



M. E. N. D.

Mommies Enduring Neonatal Death

Raising a Child with a Disability After A Loss

In place of Rebekah Mitchell's article, the cover story for this issue was written by DaLana Barsanti, M.E.N.D. Vice President.

In 1996, Randy and I were enjoying wonderful days together. October 8 was our second wedding anniversary, and in November we found out we were expecting twins. We were elated. We told our family and friends the exciting news. But, the celebration was short-lived. Just a few days later we were told our babies would not survive outside my womb. We were given the news that both of our sons would be born with anencephaly. What was once a time of celebration and planning for a big future turned into sadness, grief and planning a funeral.

On November 21, 1996, Joshua and Jeromy were stillborn. After 36 hours of labor, I never heard them cry or felt them breathe. There were so many foggy days. I especially had a hard time getting back into what used to be my life. I still should have been blissfully pregnant.

My main focus was to become pregnant again. I was frantic I would never conceive again. We did become pregnant again and went through multiple tests for this pregnancy. On December 17, 1997, Taylor Wesley was born. He was perfect. I had spent so many days and nights hoping and praying for him. When he arrived, Randy and I just knew everything from that day forward would be "smooth sailing."

Though I was so glad to have Taylor here, I could not cease the ache in my heart. I was still supposed to have more little ones in the house. Just a month prior to Taylor's first birthday, we found out we were expecting another baby. We waited until Christmas to tell our news. We were scared another genetic anomaly could occur. Now, just like with Taylor's pregnancy, I was faced with the battery of tests and extra doses of folic acid.

At 17 weeks into the pregnancy, I went for my triple screen test to determine any risk factors for

genetic anomalies. A few days passed, causing me to feel anxious.

I remember the phone call to my office like it was yesterday. The nurse on the other end of the phone said in a spunky voice, "Mrs. Barsanti, the baby's test came back POSITIVE 1 in 12 for Down Syndrome. We need to schedule an amnio as soon as possible."

I hung up the phone and screamed at the top of my lungs. I called Randy, told him the news and drove home. As I drove, I yelled at God, saying, "We have already had so much grief. You can't do this to us again!"

The next week we went in for the amnio. We saw our little boy so clearly in the 3D ultrasound. He looked perfect. I had convinced myself this was all a mistake and God "owed" us a perfect and healthy baby.

It was the 19th week of my pregnancy when the phone rang one evening. Randy came to me with a somber face, and I knew what the call was about and what I was about to hear. The genetic counselor confirmed the amnio came back positive. Our son would be born with Down Syndrome. We broke down and spent the evening sobbing, begging God and calling upon family and friends for prayer.

The second half of the pregnancy crept by. I was not well and suffered severe depression. Fear gripped me. I was so afraid of the unknown. What if I could not help this baby? What if I did not love him? My fear turned into anger. I was so angry with God. I could not comprehend how He could put us through so much hurt and grief.

On July 24, 1999, in the early morning hours, Collin Timothy was born. I don't think Randy was scared like I was. I was terrified. But that moment I saw his little face and held him, I knew, no matter what, it was going to be okay. I did not know how; I just knew we were going to make it. I put on my brave face and left that hospital thinking I could conquer this.

Continued on page 2

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

Para ver el artículo de este mes en español, por favor vea la pagina numero 12

Volume 22, Issue 1 • January/February 2016

© Copyright 2016 M.E.N.D.

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

M.E.N.D.

P.O. Box 631566

Irving, TX 75063

Phone and Fax: (972) 506-9000

(Please call before faxing)

E-Mail: rebekah@mend.org

jennifer@mend.org

www.mend.org

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).

M.E.N.D. Board of Directors

Rebekah Mitchell

Byron Mitchell, D.D.S.

DaLana Barsanti

Brittney Fish

Shannon Outen

Brandee Dill

Marilyn Brown

Amber Zuckerman

Cheryl Davis

State Coordinators/Chapter Directors

M.E.N.D.—Dallas: Rebekah Mitchell

M.E.N.D.—Houston: Stormy Mitchell

M.E.N.D.—Texarkana: Monica Davis

M.E.N.D.—Tulsa: Lisa Daily

M.E.N.D.—SW Missouri: Kathryn Gold

M.E.N.D.—Bryan/College Station:

Jennie Drude

M.E.N.D.—NW Washington: Stacy McGhee

M.E.N.D.—Wichita Falls: Sarah Fukasawa

M.E.N.D.—Chicagoland: Sara Hintz

Advisory Board

Paula Schear, Liz Walker,

Calli Stanley, Norma Jordan,

Tina Rusert, Courtney Frette

General Counsel

Dennis G. Brewer, Sr., Attorney at Law

Newsletter

Editor: Jennifer Harrison

Co-Editors: Byron and Rebekah Mitchell

Newsletter Volunteers:

Heather Fann, Sharlene Libby,

Brittney Fish and Sara Elliott

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

First Candle/SIDS Alliance

International Stillbirth Alliance

"Raising a Child..." continued from page 1.

There were tests, specialists and therapists galore. We were given statistics and probabilities. It was so overwhelming in those first few months. I chose to pretend things were normal. This was how I coped. I tried to just enjoy him being a baby, but as time went by, I could no longer hide from the truth. From his movement to his lack of sounds to his eating ... he was different. I often felt discouraged and depressed. I was the young mother of a toddler and a baby with disabilities, all the while still grieving the loss of our twins. At times it proved to be too much to handle on my own. I felt so alone.

A few years had passed and Collin would reach a few goals set by his therapist, but for the most part he was so very far behind. I was now expecting our fifth child, and life was really about to get challenging. Finally, Collin started walking, and I felt a huge weight lifted. I had set these goals for myself and for Collin. I kept telling myself I did not know what I would do if he was 4 and could not walk or still in diapers. My worst fear was he would not walk, speak or toilet train.

With our sixth son set to arrive December 2004, I just knew God was going to finally show favor on us and Collin would toilet train, or at least he would utter some words to us. But neither of those things happened. I felt defeated. Another year had come and gone, and my expectations were not met. This pattern continued for several years.

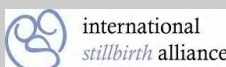
Finally, one day it hit me like bolt of lightning. I had spent so much time focusing on what Collin could not do, I missed all he could do. I spent so many hours crying and begging God for favor, that I totally missed that He was renewing me daily with His grace, peace and mercy.

Here at the beginning of 2016, and Collin is 16 years old. He is a delight to all who meet him. He loves music. His greatest times are being in choir rehearsal with me. You will find him every Sunday morning at the same pew during worship time. He sings as best he can and worships in his own special way. He plays the drums in the Falcon Band. He loves his bandmates and they love him. He was featured on CBS 11 for his participation in band. He loves his brothers and has a special bond with each of them, right down to their own handshakes and rituals. He loves going to school and is quite popular with the ladies, wearing his varsity letter jacket from Special Olympics. He loves movies and going to Six Flags.

Crazy enough, Collin is still not fully toilet trained and has very few words in his vocabulary. Collin has been diagnosed with autism, celiac disease and chronic neutropenia in recent years. And believe me—those were not easy words for us to hear. I won't pretend there are not tough days. Raising any teenage son is not easy. Add non-verbal, hormonal and not toilet trained and the other diagnoses list to the mix, and things are made that much more challenging. There are still days when I don't know if I can make it. Yet, just like all those years ago, God has never left my side.

I have said it so many times. I would rather have 100 bad days with Collin than one day without him. He completes our family. I am so proud to be his mom. I can only hope that he understands how much he is loved!

