



# M. E. N. D.

Mommies Enduring Neonatal Death

## Social Network Grieving

My son, Jonathan, was stillborn in 1995—a time when the Internet was just getting off the ground. In fact, while I was on bed rest when pregnant with Jonathan, I remember watching a commercial that showed a man at his desk ordering flowers for his wife, making dinner reservations and booking an airline flight with seemingly just a few clicks of his mouse, all while looking at his computer screen. At the time, I did not even know what a “mouse” was, and I honestly thought the commercial was a bit far-reaching—impossible, really.

A couple of months after Jonathan’s stillbirth, I decided we needed a computer at home for some reason. I remember the first time I turned it on. I had no idea what in the world to do next. It was an impulsive purchase. We were so grief-stricken that we weren’t thinking clearly when we bought it. Why on earth would we need such a huge gadget in the corner of our bedroom? I remember calling my husband, Byron, at his office that day and telling him to just take it back. It was a stupid thing we had done and a waste of about \$2,000. We kept it anyway and decided to join the World Wide Web (WWW). Oh, what a new world that opened for me! Back then, chat rooms were very popular, yet we were all warned of the many dangers of “talking” to complete strangers. I stayed away from that particular means of communication, but I was somehow introduced to the Listserv, *Infanlos*. There I met numerous women from all over the world who had suffered the death of a baby. It was through my computer that I was finally able to pour out my heart to women who truly knew and understood what I was going through. I’d stay up until all hours of the night communicating with my new virtual friends, telling them things about my grief that I had not told a soul. They got it and oftentimes told me they felt the same way. It was extremely healing and therapeutic.

Months later, I felt compelled to bring what I experienced in cyberspace into the real world. I figured

if typing to a computer screen was helpful, surely meeting fellow grieving moms face-to-face would be much better. So, that’s kind of what happened—much of how M.E.N.D. was birthed, nearly 17 years ago.

M.E.N.D. was in existence for several months before we had a presence on the World Wide Web. Our good friends, Max and Jody Friz, who had suffered some miscarriages before we lost Jonathan, offered to create and maintain a website for M.E.N.D. Once the website launched, M.E.N.D. escalated to a whole new level. We then had women from all over the world learning about our ministry. The website eventually offered a guest book, which enabled families to post their stories and their email addresses if they wanted readers to contact them. It’s funny how what was at one time so incredibly helpful and healing is now completely obsolete.

About four years ago, one of our board members, Amber Zuckerman, who we affectionately refer to as our “computer geek,” began a M.E.N.D. Facebook page. I was not on Facebook at the time, nor did I have any intention of drowning myself in something of the sort. However, for about two years I kept hearing comments such as, “did you see what so-and-so posted on Facebook....?” I eventually realized I was very much out of the loop within the ministry that I founded and directed. One night while Amber was sitting at my kitchen table with her laptop at a M.E.N.D. board meeting, she began pounding away on her keyboard then announced, “Okay, Rebekah. You have a Facebook account now.” What?? I didn’t even ask her or tell her it was okay. Once I learned how to navigate my way through Facebook, though, I was hooked! But more importantly, I saw how vital our M.E.N.D. page was for grieving families. Multiple times a day I read through the many posts on our M.E.N.D. page. Not only did I

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**Nota Español:** El artículo de Rebekah Mitchell aparece en cada emisión de nuestro boletín para la audiencia latina.

Para ver el artículo de este mes en español, por favor vea la página número 18.

M.E.N.D. is a Christian nonprofit corporation whose purpose is to reach out to those who have lost a child to miscarriage, stillbirth or infant death and offer a way to share experiences and information through monthly meetings, this newsletter, and our Web site at [www.mend.org](http://www.mend.org).

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 Amber Zuckerman. In December 2003, I was diagnosed with PCOS and told that I may never have children. I was devastated at this thought, but I trusted that this could not be God's plan. After some medical heroics, we were pregnant just six weeks after being told this news. Under the watchful eye of my doctor, we delivered our first son, Eli, in October 2004. We were told when we were ready to try again to call our doctor to repeat the magic formula.

Much to our surprise, without medical heroics, we found out we were expecting again in August 2006. Both surprised and excited, we moved through this pregnancy without incident, healthy and on track. On March 29, 2007, I went into labor and we headed to the hospital to bring our baby boy home. In the still of that night, monitor after monitor, nurse after nurse, tear upon tear, we were told that our AJ's heart had stopped beating. At 5:28 a.m. on March 30, Adrian Joseph "AJ" was born still in silence due to a nuchal cord x2 and a true knot in his umbilical cord.

Two weeks after AJ died, we were sitting in our first M.E.N.D. meeting and for the first time we felt validated for the emotions, thoughts and desperation we had been experiencing. We attended religiously each month and quickly knew that M.E.N.D. would forever be a part of our journey and our lives. As soon as Rebekah would let me, I began serving on the Walk and Christmas committees, fundraising, organizing raffles and administering M.E.N.D.'s social media presence. Today, I proudly serve on the board of directors and as the event fundraising coordinator.

Through M.E.N.D., we were able to regain our strength, define our new normal, and have over time been able to appreciate God's perfect plan. In April 2009, we welcomed AJ's hand-picked little brother, Alexander, to our family. When asked how many children we have, we say we have three boys: two on earth and one in heaven. I'm thankful God trusts me enough to share our little slice of heaven on earth through M.E.N.D.

♥ Amber Zuckerman,

Mommy to Adrian Joseph "AJ"

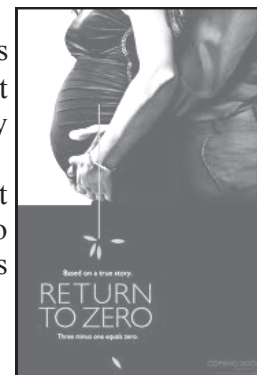
M.E.N.D.—Board of Directors

## Return to Zero

M.E.N.D. is proud to sponsor the new movie, Return to Zero. This movie captures the lives of a successful couple preparing for the arrival of their new baby, only to find out weeks before the due date that the baby has died in the womb and will be stillborn. The film focuses the heartache and many issues that follow after the loss of a child.

This film will be released in March 2014. M.E.N.D. is encouraging our members, family and friends to support this movie when it comes to theaters, and to draw as many as possible to a showing of this film.

To learn more about this film, please visit [www.returntozeromovie.com](http://www.returntozeromovie.com). Many states have also created Facebook pages in anticipation of the release of this film, and links can be found at the Return to Zero website.



## A Way to Grieve

Losing Rylan happened too fast for me to even process the whole situation. One morning I woke up and went to work like any other day, and by that night I was in the ER with a ruptured tube, internal bleeding, medicated on whatever they would give me to make the pain go away. And by that next morning I wasn't pregnant anymore.

Post-surgery left me curled up in my bed with the laptop. There isn't a whole lot to do on bed rest, and not much else that you are thinking about when you have a loss. I spent endless hours on every website I could get to. I looked up the answers to every question I could think of—would it happen again? what are the risk factors when I get pregnant again? is there anything out there to help? is this or that normal?

Of course, the "why" can never be answered. No matter how many times I searched couldn't find anything that gave me comfort. That was the question that I wanted answered more than anything, but I know now that it won't ever be answered in a way that I want.

So instead, I started blogging. It's easier to deal with the pain when someone isn't looking at me, isn't expecting me to say something, isn't watching every tear, doesn't try to interject their thoughts when I just need a moment to think. It is easier to collect what I want to say and deal with unsuspecting surprises that come up. I can process my own thoughts and come back to it later. I don't feel out in the open, I feel like I can share with everyone at the same time something that hurt instead of reliving it every time a friend calls.

But most of all, I feel like I can just survive. Because even if no one else wants to talk about Rylan, I know I have a place to go where I can say anything I want whenever I want. I can unleash my sadness without fear of judging eyes. I can hash out my emotions and figure out how I'm doing without the pressure of coming up with an answer in a moment's notice. It's my way to grieve, to remember, to feel. If I share it and it helps someone else, that's really the second most important reason why I started it.

