



M. E. N. D.

Mommies Enduring Neonatal Death

Healthcare Providers Grieving

“Jesus, Jesus, Jesus...” The heartfelt pleas of my labor and delivery (L&D) nurse, whom I happened to be acquainted with, still echo in my mind today. Because of my health issues with kidney disease, I had been on bedrest in the hospital for two weeks and came to know the nurses on the floor quite well. On the afternoon of June 24, 1995, one of the weekend staff nurses had trouble hearing Jonathan’s heartbeat during a routine vital check, so she asked another nurse to come into my room to see if she could hear it. After neither nurse was successful, my room quickly turned into a scene like you would see in a movie. “Code Blue, 1142” broadcasted over the hospital intercom. My friend who worked in L&D, heard the announcement, recognized it as my room number, and came up as fast as she could. I remember her running to the side of my bed, placing her hands on my bulging belly and crying out to the Lord to save my baby.

My doctor, who was spending Saturday afternoon with his sons, felt a prompting to get to the hospital. With his boys still in the car, he parked in the fire lane, jumped on the elevator, and came straight to my room without stopping at the nurse’s station for an update. When he arrived, he saw the mayhem in my room and quickly took charge. For the rest of my life, I will never forget glancing at the sonogram screen and seeing my lifeless baby, with his arm dangling to his side. My doctor turned off the monitor, sat on my bed and held my hand. He didn’t have to say a word. I knew.

Before my delivery later that night, a group of nurses on the floor knocked on my door and asked if they could enter. All of them were weeping. The floor secretary was among them and asked if she could pray with us. They joined hands with my family and friends who were in my room and prayed a beautiful prayer full of love and compassion.

Several hours later, I had a C-section, and my otherwise perfectly formed Jonathan Daniel was delivered. The umbilical cord was wrapped around his head, his body and his left leg. After I was moved into a recovery room, my same nurse friend, who begged God to save my baby, walked in with my sweet little boy swaddled in her arms. I’ll never forget her leaning over me and gently putting Jonathan in my outstretched arms, while tears streamed down her face.

I discovered later my doctor could not bring himself to go home after the delivery. He stayed at the hospital all night, until his wife came to get him the next morning. He fought so hard for us, and I’m sure he stayed up all night asking God the same question we did: “Why?!”

For the most part, the nurses who cared for me the next few days during my hospital stay were very sweet, compassionate and caring. One or two needed some bereavement training, but the other nurses who were kind and understanding certainly made up for the negatives of the others. Two days after my delivery, shortly after the funeral home took my baby’s body away, one of the nurses who had just learned of the tragedy that had taken place over the weekend came into my room and just sat in a chair next to my bed. She soothingly spoke words of comfort over me for what seemed like a really long time. I don’t remember exactly what all she said; I just remember thinking how meaningful it was that she had abandoned all her other responsibilities and made me her priority for the morning. Her mission that day was to minister and care for my needs.

Regularly I am privileged to speak to hospital personnel on how to better care for families when a baby dies. I always tell them: “You can either make a horrible situation a little bit better, or you can make a horrible situation a whole lot worse. Determine that you will be the one who makes it a little bit better!” On occasion, I will hear families at our support group share a terribly shocking story about the insensitivity of a doctor or nurse, but for the most part, thankfully, we hear stories of the love and the extra mile they went for the hurting family. So, for those of you on our mailing list who are in the healthcare profession, I want to say thank you, first of all, for subscribing to this publication so you can stay connected with our world in order to make yourself a more compassionate caregiver. I hope your heart breaks as you read the words of our grieving families, thus giving you an understanding of what our families endure after they leave you at the hospital. And, secondly, I thank you for being His hand extended as you care for families whose lives are forever changed.

♥ *Rebekah Mitchell,*
Mommy to Jonathan Daniel and Baby Mitchell
M.E.N.D. President/Founder

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 3.

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.

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 husband, Brian, and I came to know M.E.N.D. in 2000 after our daughter, Sydney Lynne Brown, was stillborn on May 18, 2000, due to unknown causes. Several years prior to our daughter's death, my mother-in-law was at a health fair where M.E.N.D. had set up a table to spread the word of the fairly new non-profit Christian organization. My mother-in-law knew of a family who had lost a baby and gathered the material for them. When my daughter, Sydney, died, the family passed the material on to us. We knew this was bigger than us, and we needed guidance. So in June 2000, we attended our first support group.

Like many others we tried for our rainbow baby. Unfortunately, we welcomed our second daughter into this world prematurely at 24 weeks on May 18, 2001. Ashley Mackenzie Brown lived for two hours and died due to prematurity caused by my clotting disorder, Antiphospholipid Antibody Syndrome. We were told I should not get pregnant again due to health reasons.

Shortly after we were given news we would have a surrogate mother carry for us, M.E.N.D. had expanded and had just begun offering the subsequent pregnancy support group. Even though I was not carrying the baby, my deep concerns and fears were still very strong. May 27, 2003, we brought home a healthy baby boy who will turn 11 this year.

Over the years, we stayed connected through M.E.N.D. and were able to give back through helping with The Walk to Remember, Christmas ceremonies or sympathy cards. In 2007, I was honored when I was asked to serve on the M.E.N.D. advisory board and humbled when asked to be on the board of directors in 2009. I presently serve on the board of directors and have been blown away with what GOD has done through the years with M.E.N.D. and our lives. I encourage you to embrace your journey, because you never know what God has in store for you and how He will mold you to glorify Him.



♥ Marilyn Brown,

Mommy to Sydney Lynne and Ashley Mackenzie

M.E.N.D.—Board of Directors

Grief

I have been practicing obstetrics and gynecology in Texas for almost 15 years and have witnessed the great burden that prolonged grief brings to my patients. However, in my humble opinion, grief is normal and can be healthy.

It is guilt that turns grief into something negative, such as anxiety, depression, fear, seclusion. Guilt is a natural response to a negative experience, but it can also be dangerous. The reality is that most guilt is misplaced. We do not have control of most things in this world in which we live. It is not your fault that things went wrong or did not work out. God has a promise and a cure for guilt. It is found in Philippians 4, verses 6 and 7. God asks us to give Him our worries, our anxiety, our guilt. In return, He promises to give us a peace that only He can give.

We are not strong enough to carry this guilt forever, but God is more than strong enough. Give it to Him. Pray each day to Him about what weighs heaviest on your heart, and see the burdens lifted. But the guilt will be more than just gone, it will be replaced with something that we all need... peace.

♥ Johnny J. Peet, MD

Doctor for Jennie Drude

To read about the grieving hands Dr. Peet held in St. Luke's Room #218, see pages 10-11.

Proveedores de Atención Médica

“Jesús, Jesús, Jesús...” Las súplicas sinceras de mi enfermera de parto, con quien yo conocía, aún resuenan en mi mente hoy todavía. Debido a mis problemas de salud con enfermedad del riñón, estaba en reposo en cama en el hospital por dos semanas y llegue a conocer muy bien las enfermeras en el piso. Por la tarde del 24 de junio de 1995, una de las enfermeras del turno del fin de semana tuvo problemas escuchando latidos de Jonathan durante un chequeo rutina así es que le pidió a otra enfermera que entrara a mi habitación para ver si podía oír lo. Cuando ninguna enfermera tuvo éxito, mi habitación se convirtió rápidamente en una escena que verías en una película. “Código azul, 1142” fue transmitido por el intercomunicador del hospital. Mi amiga que trabajaba en L&D oyó el anuncio, reconoció el número de mi habitación y subió rápidamente. Recuerdo que corrió al lado de mi cama, colocando sus manos sobre mi vientre abultado reclamando a Dios que salvara a mi bebé.

Mi médico, que estaba disfrutando de su sábado por la tarde con sus hijos, sintió la necesidad de llegar al hospital. Con sus hijos en el coche, estacionó su auto en el carril para los bomberos, subió en el ascensor y vino a mi habitación sin parar en la estación de enfermeras para una actualización. Cuando llegó, vio el caos en mi habitación y rápidamente se hizo cargo. Para el resto de mi vida, nunca olvidaré echando un vistazo a la pantalla de ultrasonido y ver a mi bebé sin vida, con el brazo colgando a su lado. Mi doctor apago el monitor, se sentó en mi cama y detuvo mi mano. No era necesario decir una palabra. Yo ya lo sabía.

Antes de mi parto más tarde esa noche, un grupo de enfermeras toco mi puerta y preguntaron si podían entrar. Todos estaban llorando. La secretaria del piso estaba entre ellos y me preguntó si ella podía orar con nosotros. Unieron las manos con mi familia y amigos que estaban en mi habitación y rezaron una oración hermosa llena de amor y compasión.