♥ DaLana Barsanti,
Mommy to Joshua and Jeromy Barsanti
M.E.N.D. Vice President



Online Video Chat Small Group Support Meeting

In May we launched our monthly ONLINE video chat support group. This group meets the third Thursday of each month at 9:00 PM CST with moms and dads from across the country through a free program - OOVVOO (the program is compatible with all desktop/laptops/tablets and smartphones). The group maximum participation is capped at 10 and is first come, first served. This group is run very similar to the physical chapter meetings that each chapter holds, but is done so in a virtual setting. The group lends itself to mommies and daddies who are unable to attend a physical chapter meeting due to distance/work/timing etc. If you are interested and would like to join the next online meeting, we post sign-ups at the beginning of each month on each chapter's Facebook page. If you are not on Facebook or have questions about the group, please email Kimberly Waeger at Thewaegers@yahoo.com.

North Texas Giving Day Success!

Thank you for your support during North Texas Giving Day 2015! Your generous donations will have a lasting impact on many grieving families and our ministry to help them during this difficult time.

With your help, we exceeded our goal and raised more than **\$12,300!** Every dollar we receive goes directly toward the many ways we support families losing a baby to stillbirth, miscarriage or infant loss and helping them always remember their child.

Thank you for being a blessing to us through your generous donations!

This season
I am thankful for
Hands that hold mine,
Hearts that hurt with me,
Ears that always listen,
Arms always ready to hug,
Friends who always support,
Family who always remember

Stay Connected!

In an effort to reach more families and spread awareness for M.E.N.D., we have expanded our social media presence by joining Twitter and adding a M.E.N.D. Facebook page.



Follow M.E.N.D. on Twitter @MENDinfantloss



Like the M.E.N.D. Facebook page



Find local chapter Facebook pages at www.mend.org

March/April Topic

Loss after Loss: When Does Grief Stop

Deadline: January 31, 2016

May/June Topic

Mother's Day/Father's Day

Deadline: March 31, 2016

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.

Reprint Policy: Articles printed in the M.E.N.D. newsletter are copyrighted by M.E.N.D. and/or by the individual authors of certain articles. Articles may not be reprinted without permission from the editor, Jennifer Harrison, or president, Rebekah Mitchell. The newsletter may be reproduced for the purpose of providing it to pregnancy loss support group members or other bereaved families so that they may also have access to the information. The material may not be reproduced in any way, shape or form for profit. Some authors of articles included in the newsletter may carry their own copyright and their articles may only be reprinted with permission from the author.

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

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

Heavenly Birthday	Deadline
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 2nd Birthday, Malachi!

We love and miss you so much, baby boy. We cannot believe it's already been two years! You filled our hearts with such joy. We celebrated your little brother in October. We know you would have been such a great big brother. Even though we're not with you right now, you are always with us; we hold you in our hearts. You truly are our little angel. I can't wait to see you again and hold you.

Love,
Dad and Mom

Malachi Samuels
Miscarried November 28, 2013
Unknown cause
Also remembering
Josiah Samuels
Miscarried October 23, 2014
Unknown cause
Parents: Jonathan and Dara Samuels



Happy 1st Birthday, MJ!

I miss you, baby girl. I wish I could hold you and give you kisses. Our time together was way too short.

Always thinking of you, sweet girl.
Love you, Marley.

Marley Jane Liggett
Hole in large intestine
December 23-29, 2014
Parents: Tim and Megan Liggett
Sisters: Amaranda and Fiona



Happy 2nd Birthday, Baby John!

We love you and miss you.

Love,
Mommy, Daddy and Ellanor

John Charles McClain
Stillborn January 2, 2014
Parents: James and Sara McClain
Sister: Ellanor



Happy 1st Birthday, Jake!

Jacob was born at 25 weeks and had very little chance of survival, but he could still recognize his mom as she held him during his last hours here. Although his life was short, he was loved dearly and will always be remembered. Jacob Edward Turley will impact many lives with his story, and we will see him in heaven.

Jacob Turley
Bleeding in the brain and stroke
January 27-29, 2015
Mommy: Sara Turley



Happy 1st Birthday, Benaiah!

We love you, Baby Benaiah. Although you did not get to spend any time with us here on earth, we know we will spend plenty of time together in heaven. You will never be forgotten because our love for you will never die.

Benaiah Lee Ransom
January 25, 2015
Trisomy 18
Mommy: Diamond Ransom
Siblings: Edward, Malcolm and Terance



Happy 1st Birthday, Baby Brayden!

We miss you more than anything in the world, son. Not a day goes by we don't think of you. You were so precious and handsome, and it hurt our hearts to say goodbye. You are always in our hearts and will never be forgotten. GG loves you too.

Keep dancing in heaven and watching over Mommy and Daddy. We will meet again someday!

Love you, son. Forever and always.

Brayden Gabriel Cates
Stillborn January 25, 2015
Parents: Eric Cates and Tammie Reynolds



Happy 1st Birthday, Jacob!

We saw your strong heartbeat, but I knew deep down you would never be in my arms. I carry you in my heart forever, my precious baby. "I'll love you forever, I'll like you for always... as long as I'm living my baby you will be."

Jacob Finley
Miscarried November 24, 2014
Also remembering
Dawn Christene Martin
Miscarried November 2, 2011
Baby Martin
March 26, 2015
Chemical pregnancy
Mommy: Rachel Martin



Happy 1st Birthday, Landon!

Sending birthday wishes all the way to heaven. Happy 1st birthday, my baby. I love and miss you so much. You will forever be my Superman. Wish you were here with us, baby. We love and miss you so much

Landon Liam Kendell
November 16, 2014—February 14, 2015
SIDS
Parents: Shaun Stinson and Misty Kendell
Brother: Timothy



Happy 1st Birthday, Chase!

"We can't know why the lily has so brief a time to bloom in the warmth of sunlight's kiss upon its face before it folds into its fragrance and bids the world good night to rest its beauty in a gentler place. But we can know that nothing that is loved is ever lost and no one who has touched a heart can really pass away because some beauty lingers on in each memory of which they've been a part."

- Ellen Brenneman

Chase Michael John Korvela
Miscarried February 15, 2015
Parents: Kody Korvela and Leann Skrupskis

**Happy 2nd Birthday, Peanut!**

As the first year of losing you both is here, I will be okay, I promise! I cry at saying that, but your brothers need me. I know you understand. I miss our family being a family of 5... 6. Instead, I know I am still blessed with a family of 4. Mommy loves you both. Your brothers love you and wish you both happy birthday, Merry Christmas, Happy Easter, etc. :)

Baby A Booth
February 14, 2014
Also remembering
Baby B Booth
August 1, 2015
Parents: James and Dominique Booth
Brothers: Jacob and Jonathan

**Happy 1st Birthday, Logan!**

Each year you may grow older, but you are forever our baby boy, and our sweet angel! Mommy and Daddy love you with all our hearts!

Logan Brock Looney
Stillborn February 11, 2015
Cord accident
Parents: William Looney and Latisha Long

**Happy 4th Birthday, Joseph Parker!**

Happy 4th birthday, Joseph. We wish you were here to celebrate! We are having a hard time believing four years have gone by. We miss you every day. There will always be a Joseph-sized hole in our family. We are celebrating you and your precious life by speaking life to those around us. You continue to inspire us to live better. We love and miss you like crazy. As always we are holding on to our anchor of hope, and we are moving forward toward the day we see you face-to-face.

Love,

Mom and Dad and your wild and crazy family

Joseph Parker Nelson
January 30, 2012
Gastroschisis
Parents: Michael and Danielle Nelson
Siblings: Bert, Basilia, Sarah, Chase, Riley, Hunter,
Abigail, Chloe, Phoebe, Rachel and Mary-Esther

**Happy 4th Birthday, Mommy's Princess!**

I can't believe it's going on four years since you have been gone. I love you so much, Avery Eve, and I miss you a lot. Knowing you're not here with me just breaks my heart. Even though I had time to cope, the feeling never goes away. I'm not mad or angry at God, because I know He does everything for a reason. I may not know why, but I know He has a plan for me and everyone else. I love you, baby girl. You will always be mommy's princess.