♥ *Kristian Doucette,*  
*Mommy to Rylan*  
*M.E.N.D.—SW Missouri*

## Instant Support

Seven years have gone by since we lost our daughter, Alivia, holding her in our arms so lifeless and still. I have found that the pain is still there, but now it feels so different. I can recall days after her loss of my heart being so heavy with grief that it felt like I had a stack of bricks on my chest. Now seven years later it still hurts, but it is not so heavy. I have found that as we go through and grow in our loss, we tend to think we do not need the support of others as much or not at all. We can reach out and love on others, but we are able to handle things dealing with our own losses on our own. This is especially true when you are part of the boards or committees in the groups we are a part of. We have to realize that we need support at times, and it is okay because grief has no friends; we are friends to each other and are here to lift each other up.

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### September/October Topic

Guilt in Grief

Deadline: July 31, 2013

### November/December Topic

Holiday Joy

Deadline: November 31, 2013

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](mailto: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.

**Birthay 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](http://www.mend.org).

<u>Heavenly Birthday</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
January/February	November 31
March/April	January 31
May/June	March 31
July/August	May 31
September/October	July 31
November/December	September 31



# Birthday Tributes

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

It has been five years since we heard the words that shattered our hearts and forever changed our lives: "He didn't make it." My precious angel, you are loved and missed more than words could ever say. You were on this earth for such a very short time but will live forever in our hearts. Happy fifth birthday, Daniel Nicholas. Until we hold you again, we are sending tons of love, hugs and kisses to heaven. xoxoxoxoxo

*Daniel Nicholas Woodard*  
*August 31, 2008*  
*Complications due to premature birth*  
*Parents: Joe and Danette Woodard*  
*Siblings: Kristina Vice, David, Douglas and Nicole*



## Happy 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday, Harmony

Mommy and Daddy miss you!

*Harmony Lopez*  
*August 20, 2011*  
*Fraser Syndrome*  
*Parents: Victor and Jenny Lopez*  
*Siblings: Romeo, Jasmine, Alexandra and Savannah*



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

Happy fifth angelversary.  
 We love and miss you so very much.  
 Until we meet again,  
 Mommy and Daddy

*Isabella Alorah Baca-Lopez*  
*July 11, 2008*  
*Intrauterine Distress*  
*Patents: Delores Baca and Jose E. Lopez, Jr.*



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

Brooklyn, you were taken away from us so suddenly, cruelly, unfairly and unjustly by the hands of a stranger. But, princess, you're too beautiful and perfect for him to let you be tainted, and so to heaven you went. Mommy, Daddy and your sisters miss and love you more than words could say. We will all be together, in heaven, again one day! We love you, Brooklyn!

*Brooklyn Antonetty*  
*Murdered August 24, 2012*  
*Parents: Jamaal and Marena Antonetty*  
*Siblings: Brianna and Alyssa*



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

Sweet Leilani, I miss you every day! You gave me hope when I thought hope was lost. I am grateful for the weeks I carried you and look forward to the day when I will finally see your face. Your story has touched many lives, and I know God is using your short little life for a greater good than I could have ever imagined! Kiss your brothers for me.

Love,  
 Mommy

*Leilani Rose Palmer*  
*August 25, 2012*  
*Ectopic pregnancy*  
*Also remembering*  
*Ezra Grey Palmer*  
*October 5, 2009*  
*Ectopic pregnancy*  
*Nathaniel Ellis Palmer*  
*Miscarried October 20, 2012*  
*Jude Michael Palmer*  
*Miscarried December 20, 2012*  
*Parents: David and Kristi Palmer*  
*Sister: Penelope*



## Happy 8<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Ryland!

Happy eighth birthday in heaven, Ryland!  
 We miss you every day.  
 Love,  
 Mommy, Daddy, Sissy and Buddy  
 xoxo

*Ryland Dixon*  
*August 12, 2005*  
*Infection*  
*Parents: Bryan and Kelly Dixon*  
*Siblings: Leighanne and Conor*



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

Happy second heavenly birthday, Wyatt! Oh, what we would give to be with you celebrating. Your daddy and I live each day for you, beautiful boy. You are our miracle, and we are so very thankful for you.

Love always,  
 Mommy and Daddy

*Wyatt Lane Vowell*  
*July 25, 2011*  
*Staph infection*  
*Parents: Lavane and Lancer Vowell*



**Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday, Harper!**

We can't believe it's been a whole year since you went to heaven. We miss you and love you so much! Your big brother and sister ask about you often. You are not forgotten! Love always and always.

*Harper Kathleen McBee*  
June 5, 2012

*Cystic Hygroma, cord entanglement*  
Parents: Ryan and Heather McBee  
Siblings: Jackson and Olivia

**Happy 6<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Justice!**

To my Dreambaby, my first true love, it's hard to believe it's been six years, but I still miss you like it just happened. I love you so much and wish we could've gotten to know each other, but everything happens for a reason!

Always and forever,  
Your Mommy!

*Justice Patrice Richardson*  
July 13, 2007

*Early labor caused by infection*  
Mommy: Brandis Richardson

**Happy 6<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Gabby!**

We think of you every day and speak of you often. We want you to know how loved and missed you are today and always.

"Our time has ended; I feel it's only just begun and I'm frustrated. Will I fall to pieces or am I alright? My heart is bursting through my chest, now I'm crying, the tears falling off my face. Heaven, where is my angel? I need her now."

-BFMV

*Gabriella Grace Garcia*  
Miscarried July 3, 2007  
Also remembering  
*Abigail Sophia Garcia*  
Miscarried June 17, 2011  
Parents: Adam and Alex Garcia  
Siblings: Kylie, Adayna and AJ

**Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday, Angel!**

Happy first birthday to our baby, Angel from above. We love you and miss you each and every day. Your brothers hope you're having lots of fun in heaven! You will be remembered by all of us, including Grandma and Grandpa, until the day we meet again in heaven.

*Angel Ray Garcia*  
July 12-13, 2012  
*Anencephaly/heart defect*  
Parents: Marco and Cynthia Garcia  
Siblings: Marco Jr. and Jason

**Happy 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday, Jordan!**

Happy second angelversary, sweet Jordan. Mommy and Daddy think about you every day. We miss you but know one day we will all be together. Love you, sweet baby.

*Jordan Taylor Fugitt*  
Miscarried July 2011  
Also remembering  
*Rylie Peyton*  
Miscarried November 2011  
Parents: Justin and Barbara Fugitt  
Sibling: Carter Alexander (due July 26)

**Happy 4<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Jackson!**

We can't believe it has been four years. So much has happened, but one thing has never changed, and that is how much we love and miss you! We stand firm knowing one day we will all celebrate your birthday together. Until then, we can close our eyes and feel you close. We love you and miss you. We all love you and look forward to the day we all meet again!

Here for a moment, in our hearts for a lifetime!  
Love,

Mommy and Daddy, Isaiah and Thomas  
Nana and Pawpaw Voyles  
Aunt Heather and Uncle Terry and Eden and Haden  
Grandpa and Grandma Wood  
Aunt Amy and Uncle Damon and Grayson and Gavin

*Jackson Connor Wood*  
Stillborn June 6, 2009  
*Blood clot in cord*  
Parents: Darin and April Wood  
Brothers: Isaiah and Thomas

**Happy 3<sup>rd</sup> Birthday, Stephen!**

Happy birthday, baby boy! We love you so much and miss you everyday!

*Stephen Grosnick*  
June 12, 2010  
*Amniotic band syndrome*  
Parents: Michael and Shannon Grosnick  
Sibling: Emmalin

**Happy 3<sup>rd</sup> Birthday, Benjamin!**

We love you very much and think about you every day. You are our little angel. We wish you could be here with us, but we know that you are in heaven watching over us. Love you, Little Man.

*Benjamin Joseph Curtis*  
Miscarried July 17, 2010  
Parents: Joseph and Jennifer Curtis  
Sister: Rebecca



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

In the hospital I was given a rag doll to leave a scent to comfort you. Now you leave the rag doll here with your scent to comfort me. You are gone but never forgotten, for you are my baby who now lives in heaven.