Varias horas más tarde, tuve una cesárea y mi perfectamente formado Jonathan Daniel fue entregado. El cordón umbilical fue envuelto alrededor de su cabeza, su cuerpo y su pierna izquierda. Después de mudarnos a una sala de recuperación, mi misma amiga enfermera que le rogaba a Dios que salvara a mi bebé, entró con mi dulce pequeño bebe envuelto en sus brazos. Nunca olvidaré cuando se inclinó sobre mí y mientras suavemente poniendo Jonathan en mis brazos extendidos, las lágrimas corrían por su rostro.

Más tarde descubrí que mi doctor no podía convencerse volver a casa después de la entrega. Permaneció en el hospital toda la noche, hasta que llegó su esposa el día siguiente por la mañana. Luchó muy duro para nosotros y estoy segura de que se quedó despierto toda la noche preguntándole a Dios la misma pregunta que teníamos nosotros: “por qué?”

Por la mayoría, las enfermeras que me cuidaron los próximos días durante mi estadía en el hospital eran muy dulces, compasivas y diligentes. Seguramente una que otra necesitaba algún tipo de entrenamiento, pero las otras enfermeras que estaban atentas y comprensivas sin duda compensaron por los negativos de los demás. Dos días después de mi entrega, poco después de que la funeraria se llevó el cuerpo de mi bebé, una de las enfermeras que sólo había aprendido de nuestra tragedia del fin de semana entró en mi habitación y tomo asiento junto a mi cama. Dulcemente me habló palabras de consuelo por lo que parecía un tiempo larguísimo. No recuerdo exactamente todo lo que dijo, sólo recuerdo haber pensado que significativo fue que ella había abandonado todas sus otras responsabilidades y me hizo su prioridad por la mañana. Su misión era ese día al Ministro y cuidado de me y mis necesidades.

Regularmente tengo el privilegio de hablar con el personal del hospital sobre cómo cuidar mejor a las familias cuando un bebé muere. Siempre les digo: “o haces una horrible situación un poco mejor. O puedes hacer una horrible situación mucho peor. Determine que usted será el único o única que lo hace un poco mejor.” En ocasiones, escucharé las familias en nuestro grupo de apoyo una historia muy impactante sobre la insensibilidad de un médico o una enfermera, pero en su mayor parte, gracias a Dios hemos oído historias de amor y compasión para la familia sufriendo. Así que para aquellos de ustedes en nuestra lista de correo que se encuentran en la profesión de sanación, quiero darles las gracias: en primer lugar, para suscribirse a esta publicación así puede permanecer conectado con nuestro mundo para ayudarle hace un cuidador más compasivo. Espero que su corazón se rompa al leer las palabras de nuestras familias afligidas, dando así una comprensión de lo que nuestras familias soportan después de que se van del hospital. Y, en segundo lugar, gracias por ser la mano extendida de El mientras cuidas familias quienes vidas han cambiado para siempre.

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

May/June Topic

Mother's Day/Father's Day
Deadline: March 31, 2014

July/August Topic

Generational Grief
Deadline: May 31, 2014

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.

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.

<u>Heavenly Birthday</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
January/February	November 30
March/April	January 31
May/June	March 31
July/August	May 31
September/October	July 31
November/December	September 30



Birthday Tributes

Happy 3rd Birthday, Chase!

Chase, it's so hard to believe it's been three years since we last held you. You became a big brother this past year! We would love to see how you and your sister would have interacted. We wonder if you would have smiled, laughed or cried the way she does. Would your personalities have been similar or different? Would you be the best of friends? Would you protect her the way only big brothers can? So many new things to wonder about what may have been, but one thing we do know and that will never change, is how much we love and miss you. Happy 3rd birthday, Chase!

Mommy, Daddy and Cora

Chase Austin Miller
April 21, 2011

Incompetent cervix

Parents: Greg and Stefanie Miller

Little sister: Cora



Happy 1st Birthday, Hudson!

To our precious angel, Hudson, I can't believe it's been a year. Your life here on this earth was so very short, but you will live in our hearts forever. Mommy, Daddy, Brady and Peighton love you very much, and we think about you all the time. You are our angel. We love you.

Hudson Patrick Barker
March 7-8, 2013

Monocystic kidney disease

Parents: Nick and Julie Barker

Siblings: Brady and Peighton



Happy 4th Birthday, Elliot!

Dear Elliot, your brother and sister wonder what life would look like if you were still here with us. Your dad and I wish we could be taking care of and loving on you. All of us try to imagine what you are doing in heaven! Four years have passed and still we can feel your fingers gripping ours before you loosened your hold on us and this earth. Our brief time together has made us look forward to enjoying you for eternity.

Love,
Mommy, Daddy, Evie and Ethan

Elliot James Gerriets
March 18, 2010

HLHS

Parents: Chris and Faith Gerriets

Siblings: Evelyn and Ethan



Happy 4th Birthday, Landon!

Happy birthday, little angel!
We will love you and miss you always.
Forever in our hearts,
Mom, Dad and Caleb

Landon Seybert

Miscarried March 2010

Also remembering

Isaac Seybert

Miscarried November 2010

Micah Seybert

Miscarried November 2013

Parents: Patrick and Julia Seybert

Brother: Caleb



Happy 2nd Birthday, Gabriel!

Happy heavenly birthday! We can't believe it is your 2nd birthday already. On this day we celebrate the beautiful 38 weeks we had together. We will never forget the day we found out you went to heaven. We were heartbroken, but we know you are safe in heaven. We all carry you in our hearts till the day we meet again.

Love Mommy and Daddy

xoxoxoxoxox

"You'll be in my heart, no matter what they say, you'll be
in my heart...always"-Phil Collins

Gabriel David Gimlin

Stillborn March 29, 2012

Parents: Gary and Andrea Gimlin



Happy 2nd Birthday, Bryson!

We miss and love you so much. We cannot wait until we see and hold you again. My arms continue to crave you. I wish I could celebrate your 2nd birthday with you and watch you with excitement opening your gifts and getting cake all over your face. I know you are in the arms of our Father, and I have to remember the peace and joy you are experiencing every moment. That gives Mommy the peace to get me through until I meet you again in heaven. You will always hold a special place in all our lives and hearts, and I will continue to honor your life and name until the day I die. Love you, little monkey!

Bryson Cross Rawlins

February 25-March 3, 2012

Placental abruption/NEC

Parents: Terry and Carrie Rawlins

Siblings: Brayden, Breanna, Brooklynn, Luke and Emily



Happy 6th Birthday, Cayden!

My sweet angel! The day you were born, I finally understood what unconditional love meant. I never knew how much my heart could love until you were born. My brave little fighter, you entered this world having to fight harder than anyone else should have to fight to live. You are such an amazing little boy, and you inspire so much in so many people! We love you so much, Cayden, and we can't wait to see you again. Continue watching over us and baby brother, Kolton.

*Cayden Andrew Hall
January 24-29, 2008*

Prematurity

Parents: Michael and Britney Wise

Little brother: Kolton



Happy 6th Birthday, Dharma!

Oh Dharma, you would be 6 years old now! I'm sure you would be bossing around your brother and sister, wearing my high heels and batting your eyelashes at your daddy for the last bowl of ice cream. Even though I miss you so much sometimes it hurts, I know you are doing well and enjoying your time praising God.

We love you always!

Psalms 30:11-12

*Dharma Lucille Drude
March 31-April 1, 2008*

Anencephaly

Also remembering

Stella Darling Drude

Stillborn January 23, 2014

Anencephaly and exencephaly

Parents: Jason and Jennie Drude

Siblings: Max and Molli



Happy 2nd Birthday, Paislee!

We can't believe it's already been two years since we held you in our arms. We can still remember the sweet whimpers you made when you were born and the sound of your heartbeat we listened to for seven weeks. Those two sounds are the most beautiful sounds we ever heard. The pain of losing you is still so real with every milestone we pass; however, we find peace in knowing that you are with Jesus. We can't wait for the day when we are reunited. Have the best 2nd birthday with our Savior!

Love,

Mommy and Daddy

"A life so brief, A child so small.

You had the power to touch us all."

*Paislee Ann Frette
April 4-5, 2012*

Wolf-hirschhorn syndrome

Parents: Brent and Courtney Frette



Happy 4th Birthday, Arianna!

Happy 4th birthday to our beautiful, precious angel, Arianna Elizabeth Wilkinson. We were blessed for the time we had you and will always be thankful we are your parents. We love and miss you every day and you are forever in our hearts.

Your mommy and daddy,
Leroy and Monica Wilkinson

Happy 4th birthday, Arianna! We loved you from the very start, but now you live within our hearts. We think of you each day and wish you were with us, too, showing off your pretty dresses and running around just making messes. We'll miss you more each passing year, but we wait with just a bit of cheer, knowing God makes no mistakes, picking only the very best to take. So have a happy and heavenly birthday, sweet Ari.