Avery Eve Saldana
December 24-29, 2011
Mommy: Melisa Saldana

**Happy 4th Birthday, Grace!**

Grace, thinking of you is easy; I do it every day. Missing you is the heartache that never goes away... Sending you hugs and kisses!

Love,
 Mommy

Grace Saniya Tisby
February 27, 2012
Premature birth
Mommy: Shauniesa Sisk

**Happy 2nd Birthday, Kory!**

Happy 2nd birthday, baby boy! Mom and Daddy love you to the moon and back. I will remember you till the end of time.

Love,
 Mommy

Kory Toquinto
Miscarried December 4, 2013
Parents: Geoff Hellstrand and Katelyn Toquinto

**Happy 4th Birthday, Olivia!**

Sweet baby Olivia, the years are flying by, and although we are finding "our new normal," life just isn't the same without you. I see little girls your age, and my heart breaks that you are not here. We are holding on strong for the day we can hold you in our arms. We miss you and baby Mason. Have a beautiful birthday in heaven with the family and friends who have arrived before us. We love you so much, precious.

Always,
 Mom, Dad and Jake

Olivia Ormiston
January 14, 2012
Placenta hemorrhage
Also remembering
Mason Ormiston
November 23, 2012
Incompetent cervix
Parents: Chris and Angie Ormiston
Brother: Jakob



Happy 1st Birthday, Everly!

Hi, sweet baby! It's been one year since we lost you. We were so excited to find out we were having twins. I will always treasure the sonogram picture of you and Evelyn side by side, with both your hearts beating. We were so sad when we found out we lost you. I still think of what could have been. Having two sweet babies to take care of would have been a challenge, but we could handle it. You will always be a part of our family and a part of Evelyn. We wish you were here.

*Everly Hope Wheeler
Miscarried January 2015*

**Happy 6th Birthday, Michael!**

Hi, sweet boy! We can't believe that it's been six years. We miss you so much. You should have started kindergarten this year. We should be helping you with your homework every night and telling you not to tease your sisters. Daddy should be coaching your T-ball team while Mommy watches you sit by cousin Henry in the dugout while waiting your turn to bat. We love you and wish you were here.

*Michael Noah Wheeler
Stillborn January 27, 2010*

*Unknown cause
Also remembering
Baby Wheeler*

*Miscarried March 2009
Abigail Mercy Wheeler
Miscarried June 3, 2014
Cystic hygroma*

*Parents: Jim and Larissa Wheeler
Siblings: Julianne and Evelyn (Everly's twin)*

**Happy 1st Birthday, Aubrey!**

We love and miss you so very much. Not a day goes by we don't think of you. Your memory will forever be in our hearts. Even though you and your big sister never got to meet, I show her pictures of you and talk about you with her. She loves seeing the pictures I took of you.

Love,
Mom, Dad and big sister Sophia

*Aubrey Ann Lammert
January 26—February 17, 2015
Midas Syndrome
Parents: Billy and Christy Lammert
Big sister: Sophia*

**Happy 6th Birthday, Jacob!**

Happy 6th birthday in heaven. It's hard to believe six years has passed since we saw your beautiful face. We love you and miss you more than ever.

*Jacob Fukasawa
February 8, 2010
Unknown cause
Parents: Yoshi and Sarah Fukasawa
Siblings: Ava, Noah and Grace*

**Happy 5th Birthday, Delila!**

Happy heavenly 5th birthday, sweet girl! It's hard to believe it's been five years since I held you. We think of you so often. I love you, my precious little angel! Kisses and hugs from all of us to you, sweet baby.

Love,
Mommy, Daddy, Jonas, Josie and Piper

*Delila Katherine Holt
February 14, 2011
Cord complications/omphalocele
Parents: Michael and Amanda Holt
Siblings: Jonas, Josie and Priscilla*

**Happy 1st Birthday, Alessandro!**

Happy birthday to my baby boy! We love and miss you so much! I hope you're in heaven dancing the night away on your 1st birthday! Mommy loves you!

*Alessandro David Cano
Stillborn February 9, 2015
Placenta abruption
Parents: Randy Cano and Monica Lizama
Siblings: Andres and Kaitlyn*

**Happy 6th Birthday, Hudson!**

Oh how the world has changed in the last six years. We miss you. We look forward to the day we get to hold you again. Happy birthday! We love you!

Love,
Daddy, Mommy, Presley and Grayson

*Hudson Parker Jones
January 9, 2010
Lower bladder obstruction
Parents: Travis and Jennifer Jones
Siblings: Presley and Grayson*

**Happy 1st Birthday, Ryleigh!**

Happy birthday to the most beautiful girl in the world. You will always be my heartbeat and my number one. Words can't express how much those 18 days meant to me, and I wish you were still here. I miss you dearly! I love you my little angel!

Love,
Mommy

*Ryleigh Amoy Wiggins
February 25—March 15, 2015
Type II Lissencephaly
Mommy: Sanita Wiggins*

**Happy 4th Birthday, Aidan!**

Mommy and Daddy miss you so much. We tell your baby sister you watch over her every day. We love you.

*Aidan Anderson
Stillborn January 2, 2012
Parents: Zachary and Ashlie Anderson
Little sister: Journey*



Happy 1st Birthday, Cora Anne!

Happy 1st birthday to our beautiful sunshine. Not a day goes by Mommy and Daddy don't miss you. You are always in our thoughts and prayers. You are loved by many and remembered by them every day. Continue to watch over us until we meet again in heaven. We love you.

Love always,
Mommy and Daddy

Cora Anne Watts
Stillborn February 10, 2015
Cord accident
Parents: Alan and Kenzie Watts

**Happy 2nd Birthday, Ariel!**

Happy 2nd birthday, my sunshine! Mommy, Daddy and your brother miss you so much! I know you're shining down on us from heaven watching over us! We love you so much and hope you have a wonderful birthday. May you continue to keep us strong as we miss you more and more each day. We love you!

Love always,
Mommy, Daddy and Baby Jr.

Ariel Annette Suniga
February 28, 2013—February 14, 2014
Influenza
Also remembering
Athena Rose Suniga
Miscarried August 25, 2012
Parents: Jaime Guerrero and Selena Suniga
Siblings: Jaime Daniel Jr.

**Happy 1st Birthday, Abram!**

Our precious angel baby boy is 1! How we wish you could be here with us to celebrate this day. There isn't a day goes by you are not thought of or spoken about. Although we held you but for a moment, you are forever in our hearts. We miss you so much, but we hold on to the promise God has given us, and we know one day we will be able to hold you once again and never have to let go. We love you to the moon and back, always and forever! Happy birthday, baby!

Abram Ponce
Stillborn January 19, 2015
Parents: Dora and Ramiro Ponce Jr
Siblings: Giovanni, Romeo and Ramiro III

**Happy 1st Birthday, Maris!**

Happy birthday to our sweet little girl! We all miss you and think about you daily. We hope you had fun with the balloons from big sister's birthday.

Always in our hearts,
Mom, Dad, Braelyn and Henry

Maris Adeline York
January 17, 2015
Unknown cause
Parents: Michael and Kailey York
Siblings: Braelyn Elise and Henry Matthew

**Happy 1st Birthday, Liza Belle!**

I can't believe you left us a year ago. I only carried you for a short while, but you brought so much joy to our family. My favorite memory with you was seeing you on the ultrasound, seeing you were healthy and waving to us! We miss you dearly and can't wait to see you in heaven one day! We love you "my Belle."

