



M.E.N.D.

Mommies Enduring Neonatal Death

Holidays

From Sorrow to Thankfulness and Joy

Romans 8:28 was the scripture people seemed to love to quote to me following my losses. I guess they thought it would be an instant fix to my sorrow. I bet someone wrote me or said that verse to me every day for months after Jonathan was stillborn. The scripture says, "And we know in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose." I somehow managed to politely smile and nod my head when it was said to my face, but in private, I remember many times raising my fist in the air and shouting to God, "How could good possibly come from this? My baby is dead! Then You show me the good!"

Over time, I saw and continue to see a lot of good that has resulted from Jonathan's death, and later from the miscarriage I suffered. I learned to focus more on the good things, which eventually led to thankfulness and joy. I am incredibly thankful for M.E.N.D. and the ways the Lord used my losses to create such a beautiful ministry. I love my M.E.N.D. family beyond words. Byron and I have forged friendships that otherwise would have never transpired. And I have witnessed the development of numerous other special friendships among fellow M.E.N.D. families. I am thankful that God has entrusted me with the privilege and responsibility of "shepherding" so many hurting families. I am thankful for the opportunities to visit freshly grieving families in the hospital, attend their babies' funerals, and be with these families during the darkest hours of their lives. I am thankful for the dream that came to fruition of multiple speaking engagements every year to area hospitals to educate and teach medical personnel about the heartache and reality of what we as families endure after the death of a baby. And, I am thankful for what the Lord has in store for the future of M.E.N.D.

Through the Lord, in the midst of my grieving, I have found great joy. The prophet Nehemiah tells us in the Bible, "...the joy of the Lord is your strength." There is no doubt in my mind that without His gift of joy, I would not be who I am today. Surely, I would be a solemn, bitter, boring

woman, very likely without the required strength to do what I do every day with M.E.N.D. As crazy as it sounds, we, the leaders of M.E.N.D., have a ton of fun together at our board of directors meetings, annual leadership conference, committee meetings, and preparations for big ceremonies. Many of us have traveled together over the years, visiting M.E.N.D. chapters where we have had the joy of going to places we may not have been able to travel otherwise. We have laughed together about almost running out of gas on long road trips (really not funny), getting stranded on bike rides together because of torrential rain and having to be rescued by my husband, and even a Big Foot sighting! We have had the honor of twice visiting the Amish farm of one of our M.E.N.D. families in Missouri, and getting acquainted with their absolutely fascinating way of life. I have joyfully loved the privilege of meeting and spending time with amazingly strong women in the infant loss world, such as author Nancy Guthrie and recording artist Nicol Sponberg. I have laughed with hosts and hostesses of radio and television shows where I have had the honor of being their guest. And I have joyfully told my story to a number of reporters over the years, and then delighted to see my baby's precious picture attached to our story in various newspapers and magazine articles. All this brings me joy beyond measure.

As this holiday season approaches, whether this is your first holiday since your loss, or you have endured many years, know that, indeed, God does work all things together for our good. It may not seem that way at first, or even for a long time, but I promise you, He will. It is up to us, through the Lord, to develop a spirit of thankfulness and an attitude of joy. Will yourself to be thankful for just one thing. Make yourself laugh at something today. Then wait and see what God will do!

♥ *Rebekah Mitchell,*

M.E.N.D. President/Founder

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 pagina numero 17.

A wave of light was sent around the world as moms, dads, siblings, and other family and friends lit candles in remembrance of babies in heaven on October 15, Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day.

Throughout the newsletter you will see pictures shared through our Facebook pages of candles lit in remembrance of our little ones.

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

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M.E.N.D. is a member of

First Candle/SIDS Alliance

International Stillbirth Alliance

The Heart of the Leader

My name is Sarah Fukasawa, and I am the director of the M.E.N.D.—Wichita Falls chapter. My husband and I were expecting our second child in February 2010. Our pregnancy with Jacob was uneventful until the end. Everything was going as planned, and we were expecting what looked like a healthy baby boy. One morning I woke up with a bad feeling and no movement. I was scheduled to see my doctor that morning, so I waited until my appointment. We were completely blindsided when we were told at the doctor's appointment that our baby boy no longer had a heartbeat. We were never given a reason for his death. Jacob was stillborn on February 8, 2010, at 36 weeks gestation.

I felt completely alone. I was surrounded by so many supportive friends and family members, but I didn't feel like anyone quite understood my pain. Through the grace of God, I met a friend who had gone through the same experience only days after we did. We quickly leaned on one another for support. I found comfort in sharing my pain with her. It was God's way of telling me I wasn't alone.

After something like this happens to you, people share their stories. As time went on, I realized there were so many others in our community that had experienced pregnancy and infant loss as well. I knew we needed a M.E.N.D. chapter in Wichita Falls. Sharing my story has brought peace to my heart. I wanted to pass that on to others who were suffering. When we are grief stricken, it's hard to think what God has planned for our future. It's hard to imagine that our pain could possibly serve purpose down the road. It was important for me and my healing to serve a purpose. Being a leader of a support group was never a role I saw myself in or something I would have wanted, but this is the path the Lord has chosen for me, and I am grateful to be a part of this ministry.

♥ Sarah Fukasawa,

Mommy to Jacob

M.E.N.D.—Wichita Falls

Decorating for Our Babies

With the holidays fast approaching, a very common concern is how to include our sweet angels who are celebrating in heaven. This is what I do for the holidays around my house.

I love decorating for each and every holiday. When it comes time for the major holidays in the fall, I even decorate the yard as well. We always have some sort of figurines in front of the house with our names on them, sometimes only our last name. We changed things after our angel was born. We decided for Christmas to get a small angel cut out with his name so he wouldn't be left out. After we received ours, we started talking to my parents, and they decided to add his name to their decorations also. We even hang a stocking with his name right next to ours. Since he cannot open his presents, I write him a letter every year and read it out loud on Christmas morning.



♥ Courtney Dobbins,

Mommy to Westin

M.E.N.D.—Houston



Book Review

Help! My Baby Has Died

By Reggie Weems

Although small in size and short in length, this booklet has a lot to offer hurting parents. Weems and his wife experienced three losses in three years: a first-trimester loss and two second-trimester losses, one of which was an ectopic pregnancy. Weems's words would resonate with parents experiencing a loss at any stage of pregnancy or in early infancy. Though neither was raised in what the author calls "overtly religious homes," in the wake of their losses the Weems family turned to God and the Bible with open hearts, seeking answers to their difficult questions. This is the story of their journey, and this booklet is a great starting place for those seeking similar answers. Readers who consider themselves close to the Lord and very familiar with the Bible will still find some new thoughts about the loss of a baby and about life with God in general. Although it is a quick, easy read and not complicated, it is full of substance. It exceeded my expectations, and I came away with some new thoughts to consider.

♥ Reviewed by Kathleen Moore

Mommy to Lily Joy

M.E.N.D.—SW Missouri

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 Jennifer Harrison at jennifer@mend.org.

Thanksgiving Grace

By Alicia M. Sims ~ From her book, *Am I Still a Sister?*
For Austin

I'm supposed to say Thanksgiving grace today at the table,
but I don't feel very thanksgiving...

What are we supposed to be thankful for? God took our
baby away and we're supposed to still believe in HIM?

The table is set, the turkey smells good and everyone
is gathering around...everyone, that is, except my baby brother.

WHY didn't HE let Austin live? WHY didn't HE help him
get better so he could grow up with me?

I don't want to be alone. I want to be a sister.

I don't want two turkey legs!

Hey God, I'm talking to You! Can You hear me? WHY don't You answer???

Or do You, and sometimes I just can't hear? Well anyway, I guess I'm
thankful for the little while Big A was here.

We did have some fun sometimes.
So, thanks God, for that little while.

Retrieved October 10, 2012
www.irisremembers.com



January/February Topic

When Your Loss is Your Last
Deadline: November 30, 2012

March/April Topic

Holding on to Spiritual Truths
Deadline: January 31, 2012

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 website 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. Because our newsletters are posted online, please understand that your name will likely be attached to your submission when searched on the Internet.

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

Birthday Tributes: M.E.N.D. publishes heavenly birthday tributes in the corresponding newsletter. Tributes must be submitted via the online form at www.mend.org.

Heavenly Birthday

January/February
March/April
May/June
July/August
September/October
November/December

Deadline

November 31
January 31
March 31
May 31
July 31
September 31



Birthday Tributes

Happy 2nd Birthday, Elizabeth!