Your loving grandparents,
Paul and Jeannie Garcia

*Arianna Elizabeth Wilkinson
Born sleeping April 12, 2010*

Also remembering

Baby Boy Garcia

Miscarried August 2006

Baby Girl Wilkinson

Miscarried November 2008

Baby Boy Wilkinson

Miscarried August 2011

Parents: Leroy and Monica Wilkinson

Grandparents: Paul and Jeannie Garcia



Happy 4th Birthday, Sophia Rose!

Happy 4th birthday in heaven to our precious daughter and little/big sister. We love and miss you more than words can say.

Sophia Rose McGhee

Stillborn March 29, 2010

Unknown cause

Parents: Matt and Stacy McGhee

Siblings: Micah and Scarlett



Happy 6th Birthday, Mason and Matthew!

I am amazed it has been six years since you two came into this world. Those brief moments we got to hold you have given us countless blessings. Mason and Mathew, you are loved and missed every day.

All our love,

Mama, Dada and your little brothers, Miles and Graham

Mason and Mathew Bass

April 10, 2008

Prematurity

Parents: Chad Bass and Leah Robilotto-Bass

Little brothers: Miles and Graham



Happy 1st Birthday, Lou Lou!

Mommy, Daddy and Sofia miss you more than words, our sweet angel! You have given life a new meaning for us, and we look forward to seeing you and spending eternity in heaven with you.

Happy 1st heavenly birthday, Lourdes! We love you.

Lourdes Angel Gil

April 15-16, 2013

Respiratory failure due to spina bifida

Parents: David and Kimberly Gil

Sister: Sofia

**Happy 4th Birthday, Alexander!**

Hi, Baby! You are 4 now! Heaven must be having a party with all your friends and Papa. We miss you every day. You are going to have a baby sister in June; isn't that great? Remember to watch over Abraham and your new sister every day! We love you so much and will see you again some day. Sending hugs and kisses!

Te amamos!

Dadda, Mama and Abe

Alexander Seely

April 30, 2010

Cord accident

Parents: Ron and Raquel Seely

Siblings: Abraham and Baby Girl Seely due June 2014

**Happy 7th Birthday, AJ!**

Happy birthday, big boy! We miss you every day. God's amazing work continues through your life, and your brothers are always so proud to tell others about you. We will hold you in heaven. Our love for you is endless!

We love you more!

Daddy, Mommy, Eli and Alex

Adrian Joseph "AJ" Zuckerman

March 30, 2007

True knot cord accident

Parents: Alfredo and Amber Zuckerman

Brothers: Eli and Alex

**Happy 3rd Birthday, Delila!**

Happy 3rd birthday, my sweet baby girl! We love you dearly! Your bubba said he dreamed of you the other night and said you were taking pictures of every moment so when we got to heaven, we could see all the wonderful things you've done! Love you darling and can't wait for that day of our joyous reunion.

Delila Katherine Holt

February 14, 2011

Cord complications due to omphalocele

Daddy: Michael and Amanda Holt

Siblings: Jonas and Josie

**Happy 1st Birthday, Baby Johnson I!**

Happy birthday, little love. We miss you so much but are so thankful to be your parents. You have taught us so much; because of your short life, we are able to minister to so many families through Hannah's Hope. We will never forget seeing your sweet heartbeat on the screen, and we have your ultrasound picture from that day hanging up at home. We are looking forward to the day when God makes all things new and we will see you again. We love you!

Revelation 21:4-5a

Love,

Mommy and Daddy



Baby Johnson I

Missed miscarriage April 8, 2013

Also remembering

Baby Johnson II

Miscarried November 2, 2013

Parents: Mark and Kathryn Johnson

Big sister: Karlie

Happy 5th Birthday, D'Antoni!

Happy 5th birthday to our littlest angel. We never had the chance to see you crawl, walk, talk or go to school, but we did get the chance to hold, kiss, feed and bathe you, which is priceless and precious! We love and miss you so much, but we know you are having the best time in heaven with Jesus and the angels. Celebrate big time in our love... 'til we meet again.

Love you forever and a day,

Your family

D'Antoni N. Berry

January 6—February 1, 2009

Sepsis

Parents: Will and Nicole Berry

Siblings: D'Metri, Domani and D'Marco

**Happy 3rd Birthday, Jaliyah!**

Happy birthday, my little Lady Bug! Not a day goes by you don't cross my mind. Three years ago you changed my life. I would have never thought I would give birth to a beautiful angel and then give her to the Son of God. He has plans for us, baby. You have a baby brother, and he will know who you are and hold you close to his heart as I do. Mommy and Daddy Ricky love you as well as your Abe. We know you are in a better place. Happy birthday again! Rest in peace, my beautiful little Lady Bug.

Love you always,

Your mommy

Jaliyah Danielle Rodriguez

April 29, 2011

Anencephaly

Parents: Rosanna Rodriguez and stepdad Ricky Trevino

Little brother: Fernando Louis Trevino



Happy 1st Birthday, Levi!

Happy birthday, sweet boy. We miss you so much. Thank you for letting us be your mommy and daddy. You have made us so proud. We love you more than we ever knew we could. Your short life changed us for the good. You will always be our precious son. Lots of hugs and kisses. See you soon.

Love,
Mommy and Daddy



Levi Samuel Bowmer
April 19, 2013
Trisomy 13
Parents: Sam and Jenae Bowmer

Happy 1st Birthday, Caroline!

Happy 1st birthday to our little butterfly, Caroline! As we observe the day you went to heaven, we are sad you are not with us but find comfort in knowing you are with Jesus, healed and whole. The 88 days your life blessed us will never be forgotten. The Lord used you, a tiny little baby girl, to show a watching world His glory. "Still we will say, blessed be the name of the Lord!"

Caroline Elizabeth Ann Davis
December 29, 2012—March 27, 2013
Trisomy 13
Parents: Kenneth and Gabrielle Davis
Siblings: Cody, Owen, Claire, Kate and Nathan

**Happy 3rd Birthday, Anika!**

I can't believe it's been three years already; it feels like just yesterday we were watching you on the screen. We were planning for your special day. Your special day came sooner than expected and broke my heart. I know you're watching over us every day. Love and miss you, baby girl.

Anika Ann Eckstrom
Stillborn April 30, 2011
Parents: Jamie Bryant and Adrian Eckstrom
Siblings: Riley Eckstrom, Blake Bryant and Tehya Bryant

**Happy 3rd Birthday, Josiah!**

It's your 3rd birthday in heaven. I so wish you were here with us as we celebrate this special day, but I know your birthday in heaven with all the angels could never compare. We love and miss you so very much. You are always remembered. We keep you in our hearts and in our daily things we do, so you're always with us. Fly high, baby boy! Until we meet again!

Josiah Julian Peck
January 2-April 1, 2011
SIDS
Parents: Cecil and Julie Peck
Siblings: Trent, Kashayla, Malachi and Zyon

**Happy 8th Birthday, Ava!**

Happy birthday, Ava! It's so hard to believe that you would be 8 years old! We miss you like it was yesterday! Being pregnant now with a girl has really made me miss you even more...the thoughts of how sassy you would be, who you would look like and how you would be running your little brothers in circles right now. Those little brothers include you in their prayers every night. We all love and miss you so much!

Ava Grace Browning
March 7, 2006
Epstein's anomaly
Also remembering
Baby Browning, January 2009
Baby Twin Browning, September 2010
Baby Girl Browning, October 2012
Parents: Kevin and Christal Browning
Siblings: Mason, Spencer, Garrett and
Baby Girl Browning due June 2014

**Happy 4th Birthday, Noah!**

My beloved Noah Boone, I miss and love you so very much. Through all of the pain and tears, your short-lived life has influenced me to go back to college to pursue a career in grief counseling. I want other bereaved mommies to know that, through it all, it will be okay. You've given me an underlying strength I didn't know was possible. I walk stronger in my faith because of you. I know that one day I will be with you. I would like to thank my oh-so amazing family and friends for helping me at the lowest point in my life...I don't know where I'd be without you all.

Happy birthday, my sweet angel!

Love,
Mommy, Gram, Pawk and Uncle Bunny

Noah Boone
March 5-15, 2010
Underdeveloped lungs
Mommy: Shannon Johnson

**Happy 5th Birthday, Owen!**

It seems like forever since we saw your sweet face and held you, and yet not a day goes by we don't think of you and miss you. Your sister, Sophia, tells her friends about her special twin brother in heaven that she will get to see one day a long, long, long time from now. Happy 5th birthday, Owen. We love you, baby boy!

Love,
Daddy, Mommy, Sophia, Natalie and Zachary

Owen Patrick Webb
Stillborn April 30, 2009 at term
Unknown cause
Parents: Brian and Melissa Webb
Siblings: Sophia (Owen's twin sister), Natalie and Zachary



Happy 3rd Birthday, Elaina!