Mommy, Daddy, Max, Molli and soon to be born Milo

Liza Belle Drude
Stillborn February 23, 2015
Unknown cause

**Happy 2nd Birthday, Stella Darling!**

Oh Darling, you are one missed little girl! Max and Molli were so excited to meet you and teach you all about the Power Rangers. It felt like you were always on the go in my tummy, and you were sure to keep us on our toes. Holding you was a such a blessing, and I will remember your perfectly formed body, tiny little toenails, and sweet face forever. We love and miss you.

Love,
Mommy, Daddy, Max, Molli, and soon-to-be-born Milo

Stella Darling
Stillborn January 23, 2014
Anencephaly
Also remembering
Dharma Lucille
March 31-April 1, 2008
Anencephaly
Parents:
Jennie and Jason Drude
Siblings: Maxwell, Molli, coming in January Milo

**Happy 1st Birthday, Jax!**

Happy 1st heavenly birthday, my precious son! Hard to believe a year has gone by. I wish you were here with me. My arms are so empty. I love you and miss you so much. Jax, you are always on my mind and forever in my heart. Happy 1st birthday in heaven, baby Jax! XOXO

Love,
Mommy

Jax Alowishus Gomez
Stillborn January 28, 2015, at 36 weeks
Cord accident

Also remembering
Baby J. Gomez
Miscarried October 28, 2013, at 9 weeks 6 days
Mommy: Jennifer Mendez

**Happy 1st Birthday, Bailey!**

We love you very much and happy birthday.

Bailey Espinosa
January 21, 2015
Unknown cause
Parents: Richard and Rosemarie Espinosa
Brother: Adam



Continued on page 9...

The Counselor's Corner

“Providing Guidance Through Life’s Storms”
 Written by Susan A. Adams, PhD, LPC-S, NCC
www.drSusanAdams.com

It’s spring of the year – a time for new beginnings, bright sunshine, and the seasonal change that indicates God’s creation has survived the winter months – we hope. However, many of us struggle to find this eagerness of spring. Winter months have brought sad news of death or disappointment or bad medical news.

Recently a friend of mine, who is a master gardener, was instructing me about trimming my dormant bushes and roses. As we sat on my front porch, we found our conversation drifting toward other related topics. I asked her why the trees and plants looked dead during winter months. Her quick response provided new information for me. “It’s so they will grow their roots deep in preparation for the coming seasons (i.e., spring and summer) ahead.”

Some of you have experienced one or more infant deaths and finally delivered a full-term baby, only to discover that there was a *complication* of some sort and the baby will be challenged for his or her life. It is at a time like this you need to have those deep roots to prepare for what is ahead.

“Chronic sorrow” is a term Olshansky, director of the Children’s Developmental Clinic in Cambridge, Massachusetts, coined back in 1962. Through close observation over time, he noted parents of mentally challenged children demonstrated periodic, recurrent grieving that continued throughout life. He believed that ongoing caregiving burdens were powerful enough triggers to bring about chronic sorrow. Over time, this definition has been broadened to include any ongoing type of physical, mental or emotional challenge(s) our children experience. At the root of this type of sorrow, recurring intense feelings of grief, anger and frustration are often found. At its core, chronic sorrow is a normal grief response associated with an ongoing living loss.

It is called the “living loss” because it never goes away. It is the emotion-filled chasm between *what is* versus the view of *what should have been*. It is the sorrow that colors the background of daily living as the family does their best to incorporate the caregiving routine into their usual routine. If a medical crisis or event occurs which magnifies the loss and disparity between reality and the life once dreamed of, it can trigger a return of the profound sadness.

Chronic sorrow is neither clinical depression nor chronic grief. Rather, it is the *normal*, but often *unrecognized* or *misdiagnosed* set of grief responses experienced by families who love their children, but are reminded of the continual loss associated with each developmental stage that is delayed or will never be met. Because this chronic condition is ongoing, so is the sorrow.

Contrary to the experience of clinical depression though, our daily functioning is rarely affected. Often days are filled with routine tasks while our hearts break because we are never far removed from the pain that our child will never be the *perfect* child. We maintain access to a full range of emotions, and our spirals into intense sadness are intermittent in nature, often triggered by birthday celebrations, missed developmental milestones, or recurrences or worsening related to our child’s condition. We may find it painful to be around other family members or friends whose children continue to grow according to expected patterns of development.

What many of us find most helpful is *companioning* with empathic, problem-solving support. Someone who will *be* with us in our sadness and our joy. Someone who will walk the journey with us without trying to fix the unfixable. That is not to say therapy isn’t helpful. A skilled grief and trauma therapist who understands the difference between depression and chronic sorrow can be an excellent companion and a godsend. While it’s not possible to *cure* chronic sorrow, it *is* possible to find healing in the journey. A resolution of symptoms creates positive posttraumatic growth. Part of that growth is the development of wisdom, a refined appreciation for life, the deepening of spirituality and meaning - and that healing can be our goal.

In Judith Viorst’s book, *Necessary Losses*, she says, “While good health and good friends and good income certainly make dealing with the caregiver role easier, it is our attitude toward our losses (death plus the losses along the way) which will ultimately determine the quality of life and living.”

You can find this list of resources from doing a search on www.amazon.com. A couple of them are available at www.centering.org.

Parting is not Goodbye: Coping with Grief in Creative, Healthy Ways by Kelly Osmont & Marilyn McFarlane . This is a story of Kelly’s walk through grief with her son (he was 20 when he died from an accident).

For Better... or Worse: A Handbook for Couple’s Whose Child Has Died by Maribeth Wilder Doerr. This book focuses on marriage after a child dies. It looks at the differences in grief between men and women, building your relationship after your child died and how to help each other heal.

Continued on next page...

We Are Not Immune

My first baby was my best pregnancy. I loved every naive moment. My Jenny was born in 2008, right after Hurricane Ike, during a time when hospitals wouldn't let dads stay with moms for whatever crazy reason. Being alone in the room with her at night, I stayed awake all night holding her, watching her sleep, trying breastfeeding and wondering if she was eating enough. It was such a peaceful time.

Then they took Jenny to be checked out. They came back, but she didn't. The tests showed she had a heart murmur. They needed to do more tests to be sure she was okay. Instead of enjoying beautiful moments with her in my room, I now had to visit her in the NICU.

Our lives completely changed in that moment. I became a mom to a special needs baby. I was forever new. Some people stayed in my life and some left. There was no turning back. I was going to mommy medical school, learning things I never dreamed of knowing about.

It took a few years between that initial moment and several surgeries and physical, occupational and speech therapies to tie all these issues to DeGeorge Syndrome, aka 22nd deletion. At the time we were told the diagnosis, I was pregnant with my second child, Drew. They conducted a special ultrasound and found something wrong with his heart as well. We all were tested after this diagnosis.

After my son was born, they began the tests again, but found the hole in his heart had closed. He was a "normal" healthy baby boy. It was random genetics that caused this in my daughter.

In 2011, on my birthday, I found out I was pregnant again. I was so excited to have three babies. I always wanted three. I had to see specialists every week because of my daughter's diagnosis. At my last appointment, I found he didn't have DeGeorge either. He was moving and kicking. The nurse said she never saw a baby sucking their thumb and kicking so much so early.

Unfortunately, that was the last time I saw my baby alive. I was lucky enough to feel him move so early. On the evening of December 3, 2011, I woke up to find I was bleeding. I told my husband I was going by myself. The same happened with my daughter, and she was fine. I was still naive. But it wasn't fine. He was gone. I found out on December 4 that my third baby was a baby boy. Jordon Dillon was my only natural birth. But my body had to do the most unnatural thing and give birth to a child who would never cry and never take his first breath.

