beautiful evening that I hope truly blessed those who attended. I want to thank some ladies and gentlemen who made the evening possible, whether it was set up or take down, and everything in between: Lane and Leslie Alexander, Robyn Andersen, Ana Ayon, Leah Robilotto-Bass, Jennie Drude, Gerald Crump, Jason and Jeanelle League, Shirley Starr, Brandy Wilson and Tim and Sarah Winebrenner.

*Jaimie Crump****Texarkana***

M.E.N.D.—Texarkana held our fourth annual Candlelight Ceremony at Beech Street First Baptist Church, where we had a record number in attendance. This ceremony would not have been possible without our generous sponsors and the help of my committee: Tania Greer, Dawn Kennedy, Toni Sherman, and Melissa Thomas. I am so grateful for their dedication to M.E.N.D. A special thank you to Deni Smith for her faithful service. I would also like to thank Beech Street First Baptist Church's staff for their leadership and ministry in this year's event.

*Monica Davis****Tulsa***

M.E.N.D.—Tulsa asks for prayer as we offer another year of services to grieving men and women of northeastern Oklahoma. Please be on the lookout for information regarding this year's fundraiser and special events.

*Michele Wilson****Bryan/College Station***

M.E.N.D.—Bryan/College Station is continuing to grow and reach the families of Brazos County. We joined M.E.N.D.—Houston for their Christmas ceremony and had a blessed evening! Thank you, Jaimie, for including us. We also welcomed many subsequent babies the past few months! God is, as always, doing great things though our chapter.

*Jennie Drude****Amarillo***

In December, I attended the Candlelight Ceremony in Dallas, and I am so excited for Amarillo to host one next year! We also held our first "Wrapping for M.E.N.D." fundraiser. We are very excited to see what the Lord has in store for us in the 2011! 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*



*SW Missouri*

In December, M.E.N.D.—Southwest Missouri hosted our inaugural Christmas Candlelight Ceremony in Springfield. We were honored to host nearly 80 people from 23 families, representing 28 babies in heaven from 5 different states. Following a message from M.E.N.D. founder Rebekah Mitchell and special music, we had a great time of fellowship in the beautiful Elfindale Mansion. The event would not have been possible without our amazing sponsors (listed on page 19) and the tireless efforts of our planning committee. Thank you Heather Bass, Sister Diane Frederick, Kathryn Gold, and Ruth Sonnenberg. Also, coming February 18: Scrapbook Fundraising Night. Space is limited and tickets are \$25.00! To RSVP, contact me at [heather@mend.org](mailto:heather@mend.org).

*Heather Fann*

*NW Washington*

M.E.N.D.—Northwest Washington is up and running beautifully. We had 17 in attendance at our third meeting in December. We had two grandmothers and one grandfather accompany their children as they strive to journey through the loss of a grandchild. Everyone was gifted with a glass angel in memory of their beloved babies to display as they choose. The two ornaments for my twins lost almost 30 years ago have been placed on the mantle next to the four stockings for my living children! I may be biased, but I am convinced we have the most amazing group ever! We look forward to 2011 as we open our arms and hearts to other mommies and daddies and spread the word about our chapter in the Pacific Northwest.

*Susan Crow*

*Hot Springs—New Chapter Opening*

M.E.N.D.—Hot Springs will be opening soon! As you know we closed our Northwest Arkansas chapter in the spring, so we're grateful to director Amy Humphries that we are able to take M.E.N.D. back to Arkansas.

*Rebekah Mitchell*

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 Soney  
Amarillo, Texas  
Director: Becky Anderson  
[becky@mend.org](mailto: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](mailto:susan@mend.org), (360) 516-8617

M.E.N.D.—**Hot Springs, Arkansas**  
DETAILS COMING SOON!  
Director: Amy Humphries  
[amy@mend.org](mailto:amy@mend.org)

## 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 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 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](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.*

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

**All main chapter support group  
meetings are held at:**

**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.

## *I Give my Tears*

By Julie Bergeron © 1994

Soft as an angel you entered my life  
And with a glimpse of pure light you  
warmed my heart  
With excitement and tenderness I  
closed my eyes...  
To be chosen by God to hold your  
memories...  
He knew my need for the pureness of  
your soul...  
Touching the tenderness I didn't even  
know I had.