We can't believe it's been three years since we last held you and saw your beautiful face. You are so missed and loved, and we think about you every day. We can't wait to see you in heaven someday. Hope you have a wonderful 3rd birthday party with Jesus!

Elaina Hope Fast

Stillborn March 8, 2011 at 40 weeks

Unknown cause

Parents: Nick and Rachael Fast

Sister: Emma



Happy 1st Birthday, Rajun!

To my little prince, from the moment I knew you were in my womb, I loved you. Every day as you grew, I fell deeper in love. I couldn't wait for the day I would hold you in my arms. God saw fit for us to meet early on March 5, 2013. You were the tiniest baby I ever saw and cute as a little button. I think of you constantly. It hurts that you are not here with me, but you are where you can feel no pain, and happiness surrounds you for an eternity. One day we will meet again, and I will cradle you in my arms forever.

Happy heavenly 1st birthday, Rajun (Peter Rabbit).

My handsome grandson,

I miss you so much.

I love you with a

Love beyond measure.

Our time together was

So long, I smile to keep from crying.

When I do cry, it's tears of joy

Knowing you are absent from the body

And present with the Lord. (II Corinthians 5:8)

Happy birthday, Rajun (My Peter Rabbit)

Love,

Granny



Rajun Armel Giles

March 5-14, 2013

Extreme prematurity

Mommy: Runda Giles

Granny: Cora Anderson

Happy 2nd Birthday, William!

Happy 2nd heavenly birthday, William! We all miss you and look forward to the day we get to see you. You are forever in our hearts!

Love you,

Momma, Daddy, Courtney and Tyler

William Dennis Broughton

April 20, 2012

Cord accident

Parents: Chad and Lindsay Broughton

Siblings: Courtney and Tyler



Happy 5th Birthday, Alethia Joy!

Our sweet firstborn, Alethia Joy, happy 5th birthday in heaven! We miss you and think about you every day, wondering what it would be like having you around, being a big sister to your younger siblings, Hannah Beth and Anthony. Whenever Hannah Beth hears about someone else being called to heaven, she always says, "Now they are with Jesus and Alethia." What an amazing thought. Maybe your Great-Grandpa VK is holding you in his lap now. You will always be such a joy in our hearts and memories, and we can't wait to see you and hold you again one day when Jesus calls us home. We love you so much.

Alethia Joy Myers

Stillborn February 3, 2009 at 39 weeks

Unknown cause

Parents: Tony and Charity Myers

Siblings: Hannah Beth and Anthony



Happy 1st Birthday, Katie!

Our precious little angel

You were not meant to be,

Every night when it is bright

You're the shiniest star we see.

We carry you within our heart,

Never far, never apart,

Until the day we meet again

Your mother's love will never end.

Love, Mum and Dad, our Katie star xxx



Kathleen Anne Kane

April 29, 2013

Placenta abruption, ketoacidosis, womb infection and severe pre-eclampsia

Parents: Mark Burnett and Claire Kane

Happy 12th Birthday, Elizabeth!

Wow! We can't believe you're 12. So much time has passed, but you are never out of our thoughts. We wonder what you would look like and what things you would enjoy. We can't wait until the day we are all reunited as a family. Take care of your little brother, Isaac, and give him lots of hugs for us. Enjoy celebrating your special day with Jesus. Happy birthday, sweet girl.

Love,

Mama, Daddy and Emily

Elizabeth Abigail Jackson

April 29, 2002

Trisomy 16

Also remembering

Isaac Jackson

June 24, 2013

Trisomy 13

Parents: Jeromye and Angi Jackson

Sister: Emily



Happy 16th Birthday, Andrea Nicole!

Today you will be 16 years old. What would you be doing now? Would you be driving, working, dating? Would you be a good student? Would your sister, Amanda, be your very best friend? Would you be singing and dancing and just having fun? What would you be doing now, Andrea? Do you know I miss you every day? I hope you know I think of you so often. I think you do because when I think of you, sometimes I will see a flutterby (you know what I mean), and I know you are here. What would you be doing now? This year is so hard as it is one of those milestone birthdays—Sweet 16. Wow, it's hard to believe it is already here. We love you, and we miss you dearly and know one day we will be together again. Until that day comes, just know I am loving you; that's what I am doing now! Happy birthday, Andrea Nicole!

Andrea Nicole Tondro Frisch
April 21, 1998
Cord accident
Parents: Dennis and Carole Frisch
Sister: Amanda Ruth



Happy 3rd Birthday, Lily!

My dear Lily, happy 3rd birthday, baby girl! Another year has passed, which means we are 365 days closer to being together again. Your new baby brother is here, and we have all been enjoying him so much. Even so, it makes us all miss you even more. I would have loved to twirl with you and hear you giggle and kiss your face about a million times. We would have been such good friends. We have a very special cake planned for your birthday and will be sending you super special birthday wishes, sweet Lily.

All our love,
 Mommy, Daddy, Isaac and Judah

Lily Joy Moore
March 2, 2011
Early pregnancy loss
Parents: Jeremy and Kathleen Moore
Brothers: Isaac and Judah



Happy 2nd Birthday, Everett!

Our dearest Everett, we wish you the happiest 2nd heavenly birthday! We miss you so very much, sweetheart, and look forward to the day we'll all be joyfully reunited. Until then, we will remember you—our firstborn son who changed our lives forever—always.

With our love,
 Mommy, Daddy, and your baby brother Christian

Everett Christopher Delmar
April 18, 2012
Unknown cause
Parents: Chris and Miranda Delmar
Little Brother: Christian



Happy 23rd Birthday, Kathy!

Not a day goes by I don't think about you. I reminisce about how perfect you were when I first laid eyes on you. You are truly missed but never forgotten. I know you are in heaven and one day we will meet again. You will always be in my heart. Always know you are loved!

Love,
 Mommy

Kathy Ann Vilaboud
Stillborn April 4, 1991 at 42 weeks
Parent: Sheilah Hanes



Happy 4th Birthday, Madison!

Happy 4th birthday, sweet angel. Mommy and Daddy miss you so much. Until the day I get to hold you in my arms once again.

Madison Nicole Parris
March 5, 2010
Prevotella Bivia (infection)



Happy 5th Birthday, Michael!

I can't believe another year has passed. Our sweet angel, I hope you have a great birthday in heaven. Daddy, Mommy, Lucas and Seth will be celebrating your birthday here. Until the day I get to hold you again, baby boy, love you.

Michael Stephen Parris
April 9, 2009
Clostridium inoculum/infection
Also remembering
Baby Twin Parris (Madison's twin)
January 2010
Unknown cause
Parents: Sam and Stacey Parris
Brothers: Lucas and Seth



Happy 8th Birthday, Morgan!

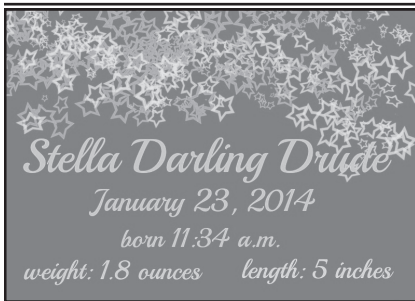
Happy birthday, Morgan! We wish you could be here with us to enjoy. We miss you and can't wait to see you on that special, glorious day! Nothing we have here compares to what it will be like when we see you, Grandma Sally, and many other friends and family face-to-face in heaven. It must have been so sweet to wake up in the arms of Jesus, our sweet child.

Love,
 Mommy, Daddy, Isaac,
 Grandma, Grandpa and Auntie Michelle

Morgan Schear
Miscarried March 28, 2006
Parents: Nobel and Paula Schear
Big brother: Isaac



Continued on page 19...



*“I’m not sure of God’s plan with Stella yet,
but I feel it will be big..
Stella’s life is bringing glory to Him.”*

My name is Jennie, and I am the chapter director of M.E.N.D.—Bryan/College Station in Texas. My story began in December 2008, when my husband and I learned at a routine doctor visit that our first pregnancy, a girl whom we named Dharma Lucille, had anencephaly. Anencephaly is a 100% fatal neural tube defect. We carried Dharma to term and had a scheduled C-section. She lived for 21 hours and 22 min. Shortly after her birth, I found M.E.N.D.—Houston and never left! They made me feel normal in my NEW normal, and I made life-long friends.

I went on to have my son, Max, who is almost 5, and Molli, who is 3.5. After Max was born, I started M.E.N.D.—Bryan/College Station. I would say I have been doing well in my grief and have been sharing my story with hospitals, nursing schools and conferences.

We learned in October we were expecting baby #4! We were thrilled and so were our children. There was no hiding this pregnancy; I began to show very quickly. My close “M.E.N.D. girls” were always there for me with the normal fears and worry that come with any subsequent pregnancy after a loss.