My daughter still has several surgeries to endure for various issues, mainly her heart. Every time I feel full-on panic to turn her over to the doctors' care. I did before, but now I know what we all know: the worst happens. It does, and we have to go on. I have to keep giving her to those doctors to help her live, fearing her death, knowing I can be touched by death. I am not immune to it.



♥ Stephanie Gonzales,
Mommy to Jordon Dillon
M.E.N.D.—Houston

Another Baby? Maybe... Thirty Questions on Pregnancy Loss by Sherokee Ilse and Maribeth Doerr. Provides suggestions and encouragement to bereaved parents contemplating or experience a pregnancy after miscarriage, infant loss or the death of an older child.

Lucy Lettuce: A Story Demonstrating Feelings of Grief & Loss by Patrick Loring and Joy Johnson. This book provides a visual demonstration of grief. Children and adults will enjoy Lucy and inevitably become involved in the puns and food statements that generate themselves comfortably and naturally around the story. Lucy provides real "food for thought."

Necessary Losses: The Loves, Illusions, Dependencies, and Impossible Expectations That All of Us Have to Give Up in Order to Grow by Judith Viorst. Author addresses a variety of losses from grief to mourning to aging to relationships in her examination of love, loss and letting go to grow.

"Birthday Tributes" continued from page 7

Happy 2nd Birthday, Liam!

Happy 2nd birthday in heaven! It's because of your life we are parents, and we thank God for that. Your flowers are beginning to bloom again as a reminder you are always with us. They are just as beautiful as you!

Love eternal,
Daddy and Mommy

Liam Asher Bradley
Miscarried January 3, 2014
Parents: Joseph and Devon Bradley



SW Missouri Christmas Candlelight Ceremony



Novik family remembering Max



Dell family remembering Grace Katherine and Rose.



The Walters family remembering Aiden, Sienna and Lydia

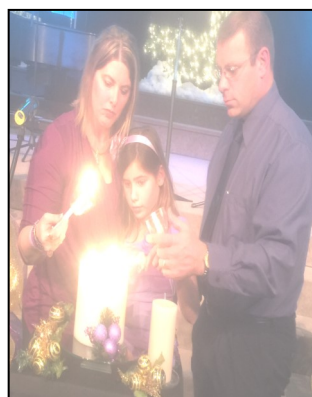
Tulsa Christmas Candlelight Ceremony



Erika and Nick Huff remembering Isaac Huff and Baby Huff I, II, III, IV, and V



Marcie Nienhuis and Kathryn Johnson lighting the M.E.N.D. candle



Jeremy, Lisa, and Sarah Daily remembering Brooke



Katie Goodson, Inspirational Speaker

Sponsors:

Liberty Church, Merritt's Bakery, Jeremy & Lisa Daily, Jeromye & Angi Jackson, Seth & Marcie Nienhuis

*The longest walk
Home
That any parent will ever take
Is the one after
their child has "run"
ahead of them.*

Houston Christmas Candlelight Ceremony



DaLana Barsanti speaking



The Dobbins family lighting a candle in memory of Westin



Ladies performing an interpretive dance in worship



The Wilhite family lighting a candle in memory of Jacob and Isaac

Chicago Holiday Zoo Tree Decorating

M.E.N.D.—Chicago decorated a tree dedicated for M.E.N.D. at the holiday zoo lighting display. It was a special time for M.E.N.D. families to honor their babies with this special tree.



Criar a un niño con una discapacidad después de una pérdida

En lugar del artículo de Rebeca Mitchell, la portada de este número fue escrito por DaLana Barsanti, M.E.N.D. Vicepresidente.

En 1996, Randy y yo estábamos disfrutando días maravillosos juntos. El 8 de octubre fue nuestro segundo aniversario de boda, y en noviembre nos dimos cuenta que estábamos esperando gemelos. Estábamos eufóricos. Les dijimos a nuestras familias y amigos la noticia emocionante. Pero la celebración fue muy corto. Pocos días más tarde nos dijeron que no iban a sobrevivir fuera de mi vientre. Nos dieron la noticia que nuestros dos hijos iban a nacer con anencefalia. Lo que fue un tiempo de celebración y planificación para un gran futuro se convirtió en tristeza, dolor y planificación de un funeral.

El 21 de noviembre de 1996, Joshua y Jeromy fueron nacidos muertos. Después de 36 horas de labor, los oí llorar o los sentía respirar. Hubo muchos días de niebla. Especialmente tuve dificultad en volver a lo que solía ser mi vida. Yo aún todavía debería haber sido felizmente embarazada.

Mi objetivo principal era quedar embarazada otra vez. Estaba frenética no concebir otra vez. Quedamos embarazados otra vez e hicimos varias pruebas para este embarazo. El 17 de diciembre de 1997, nació Wesley Taylor. Él fue perfecto. Había pasado tantos días y noches esperando y rezando por él. Cuando llegó, Randy y yo sabíamos que todo, desde ese día en adelante sería "suave navegación."

Aunque yo era tan feliz que Taylor estaba aquí, no podía parar el dolor en mi corazón. Se suponía que deberían ver más pequeños en la casa. Apenas un mes antes del primer cumpleaños de Taylor, nos dimos cuenta que estábamos esperando a otro bebé. Esperamos hasta Navidad a compartir nuestra noticia. Teníamos miedo de que otra anomalía genética podría ocurrir. Ahora, al igual que con el embarazo de Taylor, me enfrenté con la batería de pruebas y dosis extra de ácido fólico.

En 17 semanas de embarazo, fui para que mi prueba de pantalla triple para determinar algunos factores de riesgo de anomalías genéticas. Días pasaron causándome ansiedad.

Recuerdo la llamada de teléfono a mi oficina como si fuera ayer. La enfermera al otro lado del teléfono dijo en una voz valiente, "Sra. Barsanti, la prueba del bebé regreso positiva 1 en 12 para el síndrome de Down. Necesitamos hacer una amniocentesis, tan pronto como sea posible".

Colgó el teléfono y grite en la parte superior de mis pulmones. Llamé a Randy, le di la noticia y me fui a casa. Mientras manejaba, le grité a Dios diciéndole: "ya hemos tenido tanto dolor. ¡No nos puedes hacer esto otra vez!"

La semana siguiente se hizo la amnio. Vimos a nuestro hijito tan claramente en el ultra sonido 3D. Parecía perfecto. Me había convencido que todo fue un error y que Dios "nos debía" un bebé perfecto y sano.

Fue la semana diez y nueve de mi embarazo cuando el teléfono sonó una noche. Randy se me acercó con el rostro sombro, y sabía lo que era la llamada y lo que estaba a punto de escuchar. El Consejero genético confirmó que el amnio

fue positivo. Nuestro hijo iba a nacer con síndrome de Down. Con ánimo roto pasamos la noche llorando y rogándole a Dios y llamando nuestras familias y amigos pidiéndoles oraciones.

La segunda mitad del embarazo se arrastró. No estaba bien y sufrí una depresión severa. Temor me cundió. Tenía miedo de lo desconocido. ¿Qué si no podía ayudar este bebé? ¿Qué si yo no lo amaba? Mi temor se convirtió rencor. Estaba tan enojada con Dios. No podía comprender cómo él podría ponernos a través de tanto dolor y lamentación.

El 24 de julio de 1999, en la madrugada Collin Timothy nació. No creo que Randy estaba tan asustado como yo. Yo estaba aterrorizada. Pero al momento que vi su pequeña carita mientras lo cargaba, sabía que todo iba estar bien. No lo sabía cómo, pero sólo sabía que íbamos estar bien. Me puse mi rostro valiente y me fui del hospital pensando que podía conquistar esto.