Happy 1st Birthday, Eric or Margaret!

We think about all three of our children daily who have celebrated 1 year, 2 years and 5.5 years in heaven. We miss you so much!

We know heaven has to be an exciting place to hold your first birthday, Eric or Margaret. I am sure your siblings showed you around heaven as you arrived there in time for Elizabeth's first birthday last year. Happy second birthday in heaven, Elizabeth. We miss celebrating with all of you, and we love you so much!

Elizabeth Ruth Daubert

Stillborn October 25, 2010, full-term

Unknown cause

Eric Wesley Daubert or Margaret Helen Daubert

Miscarried September 19, 2011, 12 weeks

Baby stopped growing in the 9th week

Also remembering

Joseph Charles Daubert or Victoria Ruth Daubert

Miscarried March 24, 2007, 5 weeks

Parents: Tom and Lynne Daubert

Sister: Naomi Fern



Happy 3rd Birthday, Talon!

Happy third birthday, my little angel. Mommy and Daddy love and miss you! Thank you for sending your little brother safely to us! We loved you then, we love you now and we will love you always!

Talon Aguirre

December 11, 2009

Cord accident

Parents: John and Christina Aguirre

Brother: Stetson



Happy 1st Birthday, Abby!

We think about you every day, and we miss you so much. This has been a long year, and we just hope you know how much you are truly missed. I talk to you every day, and I just know what you are with me. We love you so much. Happy birthday, our angel!

Abby Denise Wallace

Stillborn December 27, 2011, at 35 weeks

Parents: Jonathan and Erica Wallace



Happy 3rd Birthday, Trenton!

We miss you and think of you every day. You have a new little brother now, and I know you are watching over him and keeping him safe. I hope you have a grand birthday celebration in heaven, and we look forward to being with you again someday!

We all love you so much,

Mommy, Daddy, Liam and your whole family

Trenton Kohl Woody

December 3, 2009 - May 30, 2010

Hypoplastic left heart syndrome

Parents: Jared Woody and Marissa Martin

Brother: Liam



Happy 7th Birthday, Abigail!

Missing you all the time, my angel.

You will never be forgotten until I hold you in my arms.

Love you!

Abigail Renee Burkhard

November 4, 2005

Unknown cause

Parents: Joshua and Michelle Burkhard

Siblings: Josiah, Hannah and Eliana



Happy 1st Birthday, Aria!

Although I never had the chance to tell you both how much you meant to me, I know you both rest in my heart. Loving you has been the cherry on top of my life. Nothing can compare to such beauty I have seen and felt. You are forever missed. Not a day goes by where I look into the sky and I don't feel you looking back. My babies are in the arms of Jesus, and I couldn't ask for more. I love you with all my heart, and as long as I have a soul I will never stop. I will see you again. So wait patiently for us at the gates of heaven, my angels.

Your loving parents,

Tiffany and Zachary Zambrano

Aria Jace Zambrano

October 18, 2011

Incompetent cervix

Also remembering

Angel Zambrano

Miscarried June 14, 2011

Unknown cause

Parents: Zachary and Tiffany Zambrano

Sister: Violet Rayne



Happy 6th Birthday, Chloe!

My sweet angel, six years has passed since I looked upon your sweet face. Not a day goes by that I don't think about what you would be doing now. This year would have been the year you would have started school, but I am so thankful you are celebrating your birthday with the greatest teacher of all, our Lord!

Have a wonderful day. We love and miss you!
XOXOXOXOX!
Mom, Dad and Lily

Chloe Madison Kring
September 29, 2006
Umbilical cord accident
Parents: Greg and Sherri Kring
Sister: Lily

**Happy 5th Birthday, Kenneth!**

Happy birthday to my little bookie bear on your fifth birthday! Today I sit here thinking about you with a very heavy heart. I didn't have any idea what to expect or how I would handle this great loss. After five years, I still don't have the answer. Mommy and Daddy are very blessed for the time we had with you and will hold onto those memories until we are together again. You are the greatest love of my life, and I want to wish you a very happy heavenly birthday. We will be celebrating your birthday and sending you lots of birthday wishes, hugs and kisses!

We love you,
Mommy and Daddy

Kenneth Bernard Weddington, Jr.
November 7, 2007
Unknown cause
Parents: Kenneth Weddington and Louisa Garza

**Happy 1st Birthday, Maximus!**

Our PEACE of Heaven. We love you so very much and are happy to reunite with you when God calls our names!

Maximus Frederick Samples
Stillborn December 7, 2011
Parents: Nicholas and Deborah Samples
Sibling: Alex

**Happy 1st Birthday, Grace!**

Grace is our angel. We only had her with us for a few short weeks, but she has our hearts forever.

Grace Walsh
Miscarried November 1, 2011
Parents: Kevin Walsh and Mary Coleman-Walsh

**Happy 2nd Birthday, Ainslee!**

Our dear sweet Ainslee, happy second birthday to you! We miss you beyond belief and can't believe you are turning 2 years old. We are missing out on so much with you. It is so wonderful to see your beautiful face in your sister and brother. We all love you so much and wish more than anything you were here to celebrate with us. We pray you are watching over us daily, keeping us safe and giving us hope. We love you, sweet girl, and can't wait for the day to have you back in our arms.

Love you always,
Mommy, Daddy,
big brother Adrian and little sister Hadlee Hope

Ainslee Ryan Soppe
October 29, 2010 - February 8, 2011
SIDS

Parents: Travis and Channan Soppe
Siblings: Adrian and Hadlee Hope

**Happy 9th Birthday, Caleb!**

Sweet Caleb, I can't believe we are celebrating your last "single-digit" heavenly birthday. With each year we miss you so much. Watching Maddie, we often wonder about you and what a great big brother you'd have been to her. She's awfully mouthy, and I'm sure you two would be quite funny to watch interact. I know you would have loved and protected her fiercely. We love you and miss you!

Happy ninth heavenly birthday, Honey!

Love,
Mommy, Daddy, and Maddie

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

**Happy 2nd Birthday, Blake !**

Happy birthday, baby boy! We love and miss you always! Hugs and kisses!

Love,
Mommy, Daddy and little sister

Blake Wendell McCullah
December 20, 2010
Stillbirth due to Factor V clotting disorder
Parents: Daniel and Jennifer McCullah
Little sister: Adalynn



Happy 6th Birthday, Rachel!

Dearest Rachel, as your birthday is drawing near we find ourselves looking at little girls who are turning 6 to try and imagine what stages you would be in. Our hearts ache to hold and kiss you, and the absence of “girly” things around our house is so painfully present. We’re working hard in your name to help other angel moms through their losses, and that brings some measure of comfort. You are making a difference here on earth as we’re sure you are making in heaven. Until we meet again and can celebrate together as a family, happy birthday, sweet baby girl.

Rachel Stephanie Blaney

December 6, 2006

Blunt force trauma as a

result of automobile accident

Parents: Sam and Lori Beth Blaney

Siblings: Jake and Shane

**Happy 4th Birthday, Ella!**

Happy fourth birthday to our sweet baby girl! We hope you are having a wonderful birthday in heaven with Jesus. Not a day goes by that we don’t miss you or think about you. You left a huge impact on our hearts, and we will never stop missing you. Look for four pink balloons on your birthday! We love and miss you so much!

Love,

Mommy, Daddy and Brody

Ella Grace Ketch

December 15 - 16, 2008

Preeclampsia/prematurity

Also remembering

Baby Ketch

Miscarried March 2008

Parents: Robbie and Celise Ketch

Sibling: Brody

**Happy 5th Birthday, Teighton!**

Precious little one, we had you in our lives such a very short time, but we’ll hold you in our hearts forever. It seemed like only a fleeting moment, but it was long enough to see you, touch you, hold you and love you. It was long enough to know that your life was indeed a gift—no matter how brief, no matter how fragile. We’ll hold you in our hearts forever. Happy fifth birthday, our sweet angel!

Love,

Daddy, Mommy and little brother Drayke

Teighton William Hoffart

Stillborn December 9, 2007

Eclampsia

Parents: Matthew and Kimberly Hoffart

Little Brother: Drayke Presten

**Happy 2nd Birthday, Khloe!**

Mommy and Daddy love and miss you so much!
You will always be in our hearts and never forgotten.
We love you way past FOREVER!