But as quiet and pure as  
the whisper of a breath,  
You left, and the hurt was too painful,  
And too deep for me to understand.  
I clung to the emptiness of that deep,  
ripping pain.  
No one could comfort the silent cry in  
the pit of my soul.  
Every day,  
I labored to hold my face high,  
But I could only rest it in my hands  
and cry.

I felt the touch of  
God's hand on my heart  
As I laid you in the tiny little grave.  
"In His Hands" it read on the stone.  
I knew you were safe and cuddled in  
His hands,  
But I didn't realize  
it would be unbearable  
To continue through each  
day thereafter  
And that there was more  
comfort and trust  
That I had to put in God  
to heal my tears.

Now I know, I had to give  
That torn part of my heart to God,  
And along with the pain I gave Him  
my tears.

♥ Submitted by  
Peter and Rachel Dell,  
daddy and mommy to Mackenzie  
M.E.N.D.—Houston

## *A Journey Called Grief*

My name is Tonya, and my husband Eric and I are the faces of multiple losses: five, to be exact. This is not what we dreamt of when we decided to begin a family in 2004. Sometimes we still can't imagine that this is our life, but it is.

Our grief journey began in August 2006. After several years of medication, doctor appointments, an operation and many prayers, we finally conceived. However, our joy was short lived, because we miscarried four days afterwards. I didn't think the pain could get any worse, but I WAS SO WRONG.

It took us another year and a half before we would conceive again. Just when we had lost hope and decided we would adopt, we found out we were pregnant again in February 2008. We learned we were having a little girl, and we were over the moon with excitement. Other than severe morning sickness, the pregnancy was going wonderfully, until that dreadful day in July. After a routine doctor's appointment, I learned that I was 2 cm dilated with membranes bulging, along with contractions which I could not feel. I was told that I had an incompetent cervix and that I would need an emergency cerclage. So I was immediately taken to labor and delivery, where I stayed for the next six days, but my battle with IC was lost, because on July 21, Tiffany Evette was born.

From that point on our days and nights we're filled with tears and questions. How could this happen? What is an incompetent cervix? Why did this happen to us? Why did we have to lose our child? We wanted our little girl, we loved our little girl!! No matter how many questions we asked, it still didn't bring our Tiffany back.

We took a leap out on faith, and in February 2009, we were pregnant again!!! This time we had a plan. We knew what an incompetent cervix was, and we knew how to treat it. We we're ready. This time we were bringing our baby home!! I WAS WRONG, AGAIN. It was like déjà vu. Everything was happening in the exact same way as our loss with Tiffany. I went in for a regular doctor's appointment and a change was seen with my cervix. So we checked in the hospital, expecting to be home in 48 hours. However, things went downhill fast, and 14 days later, on June 21 (Father's Day), I gave birth to Elizabeth Hope.

How could this happen again? Lightning never strikes twice in the same place, at least that's what we have always been told. But lightning does strike twice in the same place.....it's rare, but it can happen. We were just beginning to accept our lives, now we found ourselves thrown into a DEEPER pit, which was twice as big, twice as deep, and twice as painful.

After so much pain, we found the hope to try again in November 2009. By December, we were pregnant, and by January we were met with disappointment again with our second miscarriage.

In August 2010, we were pregnant for the fifth time. However, we quickly learned something was not right. At six weeks we learned I had an ectopic pregnancy.

After four years on this grief journey, I still cry. I still have my days. I still grieve for my babies. I especially grieve for my little girls. Some of you may ask why I keep going. Why keep putting yourself though this pain? Why keep trying? It is because we still have hope and we have a dream, and a desire, to have a biological child. We don't want to look back years from now and wonder, "what if?" We still have hope on this journey called grief.