Había pruebas, especialistas y terapeutas de montón. Nos dieron las estadísticas y probabilidades. Fueron tan contundente los primeros meses. Opté por fingir que las cosas eran normales. Fue mi manera de poder superar. Intente disfrutarlo siendo un bebé, pero mientras pasaban el tiempo, ya no podía ocultar la verdad. De su movimiento a su falta de sonidos y manera de comer, ... el era diferente. Me sentía desanimada y deprimida. Era la madre joven de un niño y un bebé con discapacidad mientras seguía llorando por la pérdida de nuestros gemelos. Abecés resultaba ser demasiado para mi mantener por mi cuenta. Me sentí tan sola.

Algunos años habían pasado y Collin llegaría a unos objetivos establecidos por su terapeuta, pero en su mayor parte estaba muy atrasado. A este punto, esperaba nuestro quinto niño y esperaba la vida desafiante. Finalmente, Collin comenzó a caminar, y sentí un enorme peso levantado. Había fijado estos objetivos para mí y para Collin. Seguí diciendo que no sé lo que haría si tenía 4 años y no podía caminar o aún en pañales todavía. Mi peor temor era que no caminará, no hablaría o no saldría de pañales.

Con nuestro hijo número seis llegando en diciembre de 2004, sólo sabía que Dios iba a mostrar finalmente favor sobre nosotros y que Collin saldría de pañales al menos él podría pronunciar algunas palabras. Pero ninguna de las dos cosas fue realizada. Me sentí derrotada. Otro año había ido y venido, y mis expectativas no se cumplieron. Este patrón continuó durante varios años.

Finalmente, un día se me ocurrió como un relámpago. Había pasado tanto tiempo centrada en lo que no podría hacer Collin, y echaba de menos todo lo que podía hacer. Pasé muchas horas llorando y rogándole a Dios por favor, que había perdido totalmente lo que él me estaba renovando diariamente, con su gracia, paz y misericordia.

Estamos ya aquí en el año 2015, y Collin tiene 16 años. Es una delicia para todos los que lo conocen. Le encanta la música. Sus tiempos favoritos son los tiempos conmigo en ensayo de coro. Usted lo encontrará cada domingo por la mañana en la misma banca durante el tiempo de adoración.

M.E.N.D. Ornament Exchange

Christmas/holidays can be extremely difficult after a loss of a child, regardless if it has been one month or 10+ years. As we learn through the child-loss journey, we know we will have some ups and downs regardless of date and time. The holidays are no exception, which is why it is nice to find a way to honor and remember your baby by continuing to allow their legacy to grow. This year M.E.N.D. hosted its first ornament exchange. The exchange was open to all participants (those who had attended a M.E.N.D. support group, and/or joined one of our Facebook groups, or suffered the loss of a baby but may not be associated with M.E.N.D.). We opened the registration in October until mid-November and posted on our Facebook pages, personal pages and other loss sites to offer a chance to connect with others.

Assignments were sent individually and the "secret swap" began. All ornaments were to be sent on or before December 4 to allow for shipping. We are very happy to have included 101 mommies/families representing 130 babies in 3 countries (US, Canada, Ireland).

Beyond having so many people from all over the world participate, we were so happy to be able to remember all of our babies and having someone who walks in our shoes remember them, too. Heartfelt time and effort were put in to either making or purchasing these ornaments by these families for a child they never knew but know is incredibly loved. Receiving an ornament from another mom/family who has done the same for your baby is beyond breathtaking. There is something about receiving a package, opening the present for your baby and holding the ornament that truly embraces how we remember them and brings so much joy. A big thank you to all the mommies and families who participated this year! It is my deepest hope this exchange was able to bring you joy and happiness while celebrating the holidays!

We plan to hold this as an annual event, so please watch our Facebook pages and our newsletter for information on next year's M.E.N.D. ornament exchange.

♥ Kimberly Waeger,

M.E.N.D. Online Support Group Director



Canta lo mejor que pueda y adora a su propia manera especial. Toca la batería en la banda del halcón. Ama a sus compañeros de banda y ellos lo aman a él. Él apareció en CBS 11 por su participación en la banda. Él ama a sus hermanos y tiene un vínculo especial con cada uno de ellos, hasta sus propios rituales y apretones de manos. Le encanta ir a la escuela y es muy popular entre las damas con su chaqueta de letra del Varsity de Olimpiadas especiales. Le encanta el cine e ir a Six Flags.

Locura que Collin no ha dejado los pañales totalmente y tiene muy pocas palabras en su vocabulario. Collin ha sido diagnosticado con autismo, la enfermedad celíaca y Neutropenia crónica en los últimos años. Y créanme no fueron palabras fácil de escuchar para nosotros. Yo no finjo que no hay días difíciles. Crear a cualquier hijo adolescente no es fácil. Añadir no-verbal, hormonal y con pañales y la otra lista de diagnósticos a la mezcla lo hace mucho más difícil. Hay días aun cuando no sé si puedo hacerlo. Sin embargo, al igual que todos los años pasados, Dios nunca ha dejado mi lado.

Lo he dicho muchas veces. Prefiero 100 días malos con Collin en vez de un día sin él. Completa nuestra familia. Estoy tan orgullosa de ser su madre. Sólo espero que él entienda cuánto él es amado!

♥ DaLana Barsanti,

Mamá a Joshua y Jeromy Barsanti
M.E.N.D. Vicepresidente

M.E.N.D.

Chapter Corner**Chapter Meeting****Information****M.E.N.D.—Houston**Meets the 1st Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

4500 Bissonnet, Ste 337B,

Bellaire, Texas 77401

Meets the 3rd Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

Lone Star College,

3200 College Park Dr, Room A228,

The Woodlands, Texas 77384

Director: Stormy Mitchell

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

Subsequent pregnancy group meets

on odd numbered months

on the 3rd Thursday at 7:30 p.m.,

led by Chiara Ott (chiara@mend.org).

Daddy's group meets quarterlyon the 3rd Thursday at 7:30 p.m.,

led by Greg Miller (stephaniem@mend.org)

M.E.N.D.—TexarkanaMeets the 3rd Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

CHRISTUS St. Michael Rehab Hospital

2400 St. Michael Drive

Texarkana, Texas 75503

Director: Monica Davis

monica@mend.org, (903) 490-1210

M.E.N.D.—NW WashingtonMeets the 2nd Monday at 6:30 p.m.

Harrison Medical Center/Iris Room

1800 Myhre Rd.

Silverdale, Washington 98383

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 98332

Director: Stacy McGhee

stacym@mend.org, (360) 662-6161

M.E.N.D.—SW MissouriMeets the 1st Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

Project H.O.P.E.

1419 S. Enterprise

Springfield, Missouri 65804

Director: Kathryn Gold

kathryn@mend.org, (417) 770-0600

M.E.N.D. Chapter Updates**Tulsa**

M.E.N.D.—Tulsa recently held our 4th Annual Christmas Candlelight Ceremony. Thank you to Katie Goodson for her inspirational message, as well as Doug and Marcie Demaree and David Graves for the beautiful music they provided. Additionally, the ceremony was made possible by our generous sponsors and volunteers. Thank you to my assistants, Angi Jackson, Kathryn Johnson and Marcie Nienhuis, for all of their hard work, and Jennifer Harris for organizing all of our desserts and refreshments. It was a beautiful and meaningful time of remembrance for over 70 attendees. Looking ahead to 2016, we pray God continues to bless our chapter as we minister to grieving families.

*Lisa Daily***NW Washington**

Thank you to all the families and friends who attended, supported and volunteered to make our 5th Annual Christmas Candlelight Ceremony a special event.

Our leadership team is excited about traveling to Dallas to attend the annual leadership conference in February, to learn and fellowship with all the M.E.N.D. leaders.