Khloe Peyton Calderon

December 21, 2010

Potters Syndrome

Parents: Erik and Angie Calderon

**Happy 1st Birthday, Sam!**

Wow, Daddy and I can’t believe you’re 1 already. It seems like just yesterday I was telling Daddy you were coming to join our family. But God had other plans for you and took you back home where I know Auntie Brienne is taking care of you. I hope you’re having fun playing with Lucky; he was a great dog. Thank you for answering Daddy’s prayers and sending us your little brother or sister. We can’t wait to say, “Sammie hand picked you for us.” We miss you so much, and there isn’t a day that goes by we don’t love you. Have a great first birthday, our sweet baby. Mommy and Daddy love you!

Sam Makowski

Miscarried November 4, 2011

Parents: Steven and Sundae Makowski

Little brother: Liam, due March 13, 2013

**Happy 5th Birthday, Hannah!**

Dear Hannah, I can’t believe it has been five years since I held you in my arms and kissed your precious face for the last time. School shopping for sissy and the boys was so hard this year. I wondered what kind of backpack and clothes you would have been excited to get for preschool, and it made me so sad. I think about you all the time. Every day that I survive is one day closer till I hold you in heaven. I can’t wait for that day. Happy birthday, my little butterfly. I miss you more than you will ever know.

Love,
Mommy

Hannah Marie Tolman

Stillborn November 13, 2007

Preeclampsia

Parents: Todd and Teresa Tolman

Siblings: Ashley, Zackary and Jacob

**Happy 6th Birthday, Baby Bass!**

To our special blessing, may God keep you safe in His arms until we are reunited. We love and miss you.

Baby Bass

Miscarried December 26, 2006

Parents: Travis and Heather Bass

Siblings: Rachel and Braden



Happy 4th Birthday, Anna!

To our sweet Anna, happy fourth birthday! We miss you so much each and every day. Words cannot describe our heartache and the emptiness we feel without you here. As we watch your baby brother grow up and learn to walk and talk, we realize we have missed all of these milestones with you. We imagine you and Elliot playing together and laughing and chasing one another, and that puts a smile on our faces. We love you so very much Anna!

Always,

Mommy, Daddy and brother Elliot

Anna Jacqueline Radack

November 1, 2008

*HELLP Syndrome and severe preeclampsia due to
Antiphospholipid Antibody Syndrome*

Also remembering

Baby Radack (Elliot's twin)

September 1, 2009

Unknown cause

Parents: Jeff and Jill Radack

Brother: Elliot



Happy 3rd Birthday, Kavya!

Happy birthday to our sweet, precious baby Kavya. It is so hard to believe that three years have gone by. We, your Mor, Achen, brother Jacob and sister Kyra, along with your grandparents and family from Denmark and India, send our love and kisses to heaven for you. We know you are celebrating with Jesus, your great-grandparents and Uncle Dev. Your Mor lights a candle for you every day. I am so grateful and privileged to have met you, even if it was for a very short time.

Love you and miss you,
Betty Amamma

Kavya Marie Kurishungal

December 17 - 31, 2009

Complications from omphalocele

Parents: Pravin and Tina Kurishungal

Siblings: Jacob, Kyra and doggies Appu and Daisey



Happy 1st Birthday, Gelurance!

Although you are not here physically, we feel your presence daily. We love you and miss you so much, but God loved you the most. We know you are enjoying heaven. We pray that we will see you in heaven!

With all our love,
Mommy and Daddy

Gelurance David Wilson

December 15 - 17, 2011

Placenta abruption

Parents: Tyson and Tiera Wilson

Siblings: Curtis, Andre' and Tyson II



Happy 2nd Birthday, Samuel!

My sweet little angel Samuel, what life would be like if you were here? Your Momma and I think of you all the time. I know that through your baby brother, Isaiah, we will get to know you in some way. He will surely know he has a big brother watching over him. I'm not sure if it's selfish of us to want you here even though we know you're in the arms of our loving Father, but we miss you so much! Life is beautiful and hard at the same time, but you were spared life for a blissful land of paradise in heaven. We will see you again, my son! Don't forget to make a wish! We love you!

Love,

Mommy, Daddy and Little Isaiah

Samuel Adan Contreras

November 11, 2010

Cord accident

Parents: Alfredo and Mercedes Contreras

Brother: Isaiah Adan



Happy 3rd Birthday, Jake!

We celebrate you and the time we had together!
Always remembered, always loved!

XOXOXO

Mommy, Daddy, Ethan and ZoZo

Jacob Edward Grell

November 21 - December 1, 2009

Prematurity/infection

Parents: Geoff and Kate Grell

Siblings: Twin brother Ethan and Zoe



Happy 1st Birthday, Parker!

Happy first birthday to our angel son, Parker!
Mommy and Daddy love you and miss you so much!

We thought of you with love today, but that is nothing new.

We thought about you yesterday
and the day before that too.

We think of you in silence and often say your name.

But all we have are memories, and your picture in a frame.
Your memory is our keepsake, with which we'll never part.

God has you in His keeping. We have you in our heart.

Parker Houston Mitchell

Stillborn November 26, 2011, at 39 weeks

Unknown cause

Also remembering

Baby Mitchell

Miscarried August 2010

Baby Mitchell II

Miscarried May 2012

Parents: Kris and Beth Mitchell



Happy 1st Birthday, Grace!

You are on our minds and in our hearts every day! As we celebrate your birthday we look forward to the day we will be reunited in heaven!

We love and miss you,
Mom, Dad and Miles

Grace Mae Mieri Miller
November 25, 2011
Potters Syndrome
Also remembering
Baby Miller
Miscarried May 2007
Baby Miller II
Miscarried August 2007
Parents: Jarrett and Jennie Miller
Brother: Miles

**Happy 3rd Birthday, Merrick!**

“A thousand words can’t bring you back,
I know because I tried
And neither can a million tears
I know because I cried.”
~Author Unknown

Wishing you were here with us!
Daddy, Mommy, Jazzy, Sahana and King

Merrick Lloyd Evans Jr.
December 30, 2009
Preterm birth/unknown cause
Parents: Merrick Evans and Eugené Rhodes
Siblings: Jahzara, Sahana, King and
Baby Evans (on the way)

**Happy 7th Birthday, Aidan!**

Seven years have passed and many tears have been shed, but this year is a celebration of your life and legacy. Your short life touched the hearts of so many people and led to innumerable blessings. I am so proud to be your mommy! I love you so much! Happy seventh birthday, my sweet boy!

Aidan Shaw Vander Cruyssen
October 2 - December 3, 2005
PKD
Mommy: Shane Meyer
Sibling: Cameron

**Happy 2nd Birthday, Adelaide Elizabeth!**

We love and miss you every second of every day!
Love,
Mommy, Daddy, Evangeline, Asher and Jacob

Adelaide Elizabeth Curless
December 22, 2010 - April 7, 2011
SIDS

Also remembering
Baby Curless
Miscarried 2004
Baby Curless
Ectopic pregnancy 2007
Baby Curlesses
Failed IVF 2008
Baby Curless
Failed IVF 2009
Baby Curlesses
Failed Embryo transfer 2010
Parents: Jared and Kim Curless
Siblings: Evangeline, Asher and Jacob (Adelaide’s twin)

**Happy 7th Birthday, Hope!**

Happy birthday to you! Happy birthday to you!
Happy birthday, dear Hopie! Happy birthday to you!
I can hardly believe it was seven years ago that I held you, my little pink bundle, in my arms. I love you so much and look forward to holding you again in heaven.

Lots of love, hugs and kisses,
Mama

It’s hard to believe our Little Pink (Grand) Bundle would be 7 and in first grade. Where did the time go? I bet you’re keeping Pop-Pop and Grandma busy up in heaven! We love and miss you!

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

Hope Kirkpatrick
November 5 - 8, 2005
Amniotic Band Syndrome
Parents: Kirk and Aly Kirkpatrick
Little siblings: Ian and Jamie

**Happy 4th Birthday, Gabriel!**

We can hardly believe that it has been four years since we held you in our arms. There isn’t a day that goes by that we don’t think about you. We miss you so very much. We’re thankful for the promise that we will be reunited with you and that we’ll be able to hold you in our arms once again, but this time it will be for all of eternity! We love you and miss you more than words can say.

Love,
Mommy, Daddy, your little brother Isaac
and your baby sister (due February 2013)

Gabriel Laws
December 17, 2008
Hydrops fetalis - unknown cause
Parents: Joe and Regina Laws
Siblings: Isaac and Baby Sister (Due Feb. 2013)



Happy 3rd Birthday, Serenity!