♥ Tonya Brown  
Mommy to Baby Brown (August 2006), Tiffany (July 2008), Elizabeth (June 2009), "Goober" (January, 2010), Baby Brown 2 (September 2010)  
M.E.N.D.—Dallas

## *Little Brother*

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Several days ago I was in the mall with my 6-month-old son, shopping for a birthday present for his grandma. After we found what we were looking for, I decided to check out the pre-Christmas sales in the baby department. As I looked through the racks in search of some new clothes for my rapidly growing little one, I saw a striped shirt that would match the sweat-pants his aunt Jo had recently purchased. I pulled the shirt from the pile and stopped when I saw what it said: “Little Brother.” On the surface, it was just what I was looking for—the right size, too cute, and even on sale. But it said “Little Brother.” Did I want to take the chance? I put it down but found myself circling back to it several times. I would pick it up and look it over, then place it gently back on the pile and walk away. A bit later, I repeated the cycle. Eventually, after a few more trips by the “Little Brother” shirt, I left the store empty handed.

On the way home, I went back and forth in my mind, battling between the pros and cons of buying that shirt. I made every excuse possible why I shouldn’t have bought it—he was growing so fast he probably wouldn’t be able to wear it for long, Christmas was coming and he would get more new clothes, it wasn’t that great of a sale, any excuse I could think of. But in reality, I didn’t buy the shirt because I didn’t know if I could handle explaining why Wyatt should be wearing a shirt proclaiming him to be a little brother when, to those who don’t know us well, it appeared as if he was an only child.

I was only 22 weeks pregnant when our daughter Gracie Renee was born on May 15, 2007. In only two hours and nine minutes her life began and ended. I couldn’t comprehend what was going on—this was never supposed to happen. The days and weeks that followed are barely a blur. I learned what total heartbreak was really about and retreated into my own private shell, blocking out most people. Thankfully, one of my friends put me in touch with our local M.E.N.D. chapter. With these women I began to heal, bit by bit.

News of my subsequent pregnancy had my husband, Dustin, and me on pins and needles. We were so excited but also terrified. Because I was high risk, I saw the doctors very often. With each visit, we added to our stack of ultrasound pictures of our healthy growing baby who we’d nicknamed “Gus.” But then, once again nearing 22 weeks, I noticed the slightest spotting. We raced to the doctor’s office, only to find I was dilated to 4 cm. After a little more than two weeks of bed rest, Emma Grace came into the world for 1 hour and 19 minutes. She was greeted by my parents, sisters, and mother- and father-in-law. They took turns hugging my husband and me and each lovingly held Emma. At some point, my dad pulled out his wallet and produced a copy of big sister Gracie’s footprints noticing little sister Emma’s feet were a full quarter of an inch longer. They tried so hard to soothe us, console us in any way they could, but the task was impossible. One by one, they left the room only to have their presence replaced with the members of our M.E.N.D. chapter.

Each woman took turns holding and loving Emma, doing the same for me. Even though they knew me my entire life, as much as my family tried, they could not fully understand what I was experiencing. But with this group of incredible friends, I felt the slightest amount of peace. In Job 2:13 we read, “They sat with him...for they saw that his suffering was great.” They, too, knew my suffering, for they had experienced it, too. They offered prayers of love and sympathy but eventually had to go.

Dustin and I took turns holding Emma throughout the remainder of the evening. The same photographer who was able to capture pictures of sweet little Gracie was there for Emma, too. Later, with Dustin sleeping on the couch, and the nurses attending to other patients, I was able to have Emma to myself. I held her close to my chest and rocked her gently while I sang her lullabies. I changed her diaper and smoothed her fragile skin with baby lotion. And I cried. I woke Dustin several hours later and told him it was time for Emma to go. We called the nurse to come get her and she cried with us as she carried Emma from the room.