*Stacy McGhee***Wichita Falls**

M.E.N.D.—Wichita Falls continues to meet new families every month. 2015 was an exciting year for us as we had our first Mother's Day event and a special event following our December support group. We hope these become annual traditions for our group as we continue to grow. We pray for all of those who have joined us.

*Sarah Fukasawa***Texarkana**

M.E.N.D.—Texarkana held our 9th Annual Christmas Candlelight Ceremony on Friday, December 18, at Beech Street First Baptist Church, Texarkana, Arkansas. We were blessed to be able to minister to families. It was a beautiful ceremony in which Melissa Thomas shared her story, and Melanie Jenkins delivered a special message through song. I would like to extend a special thank you to all of our sponsors who supported us either through a monetary gift or by giving an item to be raffled. The ceremony would not have been possible without the help of Tania Greer, Toni Sherman, our hostess, Deni Smith, the staff of Beech Street First Baptist Church, and our photographer, Stephanie Desjarlais. I appreciate each of you.

*Monica Davis***SW Missouri**

M.E.N.D.—SW Missouri celebrated the memories of their babies with the 6th Annual Christmas Candlelight Ceremony. We had a meaningful service with 91 in attendance honoring 31 babies in heaven. Jennifer Harrison, our M.E.N.D. newsletter editor, did a beautiful job sharing her story, the struggles and the healing process. We want to thank all who supported us so we could hold such a wonderful ceremony.

*Kathryn Gold***Chicagoland**

M.E.N.D.—Chicagoland continues to minister in the Chicagoland area to hurting families. We were blessed this year to participate in the Brookfield Zoo lights display, where we decorated a M.E.N.D. tree with an ornament to represent each member's baby. What a special time we had and what a great opportunity to share M.E.N.D.'s mission with others who attended the zoo lights display. We are looking forward to reaching out to even more hurting families in the new year.

Sara Hintz

Houston

2015 was a wonderful year for M.E.N.D.—Houston. We had more people attend our Walk to Remember than ever before, we had many families join us for our Christmas Candlelight Ceremony, and we had over 75 different families attend our support groups.

We are looking forward to see how God uses M.E.N.D. throughout the Houston area in 2016. One of the goals for this year is to do more speaking engagements and educating at hospitals and doctor offices. If you have an OB/GYN who may not know about M.E.N.D., please email me their name and address. I will gladly send them our brochures to give to patients who experience loss. In the next month or so, we will be having a rummage sale fundraiser. If you have any items you would like to donate, please email me at stormym@mend.org.

Stormy Mitchell

Bryan/College Station

M.E.N.D.—Bryan College Station ended this year well! We are so thankful for all the donations we received throughout the year. We are looking forward to seeing what God has for us in 2016!

Jennie Drude

M.E.N.D.—Bryan/College Station

Meets the 2nd Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.
Texas Avenue Baptist Church
3400 State Highway 6 S,
College Station, Texas 77845
Director: Jennie Drude
jennie@mend.org, (979) 220-7851

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.—Wichita Falls, Texas

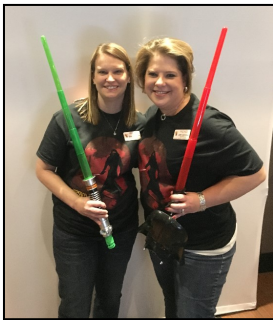
Meets the 2nd Thursday at 7:30 p.m.
Christ Home Place Ministries
1420 Twin Oaks Street
Wichita Falls, Texas 76302
Director: Sarah Fukasawa
sarahf@mend.org, (940) 642-3284

M.E.N.D.—Chicagoland, Illinois

Meets the 1st Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.
St Peter Lutheran Church
202 E Schaumburg Road
Schaumburg, Illinois 60194
Director: Sara Hintz
saraann@mend.org, (630) 267-9134

Star Wars!

More than 100 people attended the M.E.N.D. Star Wars fundraiser, raising approximately \$3,000 for the Garden of Hope monument in the DFW area. Thank you for your support!



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.

In Loving Memory**Caitlyn Behne Alcuri**

May 17, 2011
Given by Michelle Alcuri

Jayden Alvear

November 7, 2014
Cystic kidneys and underdeveloped lungs
Given by parents Jason Bateman
and Johanna Alvear

Malen Huck Anderson

Stillborn February 4, 2008
Possible heart attack
Given by parents Wesley and Becky Anderson
and siblings Lenea and Nathan

Lauren Autry

June 17 - July 2, 2011
Given by parents Brandon and Melissa Autry
and sibling Halley

Ava Elizabeth Barker

Stillborn July 31, 2014
Turner syndrome
Given by parents John and Megan Barker

Apple Hope and Blueberry Faith Barrientos

July 7, 2010
Prematurity
Given by parents David and Priscilla Barrientos
and siblings Violet, Iris and Abraham

Joshua and Jeromy Barsanti

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

Bailey Ann Barton

May 20-28, 2014
Brain hemorrhages
Given by parents Alan and Kimberly Barton
and sister Emily

Andrew Robert Bateman

Stillborn October 7, 2014
Unknown cause
Parents: Laura and Tim Bateman
Sisters: Leah and Hannah
Given by Bob and Leslie Bateman

Sydney Lynne Brown

May 18, 2000
Cord accident/unknown cause

Ashley MacKenzie Brown

May 18, 2001
Antiphospholipid antibody syndrome
Gifts given by
Parents Brian and Marilyn Brown
and brother Samuel
Nana Sharon Brown

Cole, Kaylyn and Hannah Busker

Stillborn December 10, 2004
Ecoli infection
Given by parents Michael and Kim Busker
and siblings Allison, Chris and Hailey

Christon Bufford

Given by Deandre Etherly

Liam and Sebastian Callaway

Stillborn August 5, 2011
Unknown cause
Given by parents Zach and Rori Callaway
and siblings Miles and Aurelia

Elias Browder Campbell

March 24—April 6, 2015
Given by mommy Justina Campbell

Faith Christian

Hope Christian
Miscarried around 10-12 weeks
Given by Grandma Jan Kueck

Keiran David Cobler

October 25—November 1, 2013
NEC
Given by parents Brian and Kristina Cobler

Megan and Samuel Cole

Given by mommy Alexis Cole

Samuel Adan Contreras

Stillborn November 11, 2010
Cord accident
Given by parents Alfredo and
Mercedes Contreras

Addison Lee and Audrey Grace Cochrane

September 26, 2015
Prematurity
Parents: Rob and Casey Cochrane
Gifts given by
Staci Meyer
Dean and Jana
Joann Cochrane
Tom Nelson
Julie Nash

Silas Ragon Connelly

May 28-30, 2014
Severe cardiac defects
Given by parents Blake and Courtney Connelly
and brother Elliot

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
Given by parents Jeremy and Lisa Daily
and sisters Sarah and Savannah

Sophie Jane Darnel

Stillborn May 28, 2015
Unknown cause
Given by parents Tommy and Brea Darnell
and siblings Luke and Piper

Riley and Parker Davis

November 14, 2006
Prematurity
Gifts given by
Parents Rob and Cheryl Davis
and little sister Annalise
Jimmi Pittmon

Grace Kathryn Dell

Stillborn March 17, 2008

Rose Dell

Miscarried January 3, 2014
Given by parents Peter and Rachel Dell
and siblings Zeke, Kye and Isaiah

Everett Christopher Delmar

Stillborn April 18, 2012, at 28 weeks
Unknown cause
Baby Delmar 3
Miscarried December 20, 2014
Given by parents Chris and Miranda Delmar
and little brother Christian

Baby Dill

Miscarried May 2002
Cooper Graham Dill
Stillborn May 26, 2003
TTTS and cord accident
Given by parents Jim and Brandee Dill
and siblings Avery, Tate
and Paxton (Cooper's twin)