As I watch your little brother grow and reach all the milestones, I cannot help but wonder what it would have been like watching you reach all the milestones. Then I wonder what you would be doing today, playing with whatever you can reach in the house, playing in the garage with Dad, riding your pedal cars and all the other fun things three-year-olds do. As much as I want you here with me, there is not a better place that you could be than where you are now—in heaven with Jesus. You are protected from all the evilness in this old world, and I know some day I will get to join you. In the meantime, I know there are a lot of new babies that have joined you in heaven, so sing to them often in the sweet songs that Jesus has taught you.

With all our love to our blessing above,
Mama, Daddy and Levi

Serenity Harrison

Miscarried December 3, 2009

Parents: Curtis and Jennifer Harrison

Little brother: Levi



Happy 7th Birthday, Rylie Grace!

Sweet baby girl, seven years have come and gone since we last saw your little face, but not a day has gone by that you have not filled our hearts and minds. We miss you so terribly, precious girl. I hope you know how much we love and treasure you. It never gets easier being without you. My only comfort is the hope of seeing you again one day. And when that day comes, I won't ever let you go again, I promise. We will cherish you in our hearts forever and ever. Have a wonderful seventh birthday celebrating with Jesus!

Loving you always,
Momma, Daddy, Blake and Landry

Rylie Grace Addison

Stillborn November 21, 2005

Also remembering

Baby Addison

Miscarried December 22, 2004

Parents: Blaine and Shannon Addison

Siblings: Blake and Landry



Happy 1st Birthday, Jamison!

With every breath we take, with every beat of our hearts, every minute of every day, we miss you. We love you baby boy; we will love you forever.

Jamison Jude Blanton

October 7 - November 4, 2011

Critical aortic valve stenosis

Parents: Joel and Rochelle Blanton

Siblings: Liam and Gavin



Happy 3rd Birthday, Madilynn!

Sweet angel, we can't believe three years have gone by since we held you in our arms and had to say goodbye. We still think about you every day and how beautiful you were. We imagine how you would look now if you were here with us and how much fun we would have together, precious girl. We are sending birthday hugs and kisses to heaven for you! We love you always and forever!

Mommy and Daddy

Madilynn Isabell Kelley

Stillborn December 3, 2009

Cord accident

Parents: Jeremiah and Cherish Kelley



Happy 1st Birthday, Sam and Ben!

You two are the greatest blessing of my life. It is an honor to be your mother and live out the legacy of your sudden impact; I am a better woman thanks to you. May I make you proud till the day we meet again.

I love you with all that I was, am, and ever will be.

My heart is yours,

Mom

Samuel and Benjamin Martin

November 10, 2011

Preterm labor

Mommy: Katherine Martin



Happy 8th Birthday, Cece!

You are always in our hearts...

Celeste Kimberly Reid

December 7 - 8, 2004

Neonatal Hemochromatosis

Also remembering

Connor Boston Reid

Born to heaven April 27, 2006

Trisomy 13

Parents: Andie Boston and Skip Reid

Sister: Allyson Kate



Happy 10th Birthday, Logan!

Your first double-digit birthday! I can't believe it's been 10 years since you were here and gone again. Some days it feels like it was yesterday...and some days I wish it had been because I miss you so. But I know that your 10th heavenly birthday was an amazing one! Your family loves you and misses you, and we cannot wait to see you again one day!

Logan Wayne Fish

September 17, 2002

Thanataphoric Dwarfism

Parents: David and Brittney Fish

Brothers: Landry and Hudson



In Loving Memory**Aiden Marcus Balderrama**

Stillborn July 2, 2011

Baby B

Miscarried June 2010

Given by parents

Monica and Adrian Balderrama

Colten Benjamin Balmer

Given by grandmother Kathleen Menough

Jordan Alexander Booker

Stillborn January 11, 2007

Cord accident

Gifts given by

Mommy Norma Jordan

Rhonda Adams

Dudley and Marcia Calhoun

Liam and Sebastian Callaway

Stillborn August 5, 2011

Unknown cause

Parents: Zach and Rori Callaway

Given by Whitney Reed

Jowell Ivan Castro

July 12, 2012

Potters Syndrome

Given by grandmother Miriam Garcia

Catherine Grace Chapman

August 10 - 12, 2012

Premature birth/HELLP

Gifts given by

Mommy Kara Chapman

Aunt Margaret McAnaly

Abigail Grace Crump

July 1, 2003

Trisomy 18

Gifts given by

Parents Gerald and Jaimie Crump
and little sisters Cami and Karli

Great-uncle David and

Great-aunt Robin Smith

Aidan Shaw Vander Cruyssen

October 2 - December 3, 2005

PKD

Given by mommy Shane Meyer

and little sister Cameron

Brooke Sophia Daily

Stillborn March 11, 2010

Vasa Previa

Gifts given by

Parents Jeremy and Lisa Daily

and sisters Sarah and Savannah

Sophie Jane Darnell

Stillborn May 28, 2012

Unknown cause

Gifts given by

Parents Brea and Tommy Darnell

and big brother Luke

Grandmother Tammy Darnell

Jeanie Lindsey

Danny and Helen Lynch

Jeany Martin

Steve and Michelle Skrasek

Jimmy Bridges

Joseph and Sara Averett

Riley and Parker Davis

November 14, 2006

Prematurity

Given by parents Rob and Cheryl Davis

and little sister Annalise

Kyler Paul English

Stillborn January 20, 2006

Cord accident

Parents: Laurie McPike and Bob English

Given by Jon and Laurie McPike and
brothers Kinser, Kelson and Kayden**Isaac Huff**

Stillborn August 27, 2005

Preterm labor

Baby Huff I

Miscarried April 2006

Baby Huff II

Miscarried January 2007

Baby Huff III

Miscarried October 2007

Baby Huff IV

Miscarried September 2008

Baby Huff V

Miscarried December 2009

Parents: Nick and Erika Huff

Siblings: Rafael, Blythe and Nash

Gifts given by:

Grandparents Jim and Sandy Meyer

Great-grandparents

Marge and Bob Lingo

Elaine Rose

Brad and Kristy Shelton

James and Teresa Spoon

Hudson Parker Jones

Stillborn January 9, 2010

Lower bladder obstruction

Given by parents Travis and Jennifer Jones

and little sister Presley

Kavya Marie Kurshingal

December 17 - 31, 2009

Complications from omphalocele

Given by parents

Pravin and Tina Kurshingal

Emma Krymkiewiez

May 5, 2009

Baby Girl Krymkiewiez

June 13, 2008

Given by parents

Ana Ayon and Hernan Krymkiewiez

Sophia Elise Lewis

March 25, 2009

Triploidy 69

Given by parents Eric and Janie Lewis

and little brother Nicholas

Avery Merae Longgood

August 2 - 3, 2007

Possible stroke

Given by parents Neil and Jamie Longgood

Andrew Mallette

March 21, 2008

CMV

Parents: Michael and Nicole Mallette

Given by grandmother Kathy Rutherford

Nathaniel Thomas Michalsky

June 28, 2012

Placental insufficiency

Parents: Nick and Susan Michalsky

Given by grandmother Pat Prendergast

Aerin P. Middlebrooks-Duncan

June 21, 2011

Given by mommy Janiese Middlebrooks

Gideon Zeller Mitchell

May 17, 2011

Membranous cord insertion

Avery Mitchell

Miscarried May 2008

Parents: Todd and Stormy Mitchell

Gifts given by:

Grandparents Earl and Karen Zeller

Milk and Honey Bakery

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!