On December 26, 2013, we went for our routine 12-week ultrasound with our high risk doctor and found we were having another girl, whom we named Stella Darling. We also learned she had anencephaly along with exencephaly. We were once again devastated and started planning a funeral, preparing for organ donation and telling our loved ones. We had done this before, so it was all too familiar. I had the BEST medical care out there and got regular ultrasounds.



Three chapters of M.E.N.D.
Dallas, Bryan/College Station and Houston,
attending Stella’s service.

On January 22, at my 16-week ultrasound, I learned my sweet Stella had no heartbeat. This was so shocking, because I felt her move the night before. I only had C-sections in the past, so this would be my first vaginal delivery. I was admitted and delivered Stella on January 23, 2014. She was 1.8 ounces and 5 inches long. I miss my girls terribly, and my heart aches for them both. I am so thankful for my M.E.N.D. family who has supported me through this new journey. I had M.E.N.D. moms from three chapters come to Stella’s memorial service! I could not do this again without them.

♥ Jennie Drude
Mommy to Dharma Lucille and Stella Darling
M.E.N.D.—Bryan/College Station Chapter Director

Letter From Mommy

Dear Stella,

I found out the day after Christmas I would be writing you a letter to read at your funeral, but it was not supposed to be until June. I knew my time with you would be short, but this was kind of ridiculous. I was still getting to know you. I knew you liked cheesy processed foods, sugary drinks and 10:30 pm dessert. You moved all the time—way more than your sisters and brother ever did. I was dreaming of bringing you home and rocking you in my glider, singing to you, praying over you, and telling you about all the wonderful people you would be meeting in Heaven. That is what I did with your sister, Dharma, at the hospital. I told her all about George Harrison, Jesus, Mama Cass and Mary. But I didn’t have a chance to do that with you. Instead, you got the grand tour from Dharma herself. In my mind, I imagine you and her skipping down the streets of gold and her telling you where everyone lives. Kind of like a “celebrities homes tour” in Hollywood, but so much better .

I was prepared to miss out on your first steps, prom dress shopping, wedding, and grandchildren. But I was not prepared to miss out on kissing you good night, singing you to sleep, dressing you in the custom made pink Power Ranger tutu outfit I was having someone make for you. I was prepared for you to be small, but seeing how small you really were was shocking to me. Especially with how much it hurt during your delivery. You were my first natural

childbirth. You gave me my first real contractions. You made me more thankful than ever for C-sections.

I know God will turn this craptastic situation into something that will glorify Him. He has done it before, and I know He will do it again. I am so thankful that we serve a God who understands my pain.

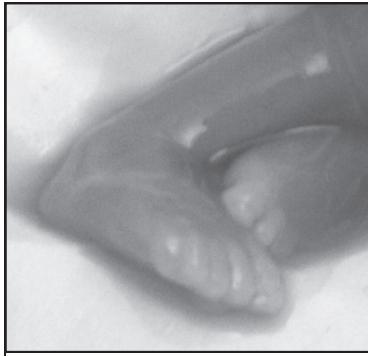
To be honest, I feel like we were robbed. Max asks me every day when he gets to have his turn and go see you. Mollie still kisses my belly and says, "Hi, baby." I feel like you were stolen right out of my arms. My favorite moments with all my children are watching Daddy give them their first bath and dressing them. We didn't get to do that with you. I know what you got was better. You get to spend eternity with THE FATHER. You did not suffer, no one called you a name on the playground, no boy broke your heart because he didn't call you, and your siblings did not lock you out of the house on purpose. Even though I am so grateful for all of this, I still miss you terribly. My heart aches for you.

Please tell your sister I miss her, too. I would give anything to have all four of my children under the same roof, even for just a minute. But I will just have to be patient. Like Max says, "We can't go visit Stella and Dharma until Jesus wants us to."

Thank you for reminding me that life is precious and that I am clothed with joy. God will once again remove my sackcloth.

I love you, Stella Darling! Make sure you find George and tell him you are named after one of his songs.

Love always,
Mommy



"How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"
Romans 10:15b

Letter From Daddy

Dear Stella,

I haven't had much of a chance to put into words what I've been feeling. Whether that is because I haven't wanted to face my challenges or I haven't had time yet is still undecided for me. What I have thought about is how unfair all of this is. I won't get to play with you, to have tea time with you, to see you play with your sister, to see you bicker with your brother, to see you grow up, to do anything. It makes me sad already when I think about the things that I'll never get to experience with you.

While the rest of us are moving forward with our lives, please know that your family won't forget about you. We may not have gotten to know you or see much of what you could become, but that doesn't stop us from wishing you were here. It's the same as we've experienced with Dharma. We miss her even if we don't talk about her all the time or if we don't have a great number of pictures of her.

That all of this happened to you seems like such a waste. It seems like it has no value or redeeming qualities. Thinking about that made me realize that it is people, not situations, that put value into things. Considering that, I have decided to put this value into what happened: I value what little time I had with you. I value that someday I'll get to see you again. I value that you are with your sister and you can both play together and both of you can be whole.

I have felt sad since we were told of your condition. I have felt sad since you passed. I will likely feel sad for quite some time. It's this sadness that we know is a remembrance of you. Please know that even after the sadness is gone, we will still miss you. Even when we laugh or celebrate, we will miss you. It's the same with your sister. While your brother and sister are a bit young to fully grasp what's going on, we have not hesitated to tell them about you. In the future we will not be shy about you, your sister, or the memories we have of you both.

Finally putting down my thoughts has caused me to think about the main idea of what I wanted to tell you. I wanted to tell you, my Darling, that I love you and miss you. Even though you're not here, I'm your daddy still, and I will always wonder what you would be doing right now.

Goodbye, Stella.

Love,
Daddy

You turned my wailing into dancing;
you removed my sackcloth
and clothed me with joy,
that my heart may sing your praises
and not be silent.

Lord my God, I will praise you forever.
Psalm 30:11-12

In Loving Memory**Malen Huck Anderson**

Stillborn February 4, 2008
Possible heart attack
Parents: Wes and Becky Anderson
Siblings: Lenea and Nathan
Given by Dr Wesley Anderson O.D., P.C.

Maya Denise Ates

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

Joshua and Jeromy Barsanti

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

Abigail Grace Crump

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

Brooke Sophia Daily

Stillborn March 11, 2010
Vasa Previa
Gifts given by
Parents Jeremy and Lisa Daily
and sisters Sarah and Savannah
Grandparents John and Carolyn Daily
Grandparents John and Carol Eck

Joshua and Caleb Davis

April 14, 2000
Incompetent cervix
Given by parents Shawn and Monica Davis
and siblings Landon and Kylie

Riley and Parker Davis

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

Westin Dobbins

August 8, 2010
Incompetent cervix
Given by parents
Randy and Cortney Dobbins
and siblings Cynlee and Colt

**Dharma Lucille Drude**

March 31 - April 1, 2008
Anencephaly
Stella Darling Drude
Stillborn January 23, 2014
Anencephaly and exencephaly
Parents: Jason and Jennie Drude
Siblings: Max and Molli
Gifts given by
Great-Aunt Karen King
Great-Grandmother Barbara Branson
Patricia Boger
Chris and Shannon Outen
Barbara Branson
Byron and Rebekah Mitchell
Justin and Sara Cummins
Mark and Tiffany Johnson
Andrew and Brooke Harrington
Amber and Al Zuckerman
Marilyn and Brian Brown
Calli and Joel Stanley
GF and MB Serio
William and Cortney Dobbins
Susan Pittman

Baby Dunn

Given by Anonymous

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

Caleb Scott Fann

December 1, 2003
PROM
Baby August Fann
Miscarried August 13, 2004
Parents: Jonathan and Heather Fann
Little sister: Madison
Given by Daniel and Stephanie Ellis

Anderson Maxwell Graham

Stillborn March 12, 2013
Placental abruption
Parents: Aaron Graham
and DeAndrea Dare
Gifts given by
Victor and Renae Bravenec
Laura McElroy

Hope Grier

December 23, 2013
Parents: Isaac and Brooke Grier
Given by Victor and Renae Bravenec

Baby Green

Miscarried October 2011
Parents: Kollin and Jennifer Green
Sisters: Trinity, Zoe and Selah
Given by
Grandparents John and Carolyn Daily

Serenity Harrison

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

Jack Henvey

July 4, 2001
Tetralogy of fallot

Baby Henvey

Miscarried October 2003
Gifts given by
Parents Chris and Renee Henvey
and siblings Evan and Luke
Hossley Lighting Associates

Samuel Mark Hintz

Stillborn October 30, 2008
Cord accident

Joel Hintz

Stillborn July 3, 2009
Unknown cause

Taylor Hintz

Miscarried February 2010
Given by parents Greg and Sara Hintz
and siblings Louis, Caleb, Anna, Elijah,
Hope, Levi and Isaiah

Baby Girls Holmes

Miscarried August 13, 2013
Cystic Hygroma
Given by parents Zac and Andrea Holmes

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
Given by parents Nick and Erika Huff
and siblings Rafael, Blythe and Nash

Carson Lewis Humphries

March 23, 2009
Trisomy 9
Parents: JJ and Amy Humphries
Big sister: Sarah Jessica
Gifts given by
Uncle Brian and Aunt Jessica
McDonald and cousins Avery Jo
and Anniston
Uncle Jake and Aunt Timie Yancey
Cousins Hudson and Hendrix Yancey
Caren Dodd

Jordan Leigh Johnson

November 11-15, 1996
CHARGE Syndrome
Given by
Parents Reggie and Kena Johnson

Jude Hope Johnson

Miscarried October 30, 2009
MTHFR

Luke Noe Johnson

July 26, 2010
Preterm labor due to MTHFR

Faith Johnson

Miscarried September 2, 2011
MTHFR

April Johnson

Miscarried April 10, 2012
MTHFR

Abril Johnson

Miscarried April 10, 2013
MTHFR
Given by parents James and Merle Johnson
and sister Emma Grace

Marcus Alan Johnson, Jr.