For months after Emma’s death, I would wake up crying from the nightmares. Once again, I tried to shut the world out. I didn’t want to see anyone or talk to anyone. I cried for hours the day I had to return to work—I didn’t want to face anyone. The sorrow I felt for the loss of my daughters was accompanied by enormous guilt. How would my husband ever forgive me for losing his little girls? How could I have let this happen again? How could I have put my family through this twice?

I now realize I built many walls around myself. Walls to protect myself from the insensitive comments of others. Walls to hold in the anger and fear. Walls to protect the memories of my sweet little angels. Little by little, I’ve tried to break down the walls. Some days it seems like I’ve removed quite a few bricks from those walls. Other days, I notice a few bricks are back. And now I can share those treasured but protected memories with Wyatt when I tell him about his big sisters.

Oh. I went back and bought the “Little Brother” shirt. I’m sure Wyatt will wear it proudly.

♥ Janine Dorr

*Mommy to Gracie Renee and Emma Grace*

M.E.N.D.—Kansas



### *Subsequent Births*

**Ryan and Michelle Bristle,**  
of Jenks, Oklahoma,  
along with siblings  
Logan, Addison, and Avery,  
joyfully announce the arrival of  
Linley Gregg,

born October 5, 2010,  
measuring 7 lb., 10 oz.,  
and 19 1/2 inches long.

The Bristle family lovingly remembers  
Landon Gregg,  
stillborn February 26, 2009,  
fetal-maternal hemorrhage.

**David and Iris Starnes,**  
of Spring, Texas,  
joyfully announce the arrival of  
Ryland David,  
born September 27, 2010,  
measuring 9 lb., 2 oz.,  
and 21 inches long.

The Starnes lovingly remember  
Sophia Grace,  
May 7-17, 2008,  
Trisomy 13.

**Jennie and Jason Drude,**  
of Montgomery, Texas,  
along with big brother Max,  
joyfully announce the arrival of  
Mollie Michelle,  
born October 26, 2010,  
measuring 8 lb., 10 oz.  
and 19 3/4 inches long.

The Drude family lovingly remembers  
Dharma Lucille,  
March 31-April 1, 2008,  
Anencephaly.

**Angela Green,**  
of Texarkana, Texas,  
joyfully welcomed  
MaKynzi NaKole,  
on October 24, 2010,  
measuring 6lb., 4 oz.,  
and 19 inches long.  
Angela lovingly remembers  
Alyssa Grace Dunn,  
July 11-August 14, 2007,  
cardiopulmonary arrest.

**Kirk and Aly Kirkpatrick,**  
of Fayetteville, Arkansas,  
along with brother Ian,  
joyfully announce the adoption of  
Jane "Janie" Prescilia,  
home on November 4, 2010,  
born on May 1, 2007,  
in the Democratic Republic of Congo.  
The Kirkpatricks lovingly remember  
Hope,  
November 5-8, 2005,  
amniotic band syndrome.

**Josh and Elizabeth Simmons,**  
of College Station, Texas,  
along with siblings  
Caleb, Kyle and Ann Marie,  
joyfully announce the birth of  
Caroline Grace,  
born October 21, 2010  
measuring 7 lb., 12 oz.,  
and 19 1/2 inches.

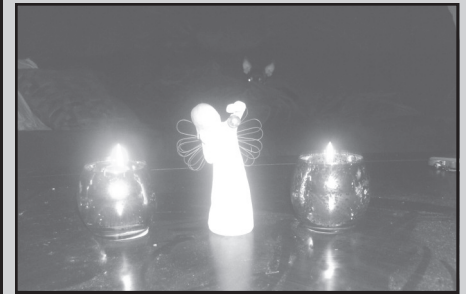
The Simmons lovingly remember  
Cathrine,  
November 15-24, 2009,  
during surgery for Spina Bifida.