Jonathan Daniel Mitchell

Stillborn June 24, 1995
Cord accident

Baby Mitchell

Miscarried December 2001

Gifts given by

Parents Byron and Rebekah Mitchell
and big brother Byron, Jr.
Grandparents Dennis and Sue Brewer
Dentistry of Las Colinas /
Byron L. Mitchell, D.D.S.
Jeany Martin

Tyler Ethan Mitchell

July 30, 2011

IUGR

Given by parents

Harvey and Shakira Mitchell

Lily Joy Moore

Miscarried March 2, 2011

Unknown cause

Gifts given by

Parents Jeremy and Kathleen Moore
and big brother Isaac
Grammy Marsha Neely
Uncle Chris and Aunt Laura Mudd
Grandfather Ray Neely
Jeremy and Allyson Wynn

Lukas Clark Moore

Stillborn August 11, 2010

Factor V blood clotting

Parents: Jay and Kami Moore

Given by Brad and Kristy Shelton

Abigail Elizabeth Raglin

April 9 - 22, 2005

Premature birth, congenital heart failure

Given by parents Jerrod and Amy Raglin

Laura Olivia Riha

May 12, 2010

Heart defect

Given by mommy Olivia Riha

Emilynn Larren Schrader

Stillborn June 19, 2012

Cord accident

Parents: Dan and Kellie Schrader

Siblings: Nolan and Mary Britton

Given by grandparents

Stan and Jean McAlpin

Joshua Sherman

Stillborn August 25, 2009

Parents: Rob and Shanon Sherman

Given by Uncle James and

Aunt Kristin McCoy

Gracieanne Smeenk

November 17, 2010

Cord accident

Parents: Stephen and Julie Smeenk

Big brother: Hunter

Given by grandparents

Arnold and Anne Smeenk

Joshua Robert Smeenk

October 4, 1987

Cord accident

Given by parents Arnold and Anne Smeenk

Ethan Kane Spurrier

Stillborn September 5, 2007

Cord accident

Given by parents Bruce and Sandra Spurrier

Case Foster Thomas

August 29, 2012

Placental abruption

Given by parents

Cody and Elizabeth Thomas

Alivia Elizabeth Grace Walker

Stillborn July 24, 2006

Incompetent cervix

Given by parents Robert and Liz Walker
and little brother Jaxson

Kyle Charles Walton

November 19, 1998

Group B Strep and lack of nourishment
from placenta

Given by parents Kristen and Jason Walton
and siblings Jessica, Laura and Joshua

Owen Patrick Webb

Stillborn April 30, 2009

Unknown cause

Given by parents Brian and Melissa Webb
and twin sister Sophia

Christian Graham Wells

July 11, 2010

Unknown cause

Given by GW Air Services/parents Glen and
Mitzi Wells and sibling Michael

Adrian "AJ" Zuckerman

Stillborn March 30, 2007

Cord accident

Parents: Amber and Al Zuckerman

Siblings: Eli and Alex

Given by Mike and Jane Gartenhaus

Gifts of Support

Second Baptist Church, Springfield, MO

West Conroe Baptist Church, TX

Jerry and Deniese Dillon

Tulsa Ob-Gyn Associates, Inc./

Dr. Gena Gray

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.

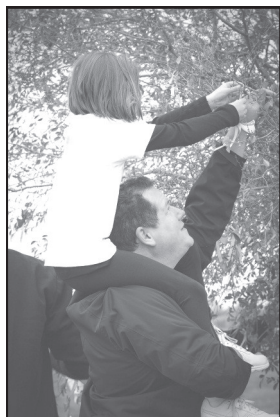
If you're interested in creating a legacy gift or endowment in honor of your baby, M.E.N.D. would be happy to assist you in gathering the necessary information to remember our organization in your will or trust. For more information about legacy giving, please contact Rebekah Mitchell at rebekah@mend.org.



A strong woman believes that
she's strong enough
to face her journey...
but a woman of strength
has faith that it is in this journey
she will become strong.



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



Joel Stanley and his daughter hang ornaments for Savannah Kate and Baby Stanley.

The 16th annual Walk to Remember was by far our most memorable Walk yet. Despite the unusually cold temperatures, more than 1,000 people attended to remember more than 300 babies. We were beyond blessed with special singer and speaker, Nicol Sponberg. Nicol is a Christian recording artist, and one of the founding members of the Christian group, Selah. In 2008, the Sponbergs lost their sweet son, Luke, to SIDS. Luke's death came just a few short weeks following the death of his cousin, Audrey Caroline, infant daughter of Angie and Todd Smith. Nicol shared her heartbreaking story of finding Luke not breathing in his crib, her journey of grief, and most importantly, how we have hope in the Lord and through Him, the assurance of seeing our babies again. Nicol also beautifully sang songs from her most recent CD, *On Our Way Home*.

♥ *Rebekah Mitchell, M.E.N.D. President/Founder*

Mommy to Jonathan Daniel and Baby Mitchell



Nicol Sponberg sharing her testimony.



Balloons released in honor of babies.



Megan Kaye's t-shirt honoring her babies.

Thank you to our sponsors for the M.E.N.D.-Dallas Walk to Remember

Joe's Crab Shack
Leigh Melton
Liz and Robert Walker
Lone Star Park at Grand Prairie
Main Street Signs and Graphics
Mary Steen
Mavericks Sports Grill
McAlister's Deli
Travis and Jennifer Jones
Texas Motor Speedway
On the Border
Sweets by Belinda/Belinda Rodela
Panera Bread
Precious Moments
Rachael McClelland
Ripley's Believe It or Not
Rob and Cheryl Davis
Rudy's BBQ Arlington
Spaghetti Warehouse
Spring Creek BBQ
Sterling Images by Brittney Fish
Steve and Becky Carter
String Bean Restaurant
Good Day Café

The Grease Monkey Burger Shop
Tina and Michael Rusert
I Fratelli Pizza
Tommy and Brea Darnell
Brian and Melissa Webb
Pioneer Natural Resources
Jeanie Lindsey
Danny and Helen Lynch
Steve and Michelle Skrasek
The Havens Spa
Tina and Pravin Kurishngal
Amanda McCaffrey
Amber and Al Zuckerman
Anything Goes
Twisted Root Burger Company
Babe's Chicken Arlington
Black Eye Pea
Bob's Steak and Chop House
Chuck E. Cheese
Jeany Martin
Chuy's
Cotton Patch Café
Cracker Barrel Old Country Store
Dallas Cowboys Stadium

Dallas Mavericks
Dallas Stars
Dallas Zoo
DeAnna Cochran Jewelry
Dr. Delphinium Florist
El Chico Café
FC Dallas
Fort Worth Zoo
Freebirds World Burritos
Genghis Grill
Golden Corral Grand Prairie
Home Depot
In-N-Out Burger Corp
Inspired Creations by CEO
Jena's Jems Etsy Store
Jim and Larissa Wheeler
Jimmy Bridges
Norma Jordan
Rhonda Adams
Dudley and Marcia Calhoun
Joseph and Sara Averett
Forth Worth Cats Baseball
Jamberry Independent consultant Noel Giger
Tammy Darnell

Thirty-one Independent Consultant Jennifer Wheelbarger
Grand Prairie Air Hogs Minor League Baseball
Origami Owl Independent Consultant Krista Saysanam
Dentistry of Las Colinas/Byron L. Mitchell, DDS
Diamond Beachbody Coach Melissa Stephens

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

We had a beautiful day in Houston, Texas, with more than 600 people to remember 180 babies. We want to thank Bammel Road Church of Christ, Grief Share Ministry, for their wonderful facility, generosity and hospitality; from greeters to golf carts, you made this day very special for a lot of people. Thank you to Jonathan and Heather Fann, Director of the SW Missouri chapter, who drove from Springfield, Missouri, to share what is on their hearts with grieving families of Houston. Thank you to Sharon Ledgerwood, who beautifully played the piano for us throughout the ceremony. Finally, thank you to Rebekah Maddux - El Hakam, whose beautiful voice blessed us all! The two songs she sang, "Hallelujah, I Love You" and "Your Promises," are available on iTunes.

I want to give a very special thank you to the Houston Walk committee. Without them, this ceremony would not have been possible: Randy and Cortney Dobbins, Ana Ayon, Robyn Anderson, Leah Robilotto-Bass, Gerald Crump, Chad Smith, Ryan Massey, Rosemary Massey, Brandy Wilson, Tim and Sarah Winebrenner, Mitzi Wells, Merle Johnson, Janie Lewis, Shane Meyer, Chiara Ott, Nichole Rowan, Stephanie Estala, Greg and Stefanie Miller, Beverlyann Whigham, Stormy Mitchell, Kimberly Adams, Diana Light and Mariana Horowitz.

Thank you to our sponsors for the
M.E.N.D.-Houston Walk to Remember

♥ Jaimie Crump,
Mommy to Abigail Grace
M.E.N.D. — Houston



The family of Case Thomas Foster prepares to release his balloons.

- The Avery Grace Kargel Memorial
- Bammel Road Church of Christ,
- Grief Share Ministry
- GW Air Services
- Shane Meyer
- Joseph and Janie Lewis
- Adrian and Monica Balderrama
- Earl and Karen Zeller
- Ana Ayon and Hernan Krymkiewicz
- David and Robin Smith
- Milk and Honey Bakery



Jed and Julie von Heimburg of Cushing, Texas, hang ornaments for their four babies.