July 5, 2011
Cord accident
Parents: Marc and Jena Johnson
Little brother: Jack
Given by Grandmother Wendy Windrich/
Mending Hearts

Tatum Olivia Johnson

Stillborn February 21, 2009
Unknown cause
Given by
Parents Bryan and Stephanie Johnson
and siblings Tyler and Brody

Jaden Noah Kaye

Stillborn October 10, 2006
Unknown cause

Tucker Steven Kaye

Stillborn February 8, 2010
Genetic disorder
Given by parents Magen and JD Kaye
and little siblings Noah and Mia

Matthew Kennedy

April 28, 2008
Preeclampsia
Parents: Zac and Dawn Kennedy
Given by grandparents
George and Debbie Kennedy

JJ Kojich

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

Baby Krocka

Miscarried June 24, 2011
Parents: Scott and Krissy Krocka
Brother: Tyler
Given by
Uncle John and Aunt Carolyn Daily

Sophia Rose McGhee

Stillborn March 29, 2010
Unknown cause

Baby McGhee I

Miscarried 2002

Baby McGhee II

Miscarried January 2009

Baby McGhee III

Miscarried April 2009
Given by
Parents Matthew and Stacy McGhee
and siblings Micah and Scarlett

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

Lily Joy Moore

Miscarried March 2, 2011
Early pregnancy loss
Parents: Jeremy and Kathleen Moore
Brothers: Isaac and Judah
Gifts given by
Grammy Marsha Neely
Grandfather Ray Neely, Jr.

Samuel James Nienhuis

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

Margot Lily Perry

Stillborn June 10, 2013
Parents: Brandon and Marisa Perry
Little sister: Adeline
Gifts given by
“Grammie” Marie Perry
Anonymous

Baby Polley

Miscarried May 1990

Allison Nicole Polley

Stillborn August 5, 1991

Baby Polley

Miscarried October 1991
Given by parents Michael and Gina Polley

Emma Maria Routh

April 15 - July 16, 2008
Heart defect
Given by
Parents Brian Routh and Sonia Lopez
and siblings Lidia, Oliver and Victoria

Elizabeth Mai Nettles Schockmel

Stillborn May 13, 2002
Intrahepatic Cholestasis
Baby “D” Schockmel
Miscarried March 2, 2008
Parents: Karen and Nate Schockmel
Siblings: Alexandra, Benton, and Catherine
Given by “Monnie and Bigga”

Emilynn Larren Schrader

Stillborn June 19, 2012
Parents: Daniel and Kellie Schrader
Siblings: Nolan and Mary Britton Schrader
Gifts given by
Mary Ellen Lipscomb
Grandparents Stan and Jean McAlpin

Hannah Grace Sherman

August 12, 2005
Cystic hygroma/Turner syndrome
Given by parents Randy and Toni Sherman
and big sister Kaitlin

Adley Taylor Sells

December 30, 2010
Parents: Chad and Ashley Sells
Given by grandparents
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Patterson, Jr.

Mindy and Maggie Smith

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

Alexis Raine Sonnenberg

January 24, 2009 – February 3, 2009
Diaphragmatic hernia and
complications from ECMO
Parents: Alex Sonnenberg and
Lindsey James
Grandparents: Mark and Ruth Sonnenberg
Given anonymously

Harrison James Sturdevant

Stillborn February 7, 2013
Cord accident
Parents: Adam and Kristen Sturdevant
Given by Mike and Jane Beltz

Alivia Elizabeth-Grace Walker

July 24, 2006
Incompetent cervix
Given by parents Robert and Liz Walker
and siblings Jaxson and Lauryn

Baby Wilson I

Miscarried January 2007

Baby Wilson II

Miscarried June 2007
Given by parents Doug and Michele Wilson
and siblings Gabe and Sadie

Gifts of Support

Second Baptist Church, Springfield, MO
West Conroe Baptist Church, Conroe, TX
Healthstar Physicians of Hot Springs, AR
Elyssa Yellowfish
Anita Alvestad - McIntyre, MD

M.E.N.D. gratefully acknowledges these gifts of love given in memory of a baby, relative, friend, or given by someone just wanting to help. These donations help us to continue M.E.N.D.'s mission by providing this newsletter and other services to bereaved parents free of charge. Please refer to page 2 of this newsletter for more information regarding where to send your donations and what information to include.

Thank you so much!

M.E.N.D.

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

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

Creek, Schindedecker Building
19915 SH 249 Houston, TX 77070

Director: Stormy Mitchell
stormym@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 Randy Dobbins
(cortdavis@aol.com)

M.E.N.D.—Texarkana

Meets 3rd Thursday 7:00 p.m.
CHRISTUS St. Michael Rehab Hospital
2400 St. Michael Drive
Texarkana, TX 75503
Director: Monica Davis
monica@mend.org, (903) 490-1210

M.E.N.D.—Tulsa

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

M.E.N.D.—SW Missouri

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

M.E.N.D.—Amarillo

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

M.E.N.D. Chapter Updates***Bryan/College Station***

God did so many great things for M.E.N.D.—Bryan/College Station in 2013! I am looking forward to seeing what He does in 2014. We are continuing to reach the hurting families in Brazos County by working with the hospitals and doctors on getting M.E.N.D. information into the hands of the families that need it. I want to thank West Conroe Baptist Church for their continued support of our chapter.

Jennie Drude

Tulsa

My assistant, Marcie Nienhuis, and I had a wonderful time at the M.E.N.D. Leadership Conference. We want to thank the faithful leadership of the Dallas chapter for all of their hard work and dedication. We were revitalized with many great ideas and are hoping to continue to spread the word about M.E.N.D. throughout Tulsa. Additionally, this year we hope to deepen our relationships within our chapter by meeting quarterly for food and fellowship. There will be more information to follow.

Lisa Daily

NW Washington

Our leadership team was blessed to be able to travel to Texas for the annual M.E.N.D. Leadership Conference and have come away from it renewed and ready to support our existing families and new ones that find us this year. Our new Gig Harbor meeting is up and running, and we are excited to see how we can be a support system to that community.

Stacy McGhee

Amarillo

At the M.E.N.D. Leadership Conference, I was able to take a moment to think about what a blessing it is to be a part of M.E.N.D. I pray each family that walks through our M.E.N.D. doors will feel the same comfort from God we have received. We look forward to continued growth in Amarillo.

Becky Anderson

Texarkana

M.E.N.D.—Texarkana continues to minister to families in our area. We are planning our first Mother's Day balloon release at Christus St. Michael Hospital. The hospital recently established a serenity garden which includes the Hope monument. For more information on this event, contact Monica at 903-490-1210 or monica@mend.org.

Monica Davis

Hot Springs

M.E.N.D.—Hot Springs continues to reach out to our grieving families in the Hot Springs area. We pray God continues to bless our chapter and allows us to be a blessing to our community.

Amy Humphries

Wichita Falls

M.E.N.D.—Wichita Falls chapter has continued to welcome new families at our monthly meeting. We are refreshed and excited after attending the recent M.E.N.D. Leadership Conference, and we look forward to trying a little something different this year.

Sarah Fukasawa

SW Missouri

The Southwest Missouri Chapter had nearly 40 women join us for our 4th annual Scrapbook and Craft Fundraising Day in February. We raised much-needed funds for our chapter and had a great time doing it! Thanks to everyone who attended and my amazing volunteers who made it happen! We look forward to a few months of warmer weather and meetings as snow has made it difficult to meet this winter. Our next event is our 2nd Annual Family Picnic at Nathaniel Greene Park in Springfield on Saturday, June 28, at 5:30 p.m. For details, email me at heather@mend.org.