*Aeriana Tamia Horn*  
*August 22—September 29, 2011*  
*Premature birth*  
*Parents: Sylvian Walker and Jawann Horn*  
*Sibling: Khadence Walker*



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

There is not a day that goes by that we don't think of you or miss you. Your little sister and brother already know all about you and will continue to learn about you. I hope you are having a heavenly third birthday. We love you, Westin

*Westin Dobbins*  
*August 8, 2010*  
*Incompetent cervix*  
*Parents: Randy and Cortney Dobbins*  
*Siblings: Cynlee and Colt*



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

My sweet Catherine, living without you here is heartbreakingly awful, but I sit in constant amazement at all the beautiful people and blessings your short life has brought to me. You've shown me how to love without expectation, to grow in Christ and to see the unfailing beauty of life. You were so beautiful, so courageously strong and you will always have a piece of my heart. I never knew what true love was until I held you in my arms, and the piece of my heart you took with you will always be yours to keep. I'm so very lucky to have a piece of my heart in heaven. I made you a promise in those tiny moments we had together to always remember your life, to always celebrate your time on earth more so than I grieve because of your death. I intend to keep that promise all of my days. Happy first birthday, my tiny fighter. Mommy misses you more than words can say.

*Catherine Grace Chapman*  
*August 10-12, 2012*  
*Extreme prematurity due to HELLP*  
*Mommy: Kara Chapman*



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

We love and miss you so much!

Mommy, Nana, TT-Kay and TT-Eb ♡

*Princess-Jahzara Emami*  
*July 26, 2010*  
*PTL/incompetent cervix/premature*  
*Mommy: Jasmine Swain*



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

To our sweet son that we barely knew but loved so dearly, you were the light of our lives and continue to inspire us to live everyday to the fullest. We love you so much.

*Tristan Matthew Davis*  
*August 25, 2010*  
*Preterm Labor*  
*Also remembering*  
*Baby Davis I*  
*March 2009 at 8 weeks*  
*Unknown cause*  
*Bryan Thomas Davis*  
*December 11, 2009*  
*Two vessel cord*  
*Baby Davis II*  
*March 2011 at 6 weeks*  
*Ectopic pregnancy*  
*Baby Davis III*  
*January 2012 at 4 weeks*  
*Chemical pregnancy*  
*Baby Davis IV*  
*May 2012 at 4 weeks*  
*Chemical pregnancy*  
*Baby Davis V*  
*September 2012 at 4 weeks*  
*Chemical pregnancy*  
*Baby Davis VI*  
*March 2013 at 4 weeks*  
*IVF Chemical pregnancy*  
*Parents: Brent and Melissa Davis*



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

Mommy, Daddy, your grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins love you more than words can say. We think about you every single day and will love and miss you forever and ever. You will always be our firstborn and precious baby Elizabeth.

*Elizabeth Luke Matthes*  
*July 25, 2012*  
*Umbilical cord accident*  
*Parents: Lance and Marianne Matthes*



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

Happy birthday wishes ascending your way, to wish you the happiest 12<sup>th</sup> birthday today!

With all our love,  
 Dad, Mom, Mya and Aidan

*Griffin Caleb McIntosh*  
*Stillborn June 6, 2001*  
*Parents: Matthew and Naomi McIntosh*  
*Siblings: Mya and Aidan*



**Happy 3<sup>rd</sup> Birthday, Emmaline!**

Happy third birthday, Little Miss!  
 Little miss, pretty miss,  
 Blessings light upon you!  
 If I had half a crown a day,  
 I'd spend it all upon you.

That poem I read to your sister always makes me think of you, because Daddy lets me buy you whatever I want for your keepsake shelf! I cannot believe what a big girl you are now. Your little brother smiles and giggles at your picture so much I am convinced he knew you before he was born! We all miss you so much!

Love,  
 Daddy, Mommy, Mckinley, Maddie and Maxton

*Emmaline Ila Legg*

*July 29, 2010*

*Full-term placental abruption*

*Also remembering*

*Baby Legg I*

*Miscarried 1999*

*Baby Legg II*

*Miscarried 2009*

*Baby Legg III*

*Miscarried 2011*

*Parents: Jimmy and Ami Legg*

*Siblings: Mckinley, Madeline and Maxton*

**Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday, William!**

God blessed us with a beautiful baby boy waiting for us in heaven. Someday we will see him again, and someday we will have another baby.

*William Christopher Thomas*

*Miscarried July 7, 2012*

*Parents: Shaun and Amie Thomas*

*Sister: Hope Bushway*

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

Noah, we miss you more than ever as your fifth angelversary approaches. Mommy and Daddy know you live on through your sisters. We feel like we're getting glimpses of what you would be like if you were on earth with us today. We are wishing you a very happy fifth birthday in heaven. We all love you so very much, and we'll meet again one day "on the other side."

Love,  
 Mommy, Daddy, Twin Sister Julia and Little Sister Sydney

*Noah Powell*

*Stillborn July 22, 2008*

*Cord accident*

*Parents: Nate and Barb Powell*

*Sisters: Julia (twin sister) and Sydney*

**Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday, Isaac!**

Our sweet little 1 year old lamb. We miss you so much and pray you have an amazing 1<sup>st</sup> birthday in heaven. Mommy, Daddy, Noah, Grace, Elijah and #5 love you so much and look forward to seeing you again one sweet day! The kids say "Happy Birthday" and hope you are having fun and love heaven!

*Isaac Eugene Vrba*

*August 26, 2012*

*Unknown cause*

*Parents: Jerry and Kristen Vrba*

*Siblings: Noah, Grace, Elijah and #5 (due December 22)*

**Happy 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday, Eli and Mei Li!**

Our precious babies, I can't believe it's been two years since our lives forever changed. We miss you guys and think about you all the time. You now have a little sister named Jade. I can't wait to tell her about you guys when she is able to understand. Your big brother, Maximus, is as busy as ever and takes good care of his little sister just as he would have of you guys. I look forward to the day we meet again.

Love you guys always and forever,  
 Daddy, Mommy, Maximus and Jade

*Eli Payton*

*July 25, 2011*

*Mei Li Payton*

*July 28, 2011*

*Unknown cause*

*Parents: Ryan and Ashley Payton*

*Siblings: Maximus and Jade*

**Happy 9<sup>th</sup> Birthday, August!**

Sweet baby August, time continues to march on, and it doesn't seem possible that it's been nine years since you were wanted, surprisingly discovered and so quickly gone. Your birthday this year is already looming in front of me because the very next day your little sister, Madison will start kindergarten. It's going to be a hard week for Mommy and Daddy! We love you and miss you! Give your brother a hug for us!

Mommy, Daddy and Maddie

*Baby August Fann*

*August 13, 2004*

*Miscarried 8 weeks*

*Also remembering*

*Caleb Scott Fann*

*December 1, 2003*

*PROM*

*Parents: Jonathan and Heather Fann*

*Sister: Madison Grace*



**Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday, Aylin!**

Baby Aylin, though you were never born here on earth, we know you are alive in heaven. We all wish you were here, and we love you very much!

*Aylin Christian Cooley*

*July 1, 2012*

*Unknown cause*

*Also remembering*

*Baby Lappin 1*

*Miscarried 2004*

*Baby Lappin 2*

*Miscarried 2006*

*Baby Cooley 3*

*Miscarried 2008*

*Baby Cooley 4*

*Miscarried 2009*

*Parents: Chris and Jessica Cooley*

*Siblings: Ryan, Riley and Christopher*

**Happy 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday, Aubree!**

I can't believe it's been two years since I've held you in my arms, my love. I miss you more and more each day. I wonder about all the things our Father has taught you. I know you are in a beautiful place with our Father, and for that I am grateful. Please remember how much we all love you! Until we meet again...