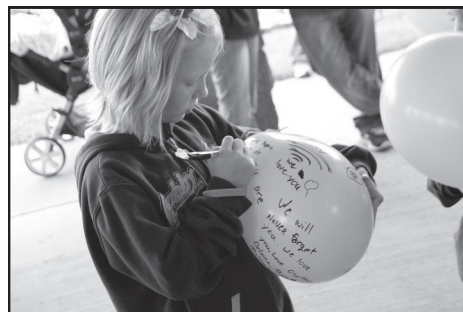
M.E.N.D.-SW Missouri Balloon Release

Our 2nd Annual Breakfast and Balloon Release for Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness was more than double last year's attendance. Despite the wind and chilly temperatures, we had 75 people representing 36 babies in heaven release 110 balloons. Special thanks to my committee (Heather Bass, Kathryn Gold and Kathleen Moore) for their help, as well as Kathleen's father and grandfather to Lily Joy, Ray Neely, for all his help onsite. Also, thanks to the Mitchell family for their years of service to bereaved families nationwide and for Rebekah's message as our guest speaker. Lastly, thanks to Michelle Cramer for capturing our memories in pictures, and to Meaghan Daniels, who blessed us with her beautiful voice.

♥ Heather Fann,
Mommy to Caleb Scott and Baby August
M.E.N.D. — SW Missouri



Julia Gillespie has a quiet moment for her Baby Nadler.



A big sister writes a message to her little brother, Raymond Warren Rich.



Lindy Biglieni, along with friends, prepare to release balloons for her baby.

M.E.N.D.

*Chapter Corner*Chapter Meeting Information**M.E.N.D.—Houston**Meets the 3rd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.Northwest Medical and Professional Building
17117 Cali Dr, Suite 112, Houston, TX 77090

Director: Jaimie Crump

jaimie@mend.org, (281) 374-8528

Subsequent pregnancy group meets
as needed on the 3rd Thursday at 7:30 p.m.,
led by Chiara Ott
(chiara@mend.org).**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.—TulsaMeets the 3rd Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.Canyon Crossing
1651 E Old North Rd.

Sand Springs, Oklahoma 74063

Director: Lisa Daily

lisa@mend.org, (918) 694-4325 (HEAL)

M.E.N.D.—SW MissouriMeets 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 StationMeets 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.—AmarilloMeets the 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.First United Bank of the Colonies/
Lonestar RoomOne First United Bank Parkway
45th and Soncy

Amarillo, Texas

Director: Becky Anderson

becky@mend.org, (806) 570-4344

M.E.N.D. Chapter Updates*NW Washington*

We are transitioning nicely these last few months as I have taken over as Chapter Director, and I feel very welcomed by our group. I have been a part of our group from the first meeting, and feel truly blessed to see how God is working in my life because of my losses. I have a wonderful team with three new assistants, Katherine Sandoval, Rachel Lewis and Bethany Wilson. I am so glad to have such a great team of ladies helping me. The chapter celebrated its 2nd birthday in October! We are busy planning our Christmas Candlelight service, which will be on December 7.

*Stacy McGhee**Houston*

We are excited about the upcoming Christmas Candlelight Ceremony on Saturday, December 1, 2012. We will be holding it at Metropolitan Baptist Church in the Truth Building. Information and reservations will be up soon on www.mend.org. To receive an invitation or to ask questions, please contact Jaimie at jaimie@mend.org.

*Jaimie Crump**Hot Springs*

M.E.N.D.—Hot Springs is preparing for our first Christmas Candlelight Ceremony. The ceremony will take place December 1, 2012, at New Life Church in Hot Springs beginning at 7:00 p.m. A dessert fellowship will follow the ceremony. If you would like to help in any way or would like more information, please call Amy Humphries at (501) 276-5034.

*Amy Humphries**Texarkana*

M.E.N.D.—Texarkana is looking forward to our 6th Annual Candlelight Ceremony. This very special event will be Saturday, December 8, at 6:30 p.m. at Beech Street First Baptist Church, Family Activities Center. If you would like more information about this ceremony, please contact Monica Davis at (903) 490-1210, or email monica@mend.org.

*Monica Davis**Amarillo*

BUNCO for BABIES was a complete success! We cannot thank everyone enough for the support you showed. We look forward to seeing you all again.

Wrapping for M.E.N.D. will be Saturday, December 8, from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. We will be holding this at the Southwest Church of Christ, on the corner of Cornell and 45th.

*Becky Anderson**Looking Ahead***M.E.N.D. Christmas Candlelight Ceremonies**

Hot Springs	Houston	Dallas	Washington	Bryan/College Station	SW Missouri	Tulsa
12/1/12	12/1/12	12/4/12	12/7/12	12/8/12	12/11/12	12/14/12

Please contact your chapter for more details on the events.

SW/Missouri

M.E.N.D.—Southwest Missouri continues to grow each month with more than twice as many families and friends attending our 2nd Annual Breakfast and Balloon Release in October. Plans are already in motion for our 3rd Annual Christmas Candlelight Ceremony on Tuesday, December 11, from 7 - 9 p.m. at the Elfindale Mansion and Chapel. If you are interested in serving on the committee or in making a donation to help offset the costs of these events, please email me (heather@mend.org). We'll be sure to recognize gifts given for the ceremony in an upcoming newsletter.

Heather Fann

Bryan/College Station

M.E.N.D.—Bryan/College Station had our first balloon release for our chapter. It was beautiful with more than 70 balloons released. We are also preparing for our first Christmas ceremony on December 8. Our chapter is growing, and God is blessing us!

Jennie Drude

Tulsa

M.E.N.D.—Tulsa had a meaningful time remembering our babies during our balloon release in October. We are looking forward to honoring and commemorating them at our first Christmas Candlelight Ceremony on December 14 at Immanuel Lutheran Church at 7:00 p.m. For further information, please contact Lisa Daily at lisa@mend.org or (918) 694-4325 (HEAL).

Lisa Daily

Wichita Falls

M.E.N.D.—Wichita Falls continues to meet for our monthly support group meeting and reaches out to grieving families. We also continue in our efforts to get the word out about our new chapter.

Sarah Fukasawa

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: Stacy McGhee
stacym@mend.org, (360) 621-7279

M.E.N.D.—Hot Springs, Arkansas
Meets the 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.
National Park Medical Center/Maurice Room
1910 Malvern Avenue
Hot Springs, AR
Director: Amy Humphries
amy@mend.org, (501) 620-9930

M.E.N.D.—Wichita Falls, Texas
Meets the 2nd Thursday at 7:30 p.m.
Christ Home Place Ministries
1420 Twin Oaks Street
Wichita Falls, TX
Director: Sarah Fukasawa
sarahf@mend.org, (940) 642-3284



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
are held the 4th Thursday of
every month at 8:00 p.m.
at the Corner Bakery in
Southlake Town Center

*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.*

MENDING Mommies
Meets the 2nd Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.
Contact Marilyn Brown:
Marilyn@mend.org.
*MENDING Mommies is a group of
M.E.N.D. moms (and grandmothers)
who create and sew tiny gowns, caps,
and blankets that are donated to area
hospitals for new heavenly babies.*

Parenting After Loss Playgroup
Meets monthly at various locations in the
Dallas / Fort Worth metroplex.
Contact Magen Kaye: Magen@mend.org
or call (214) 435-3870

Infertility group
meets the 3rd Monday
at 7:30 p.m.
Contact Cheryl Davis for meeting
location and information at
Cheryl@mend.org
*For families experiencing
infertility after a loss.*

**Mommies AND daddies are both
welcome at all M.E.N.D. meetings.
Unless otherwise noted, all 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.



Subsequent Births

Seth and Marcie Nienhuis

of Tulsa, Oklahoma,
along with siblings Landon and Olivia,
joyfully announce the arrival of
James David,
born September 19, 2012,
measuring 8 lb., 3 oz.,
and 21.25 inches long.

The Nienhuis family lovingly remembers
Samuel James,
stillborn October 14, 2006,
Factor V Leiden

Sarah and Yoshi Fukasawa

of Wichita Falls, Texas,
along with siblings Ava and Noah,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Grace,
born September 22, 2012,
measuring 6 lb., 12 oz.,
and 19.5 inches long.

The Fukasawas lovingly remember
Jacob,
stillborn February 8, 2010,
unknown cause

Sean and Ashley Dugan

of Katy, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Addison Elizabeth,
born August 27, 2012,
measuring 5 lb., 8 oz.,
and 17.75 inches long.