Heather Fann

Houston

So far 2014 has been busy for the Houston chapter! We have been organizing fundraisers for the coming year, so keep an eye out for the announcements about dates and times for fundraisers. Remember that M.E.N.D. operates solely on donations and fundraisers, so if M.E.N.D.—Houston has blessed your life, please consider a donation that will go on to bless other families as they are walking this journey of grief. Chiara Ott, Stefanie Miller, and I attended the M.E.N.D. Leadership Conference in Dallas in February, and we had an amazing time of fellowship, learning so many new things to bring back to our chapter. We feel energized and are looking forward to continuing to serve the families in the greater Houston area.

Stormy Mitchell

“Bereaved parents never forget the understanding, respect, and genuine warmth they received from caregivers, which can become as lasting and important as any other memories of their lost pregnancy or their baby’s brief life.”

Leon IG. Perinatal loss: A critique of current hospital practices. Clin Pediatr. 1992;31:366–74, retrieved from www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov on February 17, 2014.

M.E.N.D.—Bryan/College Station

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

M.E.N.D.—NW Washington

Meets the 2nd Monday at 6:30 p.m.
Harrison Medical Center/Iris Room
1800 Myhre Rd.
Silverdale, Washington
Gig Harbor Meeting
Meets the 4th Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.
St. Anthony Hospital/Greenpoint Dining Room
11567 Canterwood Blvd NW,
Gig Harbor, Washington
Director: Stacy McGhee
stacym@mend.org, (360) 662-6161

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 fathers. Our moms and dads meet together for introductions before dividing into two groups for discussion.

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.

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

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.

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

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.

Help in Time of Need

As a young mother of one, I was expecting our second child with my husband Will. At that time, I worked at a hospital in the x-ray department as an aide. One cold day in February 1979, at 26 weeks pregnant, my water broke while I was working. I was immediately taken into the emergency department, where the nurses began to search for the baby's heartbeat. Every attempt made to find my baby's heartbeat failed. An ambulance was called, and I was then transported to another hospital where my doctor's office was. What normally would have been a short 30-minute ride took forever to a 19-year-old girl all by herself.

Upon arrival at the hospital, my husband, mother, and in-laws were there to meet me. The emotions that went on for the next 12 hours were unbelievable for all parties involved. As my husband and I attempted to be "grown-up," we decided to face this alone, just the two of us. Little did we know this event would change our lives forever. Will sat by my side, held my hand, and stroked my head as I labored for several hours for an unexpected result of which neither of us had ever dreamed.

The nurses were nice, caring, and compassionate, but they did not know what to say to comfort or ease the stress for us as a young couple. They asked us numerous times if we realized what was happening. I don't recall a chaplain coming to talk to us, to provide information related to our situation, or choices about what would happen when the baby was born and what would happen afterward. We were so confused, but we had each other.

When our baby girl was born with no heartbeat, my heart stopped! There were so many questions running through my mind. Why was this happening? What had I done wrong? What could I have done differently to change this outcome? Why us? Why? When asked, we made a choice not to see her or to give her a name. The grief was so overwhelming. No name, no sight of her, why?

Now, many years later, I stand strong as a nurse with a passion and love for women's health. Yet, I was still asking for the "answer" for that experience in my life until the day one of my patients had a need for me to be the nurse I needed those many years ago. The answer to my questions was revealed to me.

Heather had been a patient on the high risk antepartum unit for an extended period of time, expecting her first baby. She, too, was supported at the bedside by her husband, Jonathan, and many extended family members from the seminary college where he was a student. The day it was determined that the baby needed to be delivered is when my everlasting memories and friendship with this couple began.

The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) nurse, Whitney, asked if Heather could be brought to the NICU because her baby was not "doing too well." Without thinking twice, Audrey (new nurse) and I immediately whisked

Heather in her hospital bed to the NICU where her newborn, Caleb, was being cared for. Upon arrival to the pod in the NICU, we observed the team was in the process of performing CPR on Caleb. Jonathan walked up to the team as they were going to start CPR again when he asked them to stop. Heather held Caleb, but Jonathan decided not to. My heart was breaking for the two of them and at that moment, my answer was revealed! God has us experience difficult times in our lives so that we can reach out to others during their time of need.

Ten years have passed since the birth of Caleb, and the friendship between Heather, Jonathan and me has continued over the years and miles, from Texas to Missouri. Heather began to send out yearly Christmas letters that celebrate the life of Caleb, August (another lost child) and Madison (the love of Heather and Jonathan's life), as well as the adventures, challenges and celebrations of their family over the previous year. I look forward to receiving the letter every year, as well as to reminisce about that day and the answers God provided to me.

Thank you, Heather, for the opportunity to contribute to M.E.N.D. I wish I would have had the support of M.E.N.D. when I experienced my loss. As I continue my practice as a nurse, I now provide care for patients experiencing the loss of a child, information related to M.E.N.D., and stress the importance of seeking conversation with others that have experienced the loss of a child.

May God bless each of you now and forever. I pray that you have someone impact your life like Heather and Jonathan have impacted mine.

♥ *Kelly Crayton,
Mommy to Baby Crayton
Nurse and friend to Heather Fann
(M.E.N.D. Chapter Director—SW Missouri)*



Kelly Crayton and Teresa Ellis holding Madison in 2008, Jonathan and Heather's subsequent child.

Blessed by the Nurses

Right by our side during the entire 34 days in the hospital were two amazing women: Kelly Crayton and Teresa Ellis, my angels disguised as nurses. They helped us stay strong and cared for us beyond words. I will never forget the compassion they showed us.

So many people worked so hard to help Caleb, and I knew they needed to be thanked as well. The morning I left the hospital, I was up at 5 a.m. writing to the staff on Jonsson 7, Labor and Delivery and the NICU. Theirs is a thankless job when they are unable to save a child, and I wanted them to know we appreciated all they had done. Below is the letter I wrote to the staff on Jonsson, where Kelly worked.

December 4, 2003 (NOTE: 3 days after Caleb died)

To the Nurses and Staff of 7 Jonsson:

I don't know where else to begin except with thank you. For the last 34 days so many of you have come into 707 with smiles and encouragement. Some of you I've only spent one shift with, and I may not remember your names, but I will always remember your faces and kindness.

With your help, I came here at 27 weeks pre-ruptured and was able to carry my baby to 31 weeks and 6 days. I wish I could thank you all personally, but the sheer amount of time I spent with Teresa and Kelly during the days, and Michelle, Sidney, Carol and others on nights, meant so much to me and my husband.

Caleb Scott Fann was born Monday, December 1, 2003, but went home to be with the Lord that same day. Although we are grieving our loss, so many of you have shown us your grief as well. We know God has a plan for this and we know He placed each of you in our life to help ease the pain. Please continue to do the jobs only special people are called to do...it is so important.

*May God bless each of you,
Jon and Heather Fann*



Subsequent Births

Kristen and Kyle Rabe
of College Station, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Karson Kyle,
born December 13, 2013,
measuring 8 lb., 1 oz.,
and 21 inches long.
The Rabes lovingly remember
Kyleigh Elaine,
October 1, 2012—January 26, 2013,
SIDS

Nathaniel and Jennene Niell
of Bremerton, Washington,
joyfully announce the arrival of
William Silas,
born December 7, 2013,
measuring 8 lb., 12.2 oz.,
and 20.5 inches long.
The Niells lovingly remember
Chuckles Niell,
miscarried January 7, 2012

Kendall and Matt Lamb
of Owasso, Oklahoma,
along with big brother Jackson,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Bennett William,
born December 16, 2013,
measuring 6 lb., 4 oz.,
and 19.25 inches long.
The Lamb family lovingly remembers
Hudson Luke,
September 26-27, 2011,
Trisomy 21, DORV and IUGR

Will and Toni Parrigin
of Campbellsville, Kentucky,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Macy Monroe,
born February 14, 2013,
measuring 6 lb., 10 oz.,
and 19 inches long.
The Parrigin family lovingly
remembers
Baby Alx Jane,
miscarried February 8, 2012,
and Lyla Rose,
miscarried May 15, 2012

Jeremy and Kathleen Moore,
of Ozark, Missouri,
along with big brother, Isaac,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Judah Ephraim,
born October 11, 2013,
measuring 8 lb., 10 oz.,
and 21 inches long.
The Moores lovingly remember
Lily Joy,
born to heaven at 11 weeks,
March 2, 2011

Jerry and Kristen Vrba,
of Fort Worth, Texas,
along with siblings
Noah, Grace and Elijah
joyfully announce the arrival of
Meagan Hope,
born December 31, 2013,
measuring 6 lb., 1 oz.,
and 20 inches long.
The Vrba family lovingly remembers
Isaac,
born into heaven August 26, 2012

Loving My Job

I love my job. Sometimes I think I have the best job in the world. I get to be a part of the most magical and memorable moment in couples' lives, that sometimes not even their own family members get to take part in. On the other hand, I have days at work that are the most heartbreaking and devastating that anyone can endure. Even on those days, I get to make a difference and help them through the traumatic event of losing a child. I have been a labor and delivery nurse for 12 years now. I have witnessed patients lose babies for various reasons—cord accidents, genetic complications and infections.