Amazing

Unique

Beautiful

Remarkable

Extraordinary

Enduring

*Aubree Faith Carmichall*

*August 18, 2011*

*Uterine rupture*

*Parents: Jeremy and Kelly Carmichall*

*Siblings: Ryan and Breean*

**Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday, Baby Oden!**

To my little angel in heaven, my heart aches because you aren't in my arms. I'm sorry that Mommy's still mad at the world, but it seems so wrong and so unfair. I want to hold you, kiss you and keep you safe with me, but instead you are in the arms of the Lord. Please be patient with me as I learn to live without a piece of my heart; it's a daily struggle and often a minute-by-minute battle of emotions. I love you.

Mommy

*Baby Oden*

*August 15, 2012*

*Missed miscarriage*

*Mommy: Tina Wharton*

**Happy 9<sup>th</sup> Birthday Jordyn!**

We love you and miss you every day.

Sending you balloons in heaven.

Happy birthday, Sissy!

Love,

Your twin, Jada, and baby brother, JR

Mommy and Daddy

*Jordyn Lynae Johnson*

*July 13-16, 2004*

*Umbilical blood clot*

*Parents: Bruce and Debra Johnson*

*Siblings: Jada and Bruce Jr.*

**Happy 3<sup>rd</sup> Birthday, Jason!**

Happy third birthday, son! As we watch your little brother grow up, we miss you more and more each day. We will hold you close in our hearts until the day we see you in heaven. We love you so much!

Love,

Mommy and Daddy

*Jason Michael Murphy*

*July 29, 2010*

*Unknown cause*

*Parents: Michael and Diana Murphy*

*Little brother: Trevor*

**Happy 7<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Livi!**

Happy birthday to our Livi! Wow—to imagine you are seven years old and our world was turned upside down then is just unimaginable to us, but it is so true. Mommy imagines that you are a little caramel, fat-cheeked little girl with two ponytails and in lavender, trimmed in sorbet green dress, running and laughing on the streets of gold in heaven. God's plans are hard to understand and accept, but in seven years we have been able to live with your loss, because we know we will see you in heaven one day and God has given us so much strength. We look at your brother, Jaxson and now your little sister, Lauryn, and wonder which one would favor you the most and if without your loss would they both be here. While we do not know the answers to these questions, we do know we love you more and more each day and will continue to make sure you have a legacy in this world. Your loss and our suffering were not in vain. We love you and want you to have a happy heavenly seventh birthday and celebrate it with Papa, Grandma Eloise and all the others family and friends we know.

Love,

Daddy, Mommy, Jaxson and Lauryn

*Alivia Elizabeth-Grace Walker*

*Stillborn July 24, 2006*

*Incompetent cervix*

*Parents: Robert and Liz Walker*

*Siblings: Jaxson and Lauryn*





**Happy 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday, Zacc!**

No words I write could ever say  
How sad and empty I feel today.

The angels came for you  
Much sooner than I planned.  
I'll brave the bitter grief that comes  
And I'll try my best understand.  
Zacc, why did you have to go away?  
Why wasn't it right for you to stay?  
In my heart, Zacc, will always be.  
I love him dearly,  
And I know he'll watch over me.  
What I'm suffering seems so unfair,  
But one thing is for certain,  
My love for him will always be there.  
Zacc, my son, you always will be.  
Oh, how I miss you, my Lil Monkee!!  
Love, Mama

*Zacchaeus Monjoi Roberts*  
*August 5, 2011—January 29, 2012*  
*Prematurity and severe respiratory distress*  
*Also remembering*  
*Angel Baby Roberts*  
*Miscarried 1998*  
*Mommy: Ronessa Roberts*

**Happy 3<sup>rd</sup> Birthday, Christian!**

Precious boy, it has been three years since you went Home. Some days it feels like we lost you in the past few hours. Other days it feels like a lifetime since we held you and kissed you. Our hope is in Jesus, and we know we will spend eternity with you. We miss you and love you!

Mommy, Daddy, Michael and your new sister, Mya

*Christian Graham Wells*  
*Stillborn July 11, 2010, at 34 weeks*  
*Unknown cause*  
*Parents: Glen and Mitzi Wells*  
*Siblings Michael and Mya*

**Happy 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday, Elena!**

“What we have once enjoyed we can never lose.  
All that we love deeply becomes a part of us.”

-Helen Keller

Our precious Elena, we love and miss you every day.  
We hold you in our hearts until we are able to again hold you in our arms.

All of our love,  
Mommy, Daddy, Liam and Asher

*Elena Marie Rusert*  
*May 23, 2011*  
*Prematurity*  
*Parents: Michael and Tina Rusert*  
*Siblings: Liam and Asher*

**Happy 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday, Brand and Colt!**

Dear Brand and Colt, my precious boys, I can't believe another year has come and gone—so much has happened this past year. You two are big brothers to a sweet sister who resembles you both very much. It's bittersweet watching her grow while at the same time imagining how it would have been watching you two. I think of you boys often, miss you terribly and love you both with every fiber of my being. I am still waiting for the day I can hold my sons in my arms again; I am one year closer.

Love,  
Mommy, Daddy and baby sister Clara

*Brand and Colt Whigham*  
*August 4, 2011*  
*Umbilical cord entanglement*  
*Parents: Chris and Beverlyann Whigham*  
*Little sister: Clara Grace*

**Happy 5<sup>th</sup> Birthday, CJ!  
Happy 4<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Marina!**

CJ and Marina, even though we miss you still, we have seen good come from your short lives. Your big sister, Emily, was recently baptized. You influenced her decision to ask Jesus into her heart as I answered questions about where you were and how to get to heaven. Thank you for being a part of that important decision in her life. We love you always.

Love,  
Daddy, Mommy and Emily

*CJ Gold*  
*Miscarried August 12, 2008*  
*Marina Gold*  
*Miscarried July 14, 2009*  
*Parents: Greg and Kathryn Gold*  
*Big sister: Emily*

**Happy 7<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Ian!**

Ian—our sweet boy! I can't believe that it's been seven years since you made your surprise entrance into our lives. I'll always be grateful for the “bonus month” we had with you! I can only imagine how enriched our lives would be if you were still with us, but for now, I am grateful for the growth and healing that has come in your absence. Happy birthday! We love you!

*Ian Wesley Giger*  
*August 3—November 5, 2006*  
*SIDS*  
*Also remembering*  
*Baby Giger*  
*Miscarried February 2007*  
*Parents: William and Noel Giger*  
*Siblings: Calvin, Jordan, Gavin and Aaron*



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

Happy ninth birthday, baby boy! It never gets easier. I miss you so much. I think of you being a big boy playing baseball with your bubba, Damien, wishing I can see you run and play! I know God had a different plan for you, so for now I can imagine you playing on Jesus's baseball team of angels. Until I see you again, I will be cheering for you from down below, waiting for God to choose me to be with you. I love you so much. Happy birthday, Noah!

Noah Adam Barron

July 5-19, 2004

Hypoplastic lung syndrome

Parents: Lupe and Clem Barron

Siblings: Anthony, Damien, Naomi and Nicholas



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

Our dearest Caelan, we miss you more than words could express. We think about you every day. You have a new baby sister, Finlea Rose. You will love her sweet smile, and she will love you so much. We will find a way to share with her about you and the meaning you brought to our lives through yours. You will always be so special. We hold you in our hearts until we can hold you in heaven.

Love,  
Mom and Dad

Caelan Matthew Wallace

July 30—August 3, 2010

Preterm labor

Parents: Andy and Dana Wallace

Little sister: Finlea Rose



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

Little Princess, not a day goes by that we don't think of you. We often talk about how crazy it would be in this house with you here, too. We miss you so much. We hope you get all those nightly kisses from big brother, Anthony. He insists on kissing you goodnight.

Happy second birthday in heaven! We can only imagine the amazing party that is thrown up there.

Love and miss you daily!  
All the love in the world,  
Momma, Papa, Anthony and Crystian

Bailey Diane Gosiak

July 13—August 2, 2011

ACD (Alveolar Capillary Dysplasia)

Also remembering

Baby Gosiak

Early miscarriage April 22, 2008

Parents: Adam and Megan Gosiak

Siblings: Anthony and Crystian



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

Happy third heavenly birthday, my sweet boy! I miss you very much, and I think of you every day. I am so proud of being your mom, and I love when I get a chance to share your tiny but powerful life with others. It has not been easy to live this life without you, but I promise to you I am being strong because of you. I love you, special boy! I know in my heart you are rejoicing in the presence of our Lord, and you are with your other siblings that I miss dearly, too. From here to heaven, mommy sends you tons of kisses, my precious Luke.