**Kirk and Diana Light,**  
of Houston, Texas,  
joyfully announce the arrival of  
Brayden Christopher,  
born November 11, 2010,  
measuring 6 lb., 15 1/2 oz.,  
and 21 1/2 inches long.  
The Lights lovingly remember  
Jackson Glen and Tyler Ray,  
February 23, 2009,  
placental abruption.

**Mike and Ashley Frederickson,**  
of Spring, Texas,  
joyfully announce the arrival of  
Paisley Noelle,  
born November 22, 2010,  
measuring 5lb., 15oz.,  
and 19 inches long.  
The Fredericksons lovingly remember  
Mackenzie Noelle,  
stillborn June 17, 2009,  
unknown cause,  
and Baby "Skyler",  
January 2, 2010,  
ectopic pregnancy.

**Jeff and Karla Davis,**  
of Houston, Texas,  
along with big siblings  
Barbara, Rebekah, DeLana and Seth.  
joyfully announce the arrival of  
Mila Violetta,  
born November 29, 2010,  
measuring 8 lb., 8 oz.,  
and 19 1/2 inches.  
The Davis family lovingly remembers  
Sofia Cassandra,  
July 30, 2006,  
Trisomy 18.

### *Holiday Wrap-Up*



Here's a picture for the Holiday Wrap-Up. I was searching for the perfect angel to use to remember Baby Wheeler and Michael Noah at Christmas and I found this *Willow Tree* one called the "Angel of Wonder."

I like to think that Christmas in heaven must be totally amazing and awe inspiring!

We also light the two candles in their memory when decorating the tree and we will also light the candles during celebrations with family and friends.

♥ *Larissa Wheeler,*  
*mommy to*  
*Baby Wheeler and Michael Noah*  
M.E.N.D.—Dallas



## *Surrender*

My first M.E.N.D. meeting was November 13, 2003—three weeks after the loss of my first child. At the next meeting, I met a woman who had lost her son the month before David was stillborn. The next month, she announced that she was pregnant again.

**I was jealous.**—Over the years, I have heard numerous times from M.E.N.D. members that “it’s different” when pregnancy announcements come from other M.E.N.D. families. I guess I was the exception. Maybe I can blame the fact that I was facing infertility as well as loss and I wondered if I would ever be pregnant again. More likely, I can only blame the fact that I’m a sinner and sin is really ugly. Soon after this pregnancy announcement came the tragic news that this woman had suffered a miscarriage.

**I was horrified.**—When I look back, I’m a bit stupefied by my naïveté at that time. Obviously, I had learned first-hand that babies die. I can only think that my focus on my infertility had me so wrapped up in my goal of becoming pregnant again that it had never occurred to me that I might endure another loss. Then again, perhaps naive isn’t the best word to use. At best, I was presumptuous. Okay, I’ll be honest.

**I was entitled.**—Though I never would have said it or even consciously thought it, the truth is that I believed God *owed me* another baby. Actually, He owed me several. And I would be thankful for them. Oh, how I would be thankful! In fact, I’d be an amazing mom. And that was just one more reason that He owed me a house full of babies. Fast forward 2 years.... God did, indeed, bless us with another son. Our C.J. was born on September 29, 2005. At the time, we considered him a miracle. What we didn’t know was that by all medical standards, he should not have survived my pregnancy intact. God truly did grant us with a miracle. Not knowing the dangers of my pregnancy, I was nevertheless unbelievably thankful. But truth be told, part of me believed I was receiving my just dues. I had earned that baby. And frankly, it was about time God delivered! At the recommendation of my reproductive endocrinologist, we began fertility treatments again when C.J. was less than 4 months old.