When I was a year into my nursing career, I had a patient I had labored with all day—a perfectly healthy mom and a perfectly healthy baby. When it came time to deliver, her baby crashed so quickly there was no help around. Once the physician arrived and delivered her baby, the NICU team performed CPR for 30 minutes prior to calling Time of Death. I still to this day remember hearing family members screaming. As soon as I got a minute to leave the room I ran to a supply area and called my parents. My dad answered the phone, and I just started crying. After a couple of minutes of my dad saying, "It's ok, it's ok. Don't cry," he then said, "Who is this?" I have three sisters and realized he had no idea which daughter he was talking to. I choked back my tears, went back to my patient's room and stayed with them for hours, long after my shift ended. We bathed their son and took pictures of him. I still, even now, remember his name, birth date, birth time and death time. I attended the funeral the following Friday and even now stop by the grave site to talk to him. It took a week before I was able to return to work. I did a lot of soul searching, trying to decide if this was the right career choice. Several weeks later my patient called me at work crying. She said she was having trouble sleeping because she kept having nightmares of her baby choking to death inside of her due to his nuchal cord. It was at this moment I realized the difference between being in the medical field and being a patient. I took the next 30 minutes to explain to her that babies don't breathe inside the womb. They get all their oxygen from their umbilical cord. In cord accidents, babies simply get tired from the lack of blood flow and oxygen being pumped through the cord and fall asleep and pass away. She called me a couple of days later and thanked me for what I had told her. Her nightmares had gone away. She was still having trouble sleeping, but she was not struggling with the thought of her baby suffering. I decided I would stay a labor and delivery nurse.

Last April I was 23.3 weeks pregnant with my twins. It was my first pregnancy after our first IVF attempt. On April 12, I went on to bed, thinking I would be going to labor and delivery later for my sister, who was 38 weeks pregnant and feeling some contractions, not for me. Around 3:00 a.m., I woke, not feeling well. At 6:00 a.m., when my husband was leaving for work, I told him to take me to the hospital so my nurse friends could check me out and then send me home. He could go to work at noon. When we arrived my pain was worse, and I was contracting every 2-3 minutes. One of my co-workers came to checked my cervix. I heard her gasp, and she looked away. My heart dropped. I was 6 centimeters. I was in active labor. My guilt kicked in right away. I am the charge nurse for a birthing center; how did I not know I was in labor? I should have gone in earlier. Why did I sit at home so long? My friends and co-workers, through their tears, got me transferred to the medical center within two hours. Upon my arrival at TCH, I was 10 centimeters. I refused to have my babies. I told them to do whatever they needed to do to me, but those babies were staying put. I had tried too hard to get them in there; they were not coming out. Fourteen hours later my water broke. The labor and delivery nurse in me knew they had to be delivered. On April 13, 2013, my husband and I had a beautiful baby girl, McKinley, who weighed 1 pound 6 ounces, and my gorgeous son, Gabriel, who weighed 1 pound, 8 ounces. Both babies came out screaming and crying. We did not know at the time I had a severe infection of chorioamnionitis, and we lost both babies within 24 hours. Being a labor and delivery nurse had allowed my husband and me to have talks about the care we would want for our babies, and we stuck by our original wishes. Our babies were not to suffer. We feel comfort in all of the decisions we made surrounding the care and the passing of our children.

The loss was devastating. No one had told me how horrible it was to have your milk come in for babies who were not there. No one told me how horrible it would be when my hair started to fall out. No one told me about it feeling like your babies are moving inside you as your intestines fall back into place and your uterus shrinks back down. I felt my body hated me and wanted my babies back. I had seen horrible things happen to good people in my career, but out of all my worries as a pregnant patient, chorioamnionitis had not been one. Within weeks I started telling people to stop asking how I am doing, or I would start telling them the truth instead of just saying "I'm fine." There is no more "fine" or "normal" after you lose your children.

Over the years I have come to know that when God is ready for His babies, He will take them. There is nothing that I can do to change that. There was nothing I did to cause me to lose my babies. My patients are not at fault for losing their babies. God was ready for them. I have seen miracles happen in my line of work. Babies who should not have survived come out pink and crying. Babies with two knots in their cord, babies with four nuchal cords, who come out screaming. It's an amazing moment, in the joy and the heartache, to see God's work. I will never understand why God needed my children. I miss them every day. I wish they were here with me. It will be the first thing I ask when I get to see them again.

Now eight months later and being back at work since May, I have spent a lot of time sitting at the bedside of patients

who have lost babies and telling them what it looks like on the other side of grief. The pain is still there; each day is just a little different than the day before.

One of my biggest joys as a labor and delivery nurse is to hand over screaming, beautiful babies to my patients with previous losses. I have had that pleasure numerous times, patients whose babies I delivered that passed and then delivered their healthy children that followed. We have shared tears and laughter. It's moments like these that keep me going back to work and loving my job.

♥ *Laura Hall,*
Mommy to McKinley and Gabriel

"Birthday Tributes" continued from page 9.

Happy 7th Birthday, Jordan!

It's your 7th birthday, Jordan, my love! Happy birthday, my precious love! We miss you desperately so! As you are celebrating your birthday in heaven, please remember to take a moment to glance down at Mommy and Jazz, your puppy-doggie. We love you, we miss you, and we are lovingly celebrating you here on earth. Although it's quite a challenge, I have to continue to trust God's Plan, endure this temporary separation and continue celebrating all the love that you are!

We love you, Baby Boy!
Mommy and Jazz (Your Puppy-Doggie)

Jordan Alexander Booker
January 11, 2007
True knot in cord
Mommy: Norma Jordan



Happy 5th Birthday, Carson!

Happy 5th birthday, sweet boy. We love and miss you.
Love,
Dad, Mom and Big Sister

Carson Lewis Humphries
March 23, 2009
Trisomy 9
Parents: JJ and Amy Humphries
Big Sister: Sarah Jessica



Happy 4th Birthday, Brooke!

Wow, it is hard to believe that it has been four years since we held you in our arms. While we miss you so much every day, we thank God for blessing our lives with you. We imagine how you would be playing with your sisters. What fun you all would be having. It warms our hearts when your older sister, Sarah, talks about you. Oh, how we long for that day when we will see you again in heaven. We love you so much!

Love,
Mamma, Daddy, Sarah and Savannah

Brooke Sophia Daily
March 11, 2010
Vasa Previa
Parents: Jeremy and Lisa Daily
Sisters: Sarah and Savannah



Happy 2nd Birthday, Carter!

To our Carter bear, happy 2nd birthday. Not a day goes by we don't think of you. You're forever in our hearts, and we miss you more than words can express. Until we see you again ... We love you! Happy birthday, Carter!

Carter Ryan Dobbs
April 25, 2012
Cord accident
Parents: Elliott and Ashley Dobbs
Big Brother: Mason



Happy 1st Birthday, McKinley and Gabriel!

Our dear sweet babies, we miss you so much. You are always in our hearts. We hope you are watching over us. We can't wait to see you again. Happy 1st birthday. Mommy, Daddy and Shay love you bunches and bunches.

McKinley and Gabriel Hall
April 13, 2013
Preterm delivery due to chorioamnionitis infection
Parents: Clint and Laura Hall
Sibling: Shay



Happy 14th Birthday, Joshua and Caleb!

Remembering our sons, Joshua and Caleb, who came and went 14 years ago, April 14, 2000.
We love you and miss you!
Mom, Dad, Landon and Kylie

Joshua and Caleb Davis
April 14, 2000
Incompetent cervix
Parents: Shawn and Monica Davis
Siblings: Landon and Kylie



Happy 4th Birthday, Trip!

Trip, our son, was born to a better place on April 13, 2010. You are remembered and loved by Mom, Dad, Henry and Charlotte.

Trip Anderson Whitmire
April 13, 2010
Also remembering
Baby Whitmire
Miscarried March 2009
Parents: Adam and Lisa Whitmire
Siblings: Henry and Charlotte (Trip's triplet siblings)



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, go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com and set up an account if you do not already have one. Once you receive the email after setting up your account, click on “My Account,” then go to “Edit Kroger Community Rewards” and input your Kroger Plus card number. You’ll see a screen with your information in boxes, at the bottom right, there is a box that says Community Rewards. Click that, then enter the M.E.N.D. number, which is 80513. Once that’s entered, you’ll confirm that M.E.N.D. is your charity of choice. This link will be good until the 2013-2014 program expires. You must link your card each year 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.
- **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.



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