Always and forever love,  
Mom

Luke Noe Johnson

July 26, 2010

Preterm labor due to MTHFR

Also remembering

Jude Hope Johnson

Miscarried October 30, 2009

MTHFR

Faith Johnson

Miscarried September 2, 2011

MTHFR

April Johnson

Miscarried April 10, 2012

MTHFR

Parents: James and Merle Johnson

Sister: Emma Grace



### Happy 4<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Baby Boy!

As time has gone by, so many have forgotten you, but you will always hold a special place in our hearts. Lord, please continue to hold our precious son close to your side until we can join him someday. We love you so much!

Daddy, Mommy, and brother Soren

Baby Boy Stratton

Miscarried August 22, 2009

Parents: Jason and Miriam Stratton

Little brother: Soren



### Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday, Princess Penelope!

A year has come and gone, and we miss you, Princess! I want you to know that my love will find you wherever you are; there is no place that it can't find you. Until we are reunited, I will think of you, my little ladybug, every moment of every day! Feliz Cumpleanos, Princesa!

Love,  
Mommy, Daddy, Angelica, Cristiano and Vivian

Penelope Rosero

August 17 - 20, 2012

Villamentous insertion of umbilical cord

Parents: Zabdi and Maria Rosero

Siblings: Angelica, Cristiano and Vivian



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

“My big brother Theo is in heaven, with Jesus.”

While this truth still causes my heart to hurt, you will forever be my precious boy who is loved and missed. Happy heavenly seventh birthday!

Love from Mommy, Daddy, Ysabel and the Family

*Theo Fleurima Shannon*

*August 10, 2008*

*Neonatal death*

*Parents: Ted and Geri Shannon*

*Siblings: Ysabel*



### Happy 3<sup>rd</sup> Birthday, Henry and Sam!

Happy birthday to our sweet angel babies. We can't believe it has already been three years since you came into our lives. We miss you very much and always say big prayers thanking God for our time with you and for knowing that our time apart is temporary compared with the forever that we will one day have! We learned so much from you during your short time on earth. We know that you watch over your little brother, Jack, and your baby brother, Luke, who will be here soon. We carry you in our hearts always and love you so very much.

Big Hugs!

Mommy, Daddy, Jack and Luke

*Henry Forrest*

*July 24-25, 2010*

*Samuel Forrest*

*July 24-August 8, 2010*

*Preterm labor- unknown cause*

*Parents: Peter and Julie Forrest*

*Little Brothers: Jack and Luke*



## A Safe Place to Share

On December 11, 2007, we found out we were having a girl, found out she sucked her thumb in the womb and, unfortunately, found out she had anencephaly and found out she “would not make it.” Upon returning home we immediately were on our computers to learn about what our baby had. For a word we had never heard, Google presented thousands of hits.

One of the first things we found was a Yahoo support group for moms who are or have been pregnant with babies with anencephaly and carried to term or as long as they could. There were about 300 members from all around the globe. I introduced myself and the ladies covered me with prayers and kind words. They were also very honest and realistic. All the moms were Bible-believing Christians, which was so amazing. They walked with me and held my virtual hand for the rest of my pregnancy. The administrators even sent flowers to Dharma's funeral! I became Facebook friends with many and still keep in touch. One friend, whom I have never met, sent me a personal bracelet for Dharma's birthday.

The ladies in this group held my hand until I was ready for face-to-face support through M.E.N.D. The “live” support group helped me connect to other moms who made me realize I was not crazy and that I was still a mom. The Yahoo group is now a Facebook group called anencephaly.info. It is still a wonderful group, and I am so thankful for them. It is a safe place to share photos, feelings, frustrations and prayer requests.

♥ *Jennie Drude,*

*Mommy to Dharma Lucille*

*M.E.N.D.—Director of Bryan/College Station*

“Social Network Grieving” continued from page 1

realize how great it was to have a place for bereaved families to pour out their hearts, but it was also a wonderful vehicle for families to minister to and encourage fellow grieving moms. It didn't take long before I made an executive decision that all chapters of M.E.N.D. must have their own Facebook pages. Admittedly, we've had some issues that we've had to learn how to troubleshoot and at times we have to delete some inappropriate posts and even block a few people, but the ministry and the good far outweigh the bad. Our Facebook pages are safe places where families from all over the world can express themselves and share their little ones with a group of people who understand and will not respond with hurtful reactions. Additionally, a M.E.N.D. Facebook page is an ideal place to share photos and special mementos without fearing uncomfortable comments might follow.

It has been 18 years since I was in the deep, dark throes of grief—at a time when expressing our sorrow publicly was just becoming acceptable. Today, those who are freshly grieving have an immense advantage in utilizing social networking to make their emotions known. I so wish what is available now had been more available then. If you have not taken advantage of what is “out there” for you, I encourage you to check it out and try it. Join one of the ten M.E.N.D. Facebook pages today (see “Connecting Through Facebook” on page 19 on how to join), and let us help you as you journey down this lonely road of grief.

♥ *Rebekah Mitchell,*

*Mommy to Jonathan Daniel and Baby Mitchell*

## Open Doors

We all have memories that we hold precious and dear to our hearts, no matter how brief our time was with our little ones. These moments are sacred, cherished beyond measure and are guarded safely for a choice few. Our stories are personal tragedies, painted pictures of worlds falling apart. We don't look for pity, but rather recognition that our baby(ies) existed. We are faced with questions that cause an inner debate on whether we tell about our nightmares or just give a simple lie as an answer.

We live in the technological age, where information is a click away and phone calls are almost a thing of the past. In a world ruled by social media, how can our grief fit? Child loss, though it is gaining positive support, is still a very taboo subject. After keeping my Facebook "friends" updated throughout my entire pregnancy, I panicked after we lost Gabriel. I didn't know if I should ever log in to my account again, because what could I say? I didn't want to go into details, and I didn't want to hear the apologies or condolences, but I knew no matter how sugar-coated the story was, questions would come.

I won't lie—it hasn't been easy navigating the murky waters of social media. When you sit behind an emotionless computer screen, it can be hard to determine who is friend or foe. I scrutinized every comment, every question. I lost people who I thought were friends and even received negative feedback when I shared Gabriel's pictures. Though it wasn't an easy path, especially during the early storm of grief, my choices have led to my own safe haven.

I have always loved writing. It is a way for me to get my feelings out where, in other situations, words have failed me. I questioned why my story shouldn't be heard. Why should I be made to feel as even less of a mother because other people were uncomfortable with reality? A drive was born within me—I needed to get these emotions out! It started with my own private group on Facebook; this way I could add who I wanted with safety. At first it was mostly family, and I poured my heart out about the grief roller coaster I had somehow ended up on. It wasn't always pretty, but it was true, it was raw and sometimes even dark. I half expected to be under lock and key because of some of the things I posted, but as we all know, the first year is the hardest. To my surprise I was encouraged to share my story, I was a "hero" for not hiding behind a silly mask. Eventually I even began to write on my own Facebook page, share pictures every once in a while, and after a few minor setbacks, I finally felt I could be true to myself.

Social media wasn't always nice to me. When hiding behind a computer screen people often show their true feelings and say things they wouldn't dare say to your face. But I have gained so much support. Not only can I be myself, but I can even go back to the posts about my pregnancy and just remember those beautiful moments. I consider my Facebook a living timeline. Social media has also led to my own public blog about my grief journey, and it continues to amaze me that every month there are more and more people coming across Gabriel's story.

Somewhere people are listening. They aren't turning a blind eye to the truth and to me, and that makes every trial I have endured to get to this point worth it. I won't be made to believe that because Gabriel isn't "here" he never existed. I won't be pushed back into the corner, because my son did matter; your children matter, and the silence needs to be broken. Even if it is in a small way, my story is making a difference. I don't think I could have made even this much of an impact without the technology we have today.