Fast forward two and a half years...we couldn’t get pregnant. It just wasn’t going to happen again for us. We prayed. We quit. And then we grieved. What I didn’t know at the time was that I had become pregnant immediately following my last failed cycle. God had granted us with another miracle! Unbelievable! Sadly, after a very tumultuous couple of weeks that included some severe pain, bleeding and a trip to the ER, I was sent in for what would likely be a D&C. After surgery I was told that my pregnancy had been tubal and that my tube was in the process of rupturing. My uterus was so full of blood that my tube would have ruptured and I would have bled to death within minutes had I not had surgery that very day (which I very nearly didn’t).

**I was confused.**—What was the point of a miracle pregnancy if the baby was just going to die? And now I had lost a fallopian tube as well. What was the point? Shockingly, I became pregnant again in January of 2009, just 7 months after my second loss. I can’t describe the joy we felt as we once again had the hope of bringing another precious baby into our family. However, it soon became clear that this baby would not make it either. I miscarried fairly early.

**I was numb.**—How does a woman get pregnant with PCOS, endometriosis and one fallopian tube? And why would God choose to give that woman a baby just to take that miracle of a life away? Why? In September of that year, my husband changed jobs and we now had insurance coverage for fertility treatments—something we had never had before. Hope won out. At this point, I had had an unexplained stillbirth, a tubal pregnancy and a miscarriage. Lab tests revealed that I have MTHFR gene mutation, which means I’m at high risk for blood clots and I don’t metabolize folic acid well. I should have no problem carrying a baby to full-term as long as I’m on daily injectable blood thinners and massive amounts of folic acid (12 times the normal amount). The MTHFR gene mutation causes miscarriage, stillbirth and nuchal tube defects. When I received the news, my first thought was our first son, David. More than six years after his death, we finally had a likely answer. Quickly, my thoughts turned to my son, C.J., who by medical standards, should not be alive and healthy. He escaped miscarriage, stillbirth, and nuchal tube defects. Thank you, God!

**I was hopeful.**—We had our answer! We waited for my period to begin. Strangely, I had been having regular cycles since my more recent losses. We joked about the fact that we might still end up with a house full of kids. Friends were excited for me. One even brought me a pregnancy test to use near the end of my fertility cycle. For the life of me, I can’t explain why I did it. Hope makes us do silly things sometimes. I went home from a play group at a friend’s house that day and I took that darn test.

**I was shocked.**—I called my doctor, started taking all that extra folic acid and injecting myself with blood thinners every day. Because I took that test, we caught this surprise pregnancy very early. We were doing everything right! It was good. It was God. He is the only explanation for why I took that test. Things looked awesome. And then there was a gush of blood and a trip to the ER and I was miscarrying again. On February 15, 2010 what should have been a 30-minute D&C turned into 3 ½ hours. The baby was found in my remaining tube. I woke up to find I had lost my sweet baby and no longer had any fallopian tubes.

**I was devastated.**—We finally knew what I needed to do to sustain a pregnancy and now I could never be pregnant again! I find myself in such an interesting place now. I hardly recognize myself anymore. Some of that is bad. But one of the biggest lessons I have learned through all of this is that JOY is something to strive for. It’s more lasting than happiness, it’s unshakable, and JOY comes through suffering.

***He is good. He does good. He is sovereign. He loves me. He can be trusted....I surrender.***—And it feels good.

♥ *Melissa Stephens,*

*mommy to David Atkins, Baby Stephens II, III, and IV*

M.E.N.D.—Dallas

## *Pérdidas Subsecuentes*

Más de seis largos años pasaron después de la muerte mortinato de Jonathan, antes de que mis médicos me dieran luz verde para quedar embarazada otra vez, bueno, realmente era una luz de color amarillo brillante. Poco después de que Byron y yo nos casamos, me diagnosticaron una enfermedad renal grave, me informaron de que necesitaría un trasplante de riñón algún día. Un par de años después concebimos a nuestro primer bebé, Byron, Jr., quien ahora tiene 19 años de edad y es su primer año en la Universidad como estudiante. Cuando el cumplió 3, quede embarazada de su hermano pequeño, Jonathan, que nació mortinato debido a un problema con el cordón umbilical a los 7 meses de embarazo. Ambos embarazos pusieron mucho estrés en mis débiles riñones y me aconsejaron no quedar embarazada nuevamente hasta después de un trasplante – y eso solamente si el trasplante fuera un éxito y solo si me sentía bien, sin cualquier episodio de rechazo.