The Dugans lovingly remember
Royce Haskell,
stillborn October 9, 2011,
cord accident

Willy and Carrie Earls

of Springfield, Missouri,
along with big brothers Colton and Ethan,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Simon Parker William,
born September 29, 2012,
measuring 8 lb., 3 oz.,
and 21 inches long.

The Earls lovingly remember
Lucas,
stillborn June 1, 2012,
and Caleb,
June 1 - 2, 2012,
Twin to Twin Transfusion Syndrome

Jeff and Kimberly Adams

of Spring, Texas,
along with siblings
Caroline, Joshua and Weston,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Colton Daniel,
born July 29, 2012,
measuring 6 lb., 14 oz.

The Adams family lovingly remembers
Anna,
miscarried August 29, 2005,
Benjamin Daniel,
stillborn February 14, 2006,
unknown cause,
Baby Adams,
miscarried July 20, 2006,
and Jonathan Daniel,
stillborn September 8, 2011

Peter and Rachel Dell

of Springfield, Missouri,
along with big brother Zeke,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Hezekiah "Kye" David,
born September 4, 2012,
measuring 10 lb., 1 oz.,
and 22 inches long.

The Dells lovingly remember
Grace Kathryn,
stillborn March 17, 2008,
PROM at 20 weeks

Perry and Michelle Webster

of Republic, Missouri,
along with siblings Hannah, Shyann,
Ethan, Simon and Brianna,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Jacob Perry,
born June 28, 2012,
measuring 7 lb., 12 oz.,
and 21 inches long.

The Websters lovingly remember
Kaylee Jo,
stillborn July 24, 2007,
cord accident

Eric and Beatrice Merrill

of Poulsbo, Washington,
along with siblings
Nicolina, Lionel and Jordan,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Savannah Joy,
born August 25, 2012,
measuring 8 lb., 7 oz.,
and 21 inches long.

The Merrills lovingly remember
Oliver James,
June 14, 2011,
Potters Syndrome



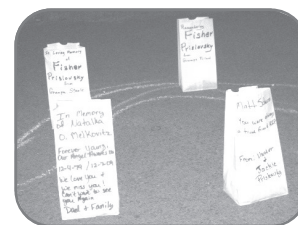
Light A Quiet Candle

Light a quiet candle,
Send a quiet kiss,
Say a fare-thee-well,
To the one you miss.

Light a quiet candle,
Share a loving hand,
Pray a silent prayer,
For others to understand.

Light a quiet candle,
Shed a quiet tear,
Sing a quiet lullaby,
The Christmas Star will hear.

By Sascha Wagner
Infants Remembered In Silence, Inc.
www.irisremembers.com,
Retrieved October 9, 2011



Del Dolor al agradecimiento y la alegría

A las personas parecía encantarles, citarme párrafos de las escrituras después de mis pérdidas, ala mejor pensando que podrían ser una solución instantánea para mi dolor. Apostaría a que alguien me escribió o me dijo aquel verso cada día durante meses después de que Jonathan nació muerto. Las escrituras dicen: Y nosotros sabemos que en todas las cosas en que Dios trabaja son para el bien de aquellos que lo aman, quienes han sido llamados conforme a sus propósitos. De alguna manera logré educadamente sonreír y asentir mi cabeza cuando me lo decían de frente, pero en privado, recuerdo las veces que levantaba mi puño en el aire y le gritaba a Dios, “Cómo es posible que salga algo bueno de esto? Mi bebe esta muerto! Entonces tú muéstrame lo bueno!”

Con el tiempo vi y continúe viendo muchas cosas buenas que resultaron después de la muerte de Jonathan, y después de nuevo con el aborto involuntario. Yo aprendí a concentrarme más en las cosas buenas, las cuales eventualmente se convertirían al agradecimiento y a la alegría. Me siento increíblemente agradecida con M.E.N.D. y de la forma que el Señor utilizo mis perdidas para crear tan bello ministerio. Amo a mi familia M.E.N.D. más allá de las palabras. Byron y yo hemos forjado amistades que de lo contrario nunca habrían sucedido. Y he sido testigo del desarrollo de otras numerosas amistades especiales entre compañeros de la familia M.E.N.D. Estoy agradecida de que Dios me ha confiado el privilegio y la responsabilidad de “pastorear” a tantas familias sufridas. Estoy agradecida por la oportunidad de visitar a las familias recién afectadas en el hospital, asistir a los funerales de su bebé y estar con ellos durante las horas más oscuras de sus vidas. Estoy agradecida por el sueño que llega como fruto de las múltiples conferencias cada año en el área de hospitales para educar y enseñar al personal médico sobre la angustia y la realidad de lo que nosotros como familias hemos soportado después de la muerte de un bebé. Y estoy agradecida por lo que el Señor tiene planificado para el futuro de M.E.N.D.

Por medio del Señor, en medio de mi aflicción, he encontrado mucha alegría. El profeta Nehemías nos dice en la Biblia, “... el gozo del Señor es tu fuerza.” No hay ninguna duda en mi mente que sin su regalo de alegría, no sería quien soy hoy. Sin duda, sería una mujer solemne, amargada y aburrida, muy probablemente sin la fuerza necesaria para hacer lo que hago cada día con M.E.N.D. Aunque parezca una locura, nosotros, los líderes de M.E.N.D., tenemos bastantes diversiones en nuestras Juntas de directores, reuniones anuales de la Conferencia de liderazgo, las reuniones del Comité y preparativos para ceremonias grandes. Muchos de nosotros hemos viajado juntos durante los años visitando capítulos de M.E.N.D. donde hemos tenido la alegría de ir a lugares que probablemente no hubiéramos conocido si no fuera por esta razón. Nos hemos reído juntos cuando casi nos quedarnos sin gasolina en largos caminos de viaje (realmente no fue gracioso), nos hemos quedado varados juntos en bicicleta debido a las lluvias torrenciales y tener que ser rescatadas por mi esposo y hasta un avistamiento de Pie Grande! Hemos tenido el honor de visitar dos veces la granja Amish de una de nuestras familias M.E.N.D. en Missouri y nos familiarizamos con su absolutamente fascinante forma de vida. Con alegría he amado el privilegio de reunirme y pasar tiempo con mujeres increíblemente fuertes en el mundo de pérdidas infantiles como autora Nancy Guthrie y artista de grabación Nicol Sponberg. Me he reído con anfitriones de radio y televisión donde he tenido el honor de ser su invitada. Y alegremente he contado mi historia a numerosos reporteros a través de los años y luego encantada de poder ver la fotografía de mi precioso bebé atada a nuestra historia en diversos diarios y revistas. Todo esto me trae alegría sin medida.

Mientras esta temporada navideña se acerca y si esta es su primera fiesta desde su pérdida, o si ha sufrido muchas, saben que de hecho, Dios trabajo todas las cosas juntas para nuestro bien. No parece así al principio o incluso durante mucho tiempo, pero le prometo, que él lo hará. Depende de nosotros, por medio del Señor, desarrollar un espíritu de gratitud y una actitud de alegría. Haga el esfuerzo de ser agradecida por solo una cosa. Ríase de usted misma de algo hoy, espere y mire lo que Dios hará!



♥ *Rebekah Mitchell, Presidente y Fundadora
Mamá de Jonathan Daniel y Mitchell bebé Mitchell*

Joy

Joy to the world, the Lord has come,
Is sung this time of year.
However, losing a child and a part of myself
Has stolen my joy, I fear.

This season is hard when the hole in my heart
Is causing me to forget
What You did for me when You came to earth
To feel pain and suffer and yet...

You chose me and You saved me
Your grace is a priceless gift
It was undeserved because I am not worthy,
But You gave it to me so I could live.

Please fill my heart with Your abundant joy
So I may be a witness for You
That even though I painfully grieve
I know Your perfect plan is true.

Let others see Your joy in me
Let You be the only reason
That during this suffering and anguishing trial
I am rejoicing during this season.

♥ *Jaimie Crump,
Mommy to Abigail Grace
M.E.N.D.—Houston*

Thankful

Thanksgiving – a time of reflection of all that we are blessed with and to be thankful. Or at least that’s what Hallmark says and the media gives a small glimpse of between the Black Friday and Christmas commercials. To be honest, though, I have never enjoyed Thanksgiving. My husband and I are in the state of our lives where we must travel to everyone’s Thanksgiving dinners—not just two or three, but four, in one day, plus a fifth one on Saturday. We try to eat a sampling at every dinner to please all, then get in the car and travel to the next one. It is an exhausting holiday to us, but three years ago, we felt we were at the top of the mountain that Thanksgiving, only to come crashing off the cliff a week later.