♥ *Andrea Gimlin,*  
*Mommy to Gabriel David*  
*M.E.N.D.—SW Missouri*



### **Raising funds for M.E.N.D.**

A special thank you to Smiling Moose Deli at College Park District in Arlington for hosting a profit sharing event to benefit M.E.N.D. in March. In addition to Smiling Moose Deli donating 10% of daily sales back to M.E.N.D. that day, they also donated a Daryl "Moose" Johnston autographed football for the Walk to Remember raffle. It's a gift that will keep on giving!

## *M.E.N.D.'s Online Presence*

In keeping up with the changes in technology, M.E.N.D. is excited to reveal our new website. Many changes were made to enhance our website for easier use and navigation. We still have the same address, [www.mend.org](http://www.mend.org), but visitors will find these changes.

Top five noticeable changes:

1. The new M.E.N.D. website has been designed in consideration of many readers who are now transitioning to touch-screen tablets (e.g. Apple iPad, Kindle Fire HD, Samsung Galaxy, HP Slate 7) from desktop computers or laptops. Navigation is now easier on both touch-screens and desktops, where previously it was a bit awkward and unreliable on touch screens.
2. Any web page on the website can now easily be shared on Facebook, Twitter or Pinterest.
3. Individual local chapters of M.E.N.D. will now have a “micro site” format so they can add additional web pages or topics relevant to their chapter (instead of a single web page).
4. Google Maps have been embedded in each of our local chapter location pages for easier directional information.
5. Resource links are now listed in a format that is much easier to read (also improved for touch screen devices), and will also print better should readers decide to print their web pages.

Important changes that will not be noticeable to the reader, but are worth mentioning:

1. Our web hosting provider will change. The new host will provide a technology infrastructure that will allow us to enhance our site capabilities a bit more than we are able to using our previous provider.
2. We will be working to integrate a custom search capability that will allow readers to search only the content on our site (coming soon).
3. In upcoming years, we hope to have a mobile web site specifically designed for smart phones (e.g. iPhone, Android, Blackberry) that will be easier to navigate on a smaller screen. Note: We are not planning on developing “apps” for these devices, only a mobile web site.

M.E.N.D.—NW Washington: We had a successful balloon release in May in honor of all our babies who couldn't be here on Mother's Day to celebrate with us.



M.E.N.D.—Dallas: What a great time we had at our first ZUMBA Fundraiser! We raised more than \$800 for M.E.N.D. while burning lots of calories and having a great time! Thank you to DaLana Barsanti for organizing such a fun night, that will hopefully become an annual event.



*In Loving Memory***Maya Denise Ates**

Stillborn January 6, 1998  
Clot in umbilical cord  
Given by mommy Tammie Ates  
and siblings Erin and Brandon

**Lauren Autry**

June 17—July 2, 2011  
Parents: Melissa and Brandon Autry  
Sister: Hailey  
Given by Zach and Rori Callaway

**Emma Bailey**

April 23, 2008  
Incompetent cervix

**Brooklyn Taylor Bailey**

January 1, 2010  
Incompetent cervix

**Jillian Marie Bailey**

January 2, 2010  
Incompetent cervix

**Sydney Grace Bailey**

January 2, 2010  
Incompetent cervix  
Given by parents Chad and Melissa Bailey

**Apple and Blueberry Barrientos**

Miscarried July 7, 2010  
Parents: David and Priscilla Barrientos  
Given by Zach and Rori Callaway

**Liam and Sebastian Callaway**

Stillborn August 5, 2011  
Unknown cause  
Given by parents Zach and Rori Callaway  
and little brother Miles

**Abigail Grace Crump**

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

**Lyle Donald Daggett**

Stillborn September 18, 2002  
Unknown cause  
Given by parents Brad and Lisa Daggett  
and little siblings Alexander, Benjamin  
and Madeline

**Brooke Sophia Daily**

Stillborn March 11, 2010  
Vasa Previa  
Gifts given by  
Parents Jeremy and Lisa Daily  
and sisters Sarah and Savannah  
Andrea Pinkerton

**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

**Michael Garabedian, Jr**

Stillborn February 2, 1998  
Cord accident/Villamentous cord insertion

**Adam Michael Garabedian**

Stillborn July 25, 2001  
Cord accident  
Given by parents  
Mike and Cindy Garabedian  
and sisters Victoria, Elizabeth  
and Catherine

**Serenity Harrison**

Miscarried December 3, 2009  
Given by parents  
Curt and Jennifer Harrison  
and little brother Leviticus Aaron

**Carson Lewis Humphries**

March 23, 2009  
Trisomy 9  
Gifts given by  
Parents J.J. and Amy Humphries  
and big sister Sarah Jessica  
Grandparents Joe and Donna Yancey  
Uncle Jeff and Aunt Kris Newcomb  
Uncle Travis and Aunt Sarah Biggs  
Uncle Brian and Aunt Jessica  
McDonald  
Cousin Avery Jo  
Kellie Glissen

**Marcus Alan Johnson**

July 5, 2011  
Parents: Jena and Marc Johnson  
Little brother: Jack  
Given by Zach and Rori Callaway

**Ross D. Kennedy, III**

Stillborn October 29, 2000  
Cord accident  
Given by parents Ross and Nicole Kennedy

**Sarah Ann King**

Stillborn June 22, 1995  
Unknown cause  
Parents: David and Lori King  
Siblings: Brooks, Kaylee and Brady  
Given by David H. King Insurance Agency

**Katherine Elizabeth Kjolhede**

Stillborn May 10, 1999  
Unknown cause  
Given by parents  
James and Kristine Kjolhede  
and siblings Jared and Savannah

**JJ Kojich**

February 19-March 9, 1996  
Omphalocele complications  
Given by mommy Linda Kojich  
and brothers Adam and Alex

**Baby McCliment 1**

Miscarried February 3, 2012

**Baby McCliment 2**

Miscarried September 3, 2012  
Given by parents  
Matt and Jennifer McCliment

**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.

**Bay William Miltenberger, Jr.**

Stillborn December 9, 1998  
Preterm Labor  
Parents: Bay and Paula Miltenberger  
Little brothers: Bryce, Bo and Brady  
Given by R.B. Miltenberger

**Avery Napaluch**

Mommy Adrianna Napaluch  
Given by Zach and Rori Callaway

**Joseph Parker Nelson**

Stillborn January 30, 2012  
Gastroschisis  
Given by parents  
Michael and Danielle Nelson  
and siblings Chase, Riley, Hunter,  
Abigail, Chloe, Phoebe, Rachel,  
and Mary-Esther

**Baby Oberlender I**

Stillborn December 19, 2011

**Baby Oberlender II**

Miscarried May 19, 2012

Given by parents

Tim and Melissa Oberlender  
and sister Grace Ann

**Jack Oldner**

September 18-19, 2006

Extreme prematurity/Goldenhar's Syndrome

Given by parents Chris and Cissy Oldner  
and siblings Clare, Olivia and Lily

**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

**Penelope Rosero**

August 17-20, 2012

Villamentous insertion of umbilical cord

Given by parents: Zabdi and Maria Rosero  
and siblings Angelica, Cristiano  
and Vivian

**Alexis Leigh and Nicole Leigh Rudeen**

Stillborn March 11, 2002

Unknown cause

Given by parents Randy and Sherri Rudeen  
and sisters Julie, Sara, Jordyn Leigh  
and Sydney Leigh

**Luke Anthony Sehmel**

Given by parents John and Rachel Sehmel

**Mindy and Maggie Smith**

Stillborn 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 Sohn**

Miscarried May 2003

**Whisper Sohn**

Miscarried October 2003

Given by parents

Doug and Angelique Sohn  
and brothers Joshua, Sebastian  
and Benjamin

**Savannah Kate Stanley**

January 3, 2004

Prematurity / Incompetent Cervix

Baby Stanley

Miscarried November 10, 2004

Given by parents Joel and Calli Stanley  
and siblings Colton, Danika, and Sara

**Michelle Grace Stockdale**

August 22—September 16, 2002

Ebstein's anomaly

**Baby Stockdale**

Miscarried February 2003

Given by parents Joe and Marie Stockdale  
and siblings Caleb, Audrey, Claire,  
Luke, David and Grace