Mi amiga Valerie me donó uno de sus riñones cuatro años y medio después de sufrir la pérdida de Jonathan. Me dijeron que tenía que esperar año y medio después del trasplante antes de que Byron y yo pudiéramos tener la idea de tener otro bebé. Diecinueve meses más tarde, con precauciones pero sin un “no” de varios médicos, quede embarazada de nuestro tercer hijo. Realmente pensé que este pequeño sería como en la frase “felices por siempre” dando por terminado todo el sufrimiento en los últimos años.

Amaba estar embarazada y estaba supercontenta de que una vez más estaría creciendo un milagro dentro de mi cuerpo. Sin embargo, sabía muy bien que, igual que Jonathan, había la posibilidad de perder este bebé. Por lo tanto, tenía miedo de conectarme con él bebe. Personas cercanas a mí me decían cosas como, “Dios nunca te permitiría perder otro.” ¿En serio? Yo conozco varias familias en M.E.N.D. que habían perdido más de uno. ¿Por qué debería pensar que yo estaba sin la probabilidad de perderlo otra vez? Intenté permanecer positiva, pero a menudo me atrape yo misma diciéndole a la gente, “por si llego a llevar este bebe a casa.....”

Unas semanas después de que el embarazo fue confirmado, desperté una mañana con algunas manchas ligeras. Me preparé para lo peor, pero al día siguiente un ultra-sonido me mostró a mi pequeño bebé todavía de forma segura en mi vientre con un fuerte latido de corazón.

Dos semanas más tarde, tuve otro ultra-sonido y una vez más, el bebé era sano y justo del tamaño que debería tener. Sin embargo, todavía no me permití enamorarme de nuestro hijo más joven. Me encantó la idea de tener otro bebé y disfrutaba estar embarazada otra vez, pero tenía demasiado miedo de enamorarme de nuevo con un bebe, que rápidamente podría ser arrebatado de mí.

A las diez semanas de embarazo tuve mi cuarta cita con el médico. Porque mi embarazo fue considerado de alto riesgo, me hicieron un ultra-sonido en cada una de mis citas. Yo sabía por mi libro de control del embarazo de que a esta etapa, sería capaz de ver todo el cuerpo de mi bebé y no sólo formas. Tal vez hoy sería el día que finalmente me permitiría conectarme emocionalmente y verdaderamente con esta vida pequeña que estaba creciendo dentro de mí. Mientras estuve fuera de la habitación del ultra-sonido, mi obstetra me vio y me preguntó cómo me sentía y le conteste: “Bastante bien!” Nunca había tenido un embarazo con la función renal buena, así que asumí que fue por eso que no había tenido muchos malestares mañaneros y realmente me había sentido maravillosamente en los últimos días. Mucho después, me dijo que

cuando le conteste que me sentía bien, el sospecho algo, razón por la cual decidió unirse al técnico para que el también viera el ultra-sonido. Yo sólo pensaba que él estaba siendo muy amable y muy cuidadoso ese día. Tan pronto como se inició el procedimiento, me di cuenta que los dos hombres susurraban uno con el otro con expresiones de asombro y señalaban a la pantalla. Trate de alcanzar el monitor para poder mirar pero el técnico rápidamente la volteo para que no pudiera verlo. En ese momento yo lo sabía. Los murmullos sonaban demasiado familiares, voces y expresiones faciales no requerían de una explicación. No podía creer que estuviera pasándome una vez más!