Three years ago was supposed to be the best Thanksgiving ever, one that everyone would remember. We were announcing that we were expecting. We surprised everyone with our announcement (we had been married for eight years so I think some gave up hope). Everyone was overjoyed for us. The Friday after Thanksgiving, I began spotting. I did not think anything about it since the doctor said it was normal for women to have spotting. The following Thursday, my husband and I went to hear our little baby’s heartbeat. After searching for a heartbeat in the doctor’s office and then having an ultrasound, we were told our baby was already gone. That was the beginning of our world crashing down around us.

The next year for Thanksgiving was brutal. Instead of sharing our baby’s first Thanksgiving, we were arriving with just a casserole dish. We went to all the dinners and made it through the motions, but I really wanted to be curled up in bed, hiding under the covers. Another friend announced she was pregnant, so that just put another damper on my “oh so wonderful day” (insert sarcasm here).

Last year was a little better. We were expecting Levi to be born the following week, but even with that excitement, I still had my down moments on Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving will never be the same, and I still struggle at finding my new normal. As I try to prepare myself for the holiday this year, I have been thinking about the things that I am thankful for—to find happiness during sad times. Sometimes it is so easy to get lost in our loss, that we forget what is around us, what we have that makes continuing each day worthwhile. Here are some of the things I am thankful for, and hopefully you will find some ideas also.

- ◆ I am thankful for my church family. I had many that supported me through this journey, and one lady actually gave me the brochure to M.E.N.D., which brought me to the group. I can tell you from experience that church members do have their faults, and some may not be the best support, but when you find those who do raise you up, hang on to them and be there for them as they were for you.
- ◆ I am thankful for M.E.N.D. I was in a deep valley (and some days still travel down there), and M.E.N.D. held my hand in that valley, and slowly pulled me up the hill. We are so blessed by the friendships we have made through M.E.N.D. Now I am thankful for the opportunity to serve others through M.E.N.D. as the newsletter editor.
- ◆ I am thankful for the family members who truly supported me as we went through our loss. There were some who remembered me on my first Mother’s Day and would ask how we are doing (and not accept the answer of “fine”).
- ◆ I am thankful for my husband. He has been by my side the entire time. He is not perfect and has to be reminded of some anniversary dates, but when I was in my darkest valley, I knew he needed me just as much as I needed him. When I felt like I could not live for myself, I lived for him, as he did for me.
- ◆ It has taken me almost three years to be at this point, but I am thankful for my God. In the beginning I did not feel like I needed Him. In fact, I was angry with Him and did not want anything to do with Him. After some time, I began to see how much others needed Him and how they covet our prayers to Him for their own hope and healing. So while I felt like I could not pray to God for myself, I took the burdens of others to Him and laid them at His feet. At times I still struggle laying my own burdens down, but I know that I can help others by being a prayer warrior for them.
- ◆ I am thankful for Serenity. While I hate that I had to go through her loss and that I do not have her in my arms, her short little life has opened doors for me to share with others my story and try to be a comfort to them. I am thankful for the blessing that she has been to us and others, and to all the other little ones in heaven.

So as you prepare for Thanksgiving, take a moment to find things that you are thankful for. There were times I was grasping at anything just to have something to be thankful for, but when I found those things I could be truly thankful for, I found peace and joy. I found blessings and was soon able to be a blessing to others.



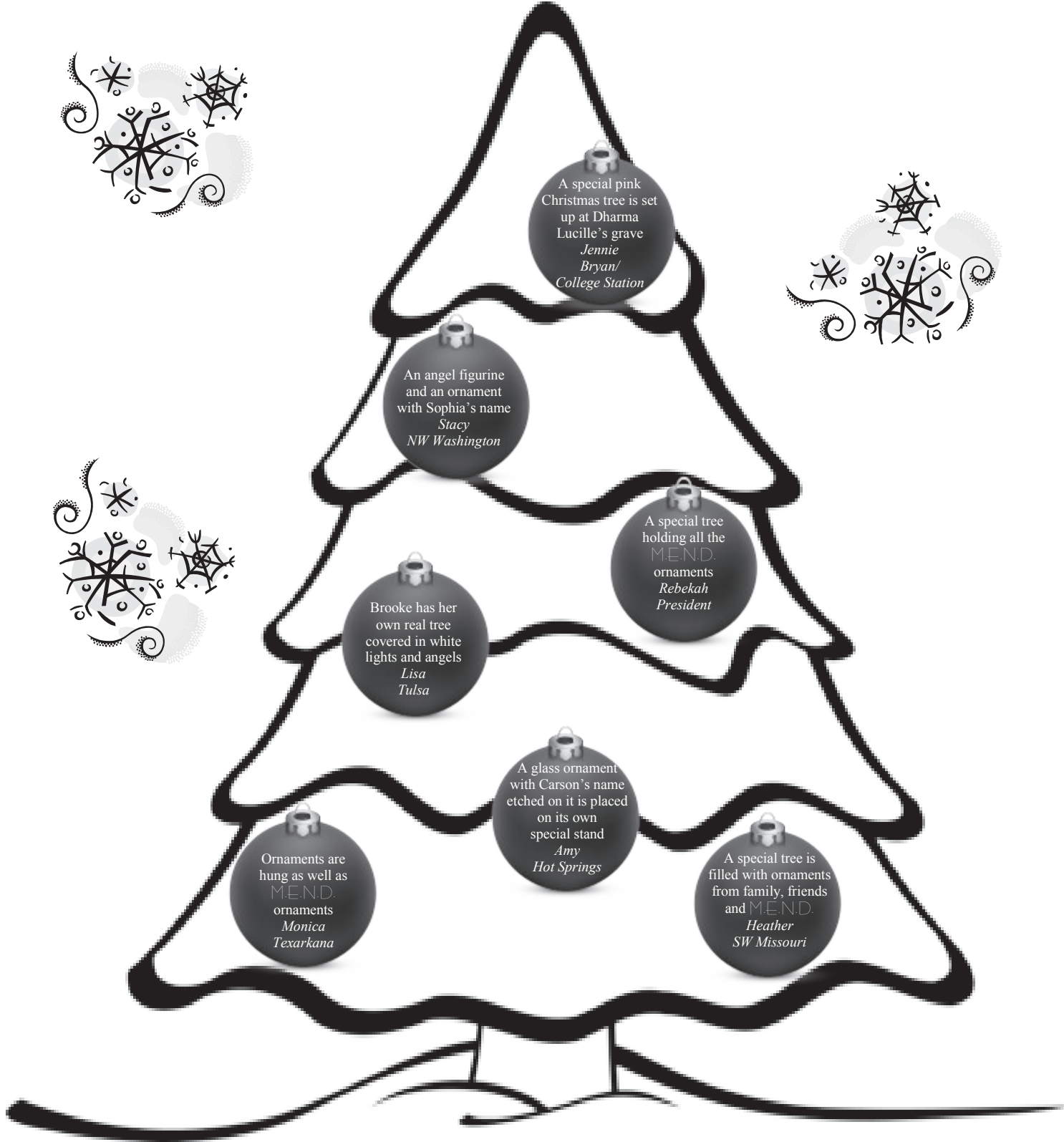
♥ Jennifer Harrison,
Mommy to Serenity

M.E.N.D.—SW Missouri/Newsletter Editor



Remember

When we are fresh in our loss, we sometimes struggle with how to honor our babies at the holidays. The tree below shares how our chapter directors honor their babies at Christmas through decorations.



A special pink Christmas tree is set up at Dharma Lucille's grave
Jennie Bryan/ College Station

An angel figurine and an ornament with Sophia's name
Stacy NW Washington

A special tree holding all the M.E.N.D. ornaments
Rebekah President

Brooke has her own real tree covered in white lights and angels
Lisa Tulsa

A glass ornament with Carson's name etched on it is placed on its own special stand
Amy Hot Springs

Ornaments are hung as well as M.E.N.D. ornaments
Monica Texarkana

A special tree is filled with ornaments from family, friends and M.E.N.D.
Heather SW Missouri

M.E.N.D. Mommies Enduring Neonatal Death
 P.O. Box 631566, Irving, TX 75063
 USA
 (972) 506-9000
Return Service Requested

Nonprofit Organization
 U.S. Postage Paid
 DeSoto, TX 75115
 Permit No. 614

“... 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.
- **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.



www.mend.org