**Kelly Lynne Turner**

September 22—23, 1997

ARPKD

Given by parents John and Cheryl Turner

**Kyle Charles Walton**

November 19, 1998

Group B strep and lack of proper  
nourishment from placenta

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

**Baby Wurglitsch**

Given by Stacy Winters

**Adrian Joseph "AJ" Zuckerman**

Stillborn March 30, 2007

Cord accident

Gifts given by

Parents Al and Amber Zuckerman  
and little brothers Eli and Alex  
Tammy Montgomery

**Gifts of Support**

Second Baptist Church, Springfield, MO

West Conroe Baptist Church, Conroe, TX

Mercy Hospital of Lebanon, MO

Shelley Lancaster

Sandra Dennis

Madison Moore

Smiling Moose Deli, Arlington, TX

**"Instant Support" continued from page 3**

On the 30<sup>th</sup> of March of this year, we were blessed with our little Lauryn, and I had forgotten about the questions you get from people when you have a new baby. I went to an appointment, and a lady asked the normal questions about her and then the one that affects every mother who has lost a baby: How many children do you have? At times I feel fine to share with people about our loss and other times I do not feel the need to share it, and this day I was on the fence. I told her three: Livi, who is six (at the time), Jaxson who is five and the baby. She said very quickly, "I bet Jaxson is a good helper," but then went on and on about Livi! How she is probably a great helper, a little mama to Lauryn and how her children were spaced out and such good helpers. Sitting there I was trying to determine if I should just burst her bubble with "my Livi died six years ago but I bet she would be" or instead leave it alone and just go with it. I chose to leave it alone and just let her do all the talking. She continued talking, and I felt like I was going to scream, "My life is just not that simple!" Finally, my name was called.

As I left my appointment, I was a bit upset because she was so nosy! I reached out to my fellow M.E.N.D. mommies on Facebook and got responses to my frustrations for several days. This community on Facebook helped me to remember that although I do this and that with M.E.N.D. and that I am seven years out from my loss, it is okay if I am hurting or upset about something we face as mothers of heavenly babies, and it is good to reach out for comfort. No matter how long ago your loss was, we, the family of M.E.N.D. are here to support you, and it is a blessing that we can connect through Facebook.

♥ Liz Walker,  
Mommy to Alivia Elizabeth-Grace  
M.E.N.D.—Dallas/Fort Worth

M.E.N.D.

**Chapter Corner****Chapter Meeting****Information****M.E.N.D.—Houston**

Meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
D. Bradley McWilliams YMCA at Cypress

Creek, Schindldecker Building  
19915 SH 249 Houston, TX 77070

Director: Stormy Mitchell  
stormym@mend.org, (281) 374-8528

**Subsequent pregnancy group** meets  
as needed on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 7:30 p.m.,  
led by Chiara Ott  
(chiara@mend.org).

**Daddy's group** meets quarterly on the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Thursday at 7:30 p.m.,  
led by Randy Dobbins  
(cortdavis@aol.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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 Missouri**

Meets the 1<sup>st</sup> 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  
Food and Fellowship  
Meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 7:00 p.m.  
Hebrews Coffee  
1604 E Republic Road  
Kathleen@mend.org

**M.E.N.D.—Bryan/College Station**

Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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*****Houston***

I am so excited and blessed to be joining the M.E.N.D. family as the new M.E.N.D.—Houston Chapter Director. I would like to introduce myself. My name is Stormy Mitchell. On May 17, 2011, at 33 weeks and 4 days gestation, our son, Gideon, was born into the arms of Jesus. He was such a miracle to us because he came after years of infertility and after we had already lost his older sibling, Avery, to miscarriage in 2008. After he passed away, our hearts were totally shattered. We had to cling to God to survive every moment. At the hospital, they gave me a M.E.N.D. brochure, and I knew I needed to attend a meeting. From the moment I walked through the doors, I received love, grace, compassion and understanding. God has used M.E.N.D. to draw me closer to Him and to bring healing to my broken heart. When I was pregnant with Gideon, God made a promise to me that our child would bring many people to Himself. I believe that as the facilitator of M.E.N.D.—Houston, that is one of the ways the Lord will keep that promise. God continues to use the short life of our son to bring glory to Himself! God has given me a heart to come alongside other grieving parents and walk with them on their grief journey. As the director of the Houston chapter, I will always do what I can to give support and love to the hurting families in the Houston area. I am very excited about our Walk To Remember coming up on October 5 at the Bammel Road Church of Christ. If you live in the Houston area, please consider attending the Walk this year. It is a beautiful ceremony where we remember our babies and turn our eyes toward Jesus. I am honored to be a part of this wonderful ministry.

*Stormy Mitchell****Tulsa***

M.E.N.D.—Tulsa would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to one of my assistants, Sara Hintz, for all her hard work, dedication and commitment to M.E.N.D. God is calling her family to another location. We will definitely miss her and wish her the best of luck with her new endeavors. Additionally, I want to thank Marcie Nienhuis and Erika Huff for all of their hard work, dedication and commitment to M.E.N.D.

*Lisa Daily****Amarillo***

M.E.N.D.—Amarillo is gearing up for our Bunco for Babies! It will be held September 6. For more information, contact Becky Anderson through email at becky@mend.org or 806.570.4344.

*Becky Anderson****Texarkana***

M.E.N.D.—Texarkana continues to grow and minister to families throughout the Texarkana area through email, phone calls, Facebook, monthly meetings and hospital visits to grieving families.

*Monica Davis****Bryan/College Station***

M.E.N.D.—Bryan/College Station is continuing to bless the hurting families of Brazos County. Stay tuned for more information about our annual balloon release at Veterans Park in October! If you would like more information about our chapter, please email me at jennie@mend.org.

*Jennie Drude****Hot Springs***

M.E.N.D.—Hot Springs is praying for a smooth transition as both of our hospitals merge and hoping more doors open to be able to minister to our families when they suffer the loss of a baby.

*Amy Humphries*



*NW Washington*

I had the opportunity to speak at a local MOPS group on May 24, and it was a great time of sharing. I was glad for the opportunity to share with local women on what to do to help a friend/family member who suffers the loss of a baby.

We are busy planning to walk in the Whaling Days Parade on July 27, to spread the word about M.E.N.D. in our community.

We have welcomed seven new families to our group this year, and we are glad they found M.E.N.D. to aid them in their journey of grief.

*Stacy McGhee*

*S/W Missouri*

M.E.N.D.—SW Missouri continues to see new families nearly every month. In the past three months I've been blessed to share about our ministry with Mercy Healthcare (Lebanon and Springfield), Cox South Hospital (Springfield) and Citizens Memorial Hospital (Bolivar). Our families have also enjoyed time outside of our support group meetings with Food and Fellowship each month, and most recently with more than XX attending our first Summer Picnic at Meador Park in Springfield. Thanks to Kathleen Moore for coordinating both!

*Heather Fann*

*Wichita Falls*

M.E.N.D.—Wichita Falls continues to welcome new families each month. We are also hard at work with our letter fundraising campaign.

<i>Looking Ahead</i>				
<i>October 5</i> Dallas, TX Walk to Remember	<i>October 5</i> Houston, TX Walk to Remember	<i>October 12</i> SW Missouri Balloon Release	<i>December 9</i> SW Missouri Christmas Ceremony	<i>December 10</i> Headquarters- Irving, TX Christmas Ceremony

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

**M.E.N.D.—NW Washington**  
Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at 6:30 p.m.  
Harrison Medical Center/Iris Room  
1800 Myhre Rd.  
Silverdale, Washington  
Director: Stacy McGhee  
stacy@mend.org, (360) 621-7279

**M.E.N.D.—Hot Springs, Arkansas**  
Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

**Daddies group**  
meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of March, June, Sept. and Dec., from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

*A time for dads to meet together and discuss topics relevant to them as fathers. Our moms and dads meet together for introductions before dividing into two groups for discussion.*

**Food and Fellowship**  
are held the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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*

**Robert and Liz Walker,**  
of North Richland Hills, Texas,  
along with big brother Jaxson,  
joyfully announce the arrival of  
Laurn Blair,  
born March 30, 2013,  
measuring 5 lb., 2 oz.,  
and 19 inches long.