Como ya había viajado antes en el camino del dolor, yo sabía lo que me esperaba. Pero mi dolor se quedo en suspenso porque se desarrolló una infección muy grave y tuve que tener otro legrado de emergencia seis días más tarde, seguido por tres días en el hospital. La infección me causo enfocar me o preocuparme más en mi salud y en la estabilidad de mi nuevo riñón, que en el aborto involuntario que acababa de tener. Durante los próximos meses, sin duda estaba triste, pero yo nunca caí totalmente en un estado de luto y sabía que en cualquier momento podría desmoronarme por completo. Varias veces yo misma intente lidiar con esto, pero no quería aceptar la profunda tristeza que sabía que algún día tenía que enfrentar. Eso fue realmente aterrador para mí, porque yo sabía que algo podría causar que mi dolor escondido saliera de repente en el momento menos indicado, donde yo no estaría preparada para poder enfrentarlo.

El dolor finalmente llegó un año más tarde, durante las fiestas Navideñas. Creo que el aniversario de un año de mi pérdida lo inicio, pero este sentimiento tomaba más fuerza mientras se acercaba el día de Navidad. Deberíamos tener un pequeño bebé con nosotros en la ciudad de Kansas, donde pasamos la Navidad de ese año con la familia de Byron. Mientras algunos de los primos celebraban la primera Navidad de sus hijos, aparentemente nadie recordaba que nosotros deberíamos estar haciendo lo mismo con nuestro hijo de seis meses de edad.

Ahora que Byron y yo nos quedamos con el nido vacío, pienso mucho en ese pequeño bebé. Él o ella ahora tendría ocho años de edad. ¿Qué raro es pensar que todavía estaría en el movimiento de llevar y traer pequeños a la escuela, participar en obras escolares y atender fiestas de cumpleaños de niños. Por cierto, todo suena agotador a esta madre de 42 años de edad que ahora está involucrada en el rol de una maternidad madura. Sin embargo, me doy cuenta si hubiera vivido Jonathan y nuestro pequeño, no podría imaginarme no tenerlos, estando a mi edad y terminando con la responsabilidad de educar o criar a mis hijos. Sin duda, siempre tendré tristeza y siempre lamentare la muerte de mis dos dulces bebes, pero estoy tan agradecida de que el Señor me ha dado paz y alegría de estar satisfecha con mi vida tal como es. Nunca en la imaginación más salvaje, de una niña ingenua, alguna vez creí que yo pasaría por la pérdida de un bebé, y mucho menos de dos. Pero como una adulta madura, he visto la mano de Dios claramente en cada una de mis pérdidas y rezo porque a través de este proceso de intentar encontrarle el sentido a todo, no he perdido cualquier oportunidad para utilizar estas experiencias para bien y para la glorificación de nuestro Señor.

♥ *Rebekah Mitchell*

*mama de Jonathan Daniel y Bebé Mitchell*

## Christmas Candlelight Ceremonies Light Up the Country



M.E.N.D.—**Texarkana:** Planning committee members Melissa Thomas, Toni Sherman, Monica Davis, Dawn Kennedy, not pictured Tania Greer (Photo by: Shawn Davis)



M.E.N.D.—**Houston:** Kate and Ricky Wells remembering their son, Kristopher, Cystic Hygroma/Fetal Hydrops, November 10, 2009. (Photo by: Russ Massey)



M.E.N.D.—**SW Missouri:** Founder Rebekah Mitchell, was the featured speaker at the inaugural SW Missouri event. She's pictured here (2nd from left) with planning committee members Ruth Sonnenberg, Heather Fann, Heather Bass, and Kathryn Gold (Photo by: Mark Harrell)

## Christmas Candlelight Ceremonies Sponsors

### Dallas

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Baker Bros. American Deli  
Beech Street First Baptist Church & Staff  
Beech Street First Baptist Kidz Ministry  
Chick-Fil-A  
Chili's Restaurant  
Chocolate Bliss  
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Jenny Craig  
Johnny Carino's Italian Grill  
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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](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.
- **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](http://www.angelbracelets.org).