The Walkers lovingly remember  
Alivia Elizabeth-Grace,  
stillborn July 24, 2006,  
incompetent cervix

**Katherine and Keith Sandoval,**  
of Bremerton, Washington,  
along with brothers Kegan and Kastle,  
joyfully announce the arrival of  
Kanon Mathew,  
born May 1, 2013,  
measuring 8 lb., 2oz.,  
and 20 inches long.

The Sandovals lovingly remember  
Ginger,  
September 25, 2010,  
renal anomalies at 22 weeks

**Joe and Marie Stockdale,**  
of Conyers, Georgia,  
along with siblings Caleb, Audrey,  
Claire, Luke and David,  
joyfully announce the arrival of  
Grace Anne,  
born April 30, 2013,  
measuring 7 lb., 14 oz.,  
and 19 inches long.

The Stockdales lovingly remember  
Michelle Grace Stockdale,  
August 22—September 16, 2002,  
Ebstein's Anomaly,  
and Baby Stockdale,  
miscarried February 2003

## *Día de la Madre*

My son, Jonathan, was stillborn in 1995—a time when the Internet was just getting off the ground. In fact, I remember while on bed rest when pregnant with Jonathan, seeing television commercials of a man at his desk ordering flowers for his wife, making dinner reservations, and booking an airline flight with seemingly just a few clicks of his mouse while looking at his computer screen. At the time, I did not even know what a “mouse” was and I honestly thought the commercial was a bit far-reaching – impossible, really.

A couple of months after Jonathan's stillbirth, I decided we needed a computer at home for some reason. I remember the first time I turned it on. I had no idea what in the world to do next. It was an impulsive purchase. We were so grief-stricken that we weren't thinking clearly when we bought it. Why on earth would we need such a huge gadget in the corner of our bedroom? I remember calling my husband, Byron, at his office that day and telling him to just take it back. It was a stupid thing we had done and a waste of about \$2,000. We kept it anyway and decided to join the World Wide Web. Oh, what a new world that opened for me! Back then, chat rooms were very popular, yet we were all warned of the many dangers of “talking” to complete strangers. I stayed away from that particular means of communication, but I was somehow introduced to the Listserv, *Infanlos*. There, I met numerous women from all over the world who had suffered the death of a baby. It was through my computer that I was finally able to pour out my heart to women who truly knew and understood what I was going through. I'd stay up until all hours of the night communicating with my new virtual friends, telling them things about my grief that I had not told a soul. They got it and oftentimes told me they felt the same way. It was extremely healing and therapeutic.

Months later, I felt compelled to bring what I was involved with in cyberspace into the real world. I figured if typing to a computer screen was helpful, surely meeting fellow grieving moms face-to-face would be much better. So, that's kind of what happened—much of how M.E.N.D. was birthed, nearly 17 years ago.

M.E.N.D. was in existence for several months before we had a presence on the WWW. Byron's and my good friends, Max and Jody Friz, who had suffered a few miscarriages before we lost Jonathan, offered to create and maintain a website for M.E.N.D. Once the website launched, M.E.N.D. escalated to a whole new level. We then had women from all over the world learning about our ministry. The website eventually offered a Guest Book, which enabled families to post their stories and their email addresses if they wanted readers to contact them. It's funny how what was at one time so incredibly helpful and healing is now completely obsolete.

About four years ago, one of our Board Members, Amber Zuckerman, who we affectionately refer to as our “computer geek”, began a M.E.N.D. Facebook page. I was not on Facebook at the time, nor did I have any intention of drowning myself in something of the sort. However, for about two years I kept hearing comments such as, “did you see what so-and-so posted on Facebook....?” I eventually realized I was very much out of the loop within the ministry that I founded and directed. One night while Amber was sitting at my kitchen table with her laptop at a M.E.N.D. Board

meeting, she began pounding away on her keyboard then announced, “okay, Rebekah. You have a Facebook account now”. What?? I didn’t even ask her or tell her it was okay. Once I learned how to navigate my way through Facebook, though, I was hooked! But more importantly, I saw how vital our M.E.N.D. page was for grieving families. Multiple times a day I read through the many posts on our M.E.N.D. page. Not only did I realize how great it was to have a place for bereaved families to pour out their hearts, but it was also a wonderful vehicle for families to minister to and encourage fellow grieving moms. It didn’t take long before I made an executive decision that all chapters of M.E.N.D. must have their own Facebook page. Admittedly, we’ve had some issues that we’ve had to learn how to troubleshoot and at times we have to delete some inappropriate posts and even block a few people, but the ministry and the good far outweigh the bad. Our Facebook pages are a safe place where families from all over the world can express themselves and share their little ones with a group of people who understand and will not respond with hurtful reactions. Additionally, it is an ideal place to share photos and special mementos without fearing uncomfortable comments might follow.

It has been 18 years since I was in the deep, dark throes of grief – at a time when expressing our sorrow publicly was just becoming acceptable. Today, those freshly grieving have an immense advantage of utilizing Social Networking to make their emotions known. I so wish what is available now had been more available then. If you have not taken advantage of what is “out there” for you, I encourage you to check it out and try it. Join one of the ten M.E.N.D. Facebook pages today (see page .....on how to join) and let us help you as you journey down this lonely road of grief.

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

## *Connecting Through Facebook*

When AJ died just over six years ago, our support options were face-to-face group meetings or coffee visits, blogging and even snail-mail. I can remember attending my first M.E.N.D. meeting and collecting as many phone numbers as I could from other mothers so I would have a selection of people to call when one of those dreadful grouchy grief days would hit. I needed someone to call who could relate to whatever emotion that moment brought.

And then came Facebook. A place where supporter and supportee could always connect, day or night, good or bad, with almost instant encouragement, comfort and validation for the emotion of the day. Seeing the need that existed amongst our families to connect, M.E.N.D. established the first official M.E.N.D. Facebook group in August 2008. Groups are private, and we ask that everyone review the guidelines for sharing as we attempt to maintain a safe and uplifting environment.

Today, each of the 10 M.E.N.D. chapters host a Facebook group for its area helping to connect more than 1,500 families. If you would like to join one of the Facebook groups, visit [www.mend.org](http://www.mend.org). Select “Facebook” on the navigation bar across the top, and simply select the chapter page closest to you to request to join that group. Don’t live near one of our chapters? Feel free to connect to the Home Chapter, Dallas/Fort Worth, Facebook group for support and comfort. There is also a list of all chapters at the bottom of each page.

♥ *Amber Zuckerman,  
Mommy to Adrian Joseph “AJ”  
M.E.N.D.—Board of Directors*

### How Social Grieving Helps

- The more you share, the more you heal
- Can communicate thoughts and feelings easily
- Able to reach out without feeling like intruding
- Develop support system for the griever
- Provide instant support/advice
- Feeling of isolation is not as prevalent

“Virtual Grief” by Heidi Faith, January 1, 2012 on [www.stillbirthday.com](http://www.stillbirthday.com), retrieved June 10, 2013.

### How Social Grieving Hinders

- May attempt to speed up or dumb down grief process
- Words and encounters are etched in time
- It’s not for everyone
- Can become overly committed
- Receive bad advice or manipulation
- Others may not realize how much you are hurting

*“Pinterest isn’t just a space for sharing other people’s photos. It’s also a place to heal....  
This shared experience makes up the backbone of grief and illness pinning.  
It’s not self promotion, it’s self revelation.”*

“People Turn to Pinterest to Help them Heal” by Lauren Rae Orsini,  
March 15, 2012 on The Daily Dot. [www.dailydot.com](http://www.dailydot.com), retrieved June 10, 2013

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](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.
- **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.