Drew Daniel Ericson

Stillborn June 19, 2013
Trisomy 13
Given by parents Don and Amanda Ericson

Caleb Scott Fann

December 1, 2003
PPROM
Baby August Fann
Miscarried August 13, 2004
Given by parents Jonathan and Heather Fann
and sister Madison

Eva Rose Felan

May 9-10, 2014
Complications from hydrocephalus
Gifts given by
Parents Chancy and Sheree Felan
Crysten Caviness

Logan Wayne Fish

September 17, 2002
Skeletal dysplasia
Given by parents David and Brittney Fish
and brothers Landry and Hudson

Cambron Edward Fisk

Stillborn June 28, 2010
Cord accident
Gifts given by
Parents Darren and Meredith Fisk
and siblings Madison, Benjamin
and Maggie
Grandparents Phil and Janice Luebbehusen

Paislee Ann Frette

April 4-5, 2012
Wolf-Hirschhorn syndrome
Gifts given by
Parents Brent and Courtney Frette
Grandparents James and LuAnn Junkin

Airrington Hope Fumagalli

Stillborn December 22, 2013
Unknown cause
Parents: Michael and Kirsten Fumagalli
Sibling: Gable
Given by Nonnie and Papa

Gabriel David Gimlin

Stillborn March 29, 2012
Given by parents Gary and Andrea Gimlin
and sister Athena

Cameron Eddie Godsey

Stillborn November 20, 2012
True knot in cord
Given by parents Kimberly and Aaron Godsey
and siblings Tahlik and Aaron

C.J. Gold

Miscarried August 12, 2008

Marina Gold

Miscarried July 14, 2009
Parents: Greg and Kathryn Gold
Big sister: Emily
Given by grandmother Nellie Gold

Ella Lynne Gonyea

Stillborn August 24, 2015
Preeclampsia, IUGR, no amniotic fluid
Given by parents David and Sable Gonyea
and brother David

Anderson Maxwell Graham

Stillborn March 12, 2013
Placental abruption
Gifts given by
Parents Aaron Graham and DeAndrea Dare
and little sister Maezey
Grandparents Frank and Judy Graham

Gabriela Faith Gregory

Stillborn January 24, 2002
Anomaly of umbilical cord
Given by parents Chris and Monica Gregory
and siblings Daniel, Amarise and Eliana

Lauren Paige Grimes

Stillborn March 6, 1999
Unknown cause
Baby Grimes
Miscarried January 25, 2001
Given by parents John and Paula Grimes
and sister Rileigh

Amelia Adaire Hadsell

Stillborn November 3, 2014
Cord accident
Given by parents Asa and Amy Hadsell
and brother Asa, Jr.

Camden Asher Haltom

Stillborn October 31, 2009
Possible cord accident
Gifts given by
Parents James and Jill Haltom
Jackye Kato

Mackenzie Maria Harris

July 29, 2015
PPROM
Given by parents William and Diana Harris

Charlotte Grace Harrison

December 28, 2011—January 4, 2012
Complications at birth
Given by parents Luke and Amanda Harrison
and little brother Evan

Serenity Harrison

Miscarried December 3, 2009
Given by parents Curtis and Jennifer Harrison
and siblings Levi and Ziva

Caleb Anthony Haynes

Stillborn May 5, 2011
Cord accident
Given by parents Anthony and Robyn Haynes
and siblings Cody and Camryn

Samuel Hintz

Stillborn October 29, 2008
Cord accident

Joel Hintz

Stillborn July 3, 2009

Baby Taylor Hintz

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

Kodi Dawn Hobson

Stillborn May 29, 2015, at 35 weeks
Given by parents David and Jenn Hobson

Grace Holmes

Miscarried August 3, 2013
Chromosomal abnormalities
Parents: Zac and Andrea Holmes
Brother: Kolton
Given by Shape Construction, Inc.

Hendrix Gray Hoover

July 19, 2015
Gifts given by
Mommy Robyn Hoover
Kendra Hoover
Chelsea Godwin
Janelle Pickett
Anonymous

Isaac David Jackson

Stillborn June 24, 2013
Trisomy 13

Elizabeth Abigail Jackson

Miscarried April 29, 2002
Trisomy 16
Given by parents Jeromye and Angi Jackson
and sister Emily

Baby Johnson I

April 8, 2013
Missed miscarriage

Baby Johnson II

Miscarried November 2, 2013

Baby Johnson III

Miscarried February 25, 2014
Given by parents Mark and Kathryn Johnson
and sister Karlie

Tatum Olivia Johnson

Stillborn February 21, 2009
Cord accident
Given by parents Bryan and Stephanie Johnson
and brothers Tyler and Brody

Sarah Ann King

Stillborn June 22, 1995
Unknown cause
Given by parents David and Lori King
and siblings Brooks, Kaylee and Brady

Gunnar Reid Campbell Kirk

October 23, 2012
Prematurity due to maternal preeclampsia and
HELLP syndrome
Parents: Blake and Alizen Kirk
Siblings: Vanessa, Valerie and Gage
Given by Monica Baxter

Hudson Luke Lamb

September 26-27, 2011
IUGR, cardiac malformations
Given by parents Matt and Kendall Lamb

Tomas Lares Castillo

Stillborn January 11, 2010
Isabella Lares Castillo
January 18, 2010
Prematurity
Given by parents Marisela and Jesus Castillo
and little brother Tomas Eduardo

Reed James Ledbetter

Stillborn September 3, 2013
Cord accident
Given by parents Mike and Sarah Ledbetter
and little sister Gracie

Sam Frances Macias

November 16, 2012
Christian Valentine Macias
March 21, 2013

Jo Frances Macias

April 2, 2014

Jude Frances Macias

October 28, 2014
Given by parents Rick and Nelly Macias
and sister Sofia

Trinity Mackinson

Given by Kemberli Mackinson

Abby Elizabeth McDaniel

Stillborn August 10, 1997
Given by parents Rick and Paula McDaniel
and brother Jake

Adriano McKay

November 11, 2012—January 22, 2013
Prematurity
Given by parents Andre and Tiffany McKay

Bay Miltenberger, Jr

Stillborn December 9, 1998
Incompetent cervix
Given by parents Bay and Paula Miltenberger
and siblings Bryce, Bo, Brady and Brooks

Avery Mitchell

Miscarried May 2008
Unknown cause

Gideon Zeller Mitchell

Stillborn May 17, 2011
Membranous cord insertion

Joy Mitchell

Miscarried December 2014
Vanishing twin syndrome
Gifts given by
Parents Stormy and Todd Mitchell
and brothers Silas and Justus (Joy's twin)
Kriste Tujague

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

Jonathan Daniel Mitchell

Stillborn June 24, 1995

Cord accident

Baby Mitchell

Miscarried December 2001

Gifts given by

Parents Byron and Rebekah Mitchell
Dentistry of Las Colinas /
Byron L. Mitchell DDS
Karen Coleman
Gayle Henegar
Gail Reamy
Uncle Mark and Aunt Rachael McClelland
Kerry and Valerie Jones
Lynette Nally
Mary Sue VanSlyke
Jane Beltz

Isabella Carolyn Moore

January 28—February 2, 2013

Lung complications

Gifts given by

Parents Ken and Lexi Moore
and little brother Thomas
Grandparents Harry and Jean Garschagen

Lily Joy Moore

Miscarried March 2, 2011

Parents: Jeremy and Kathleen Moore

Brothers: Isaac and Judah

Gifts given by

Grandmother Marsha Neely
Grandfather Ray Neely

Jeremiah Ndambakuwa

Stillborn June 13, 2006

Unknown cause

Given by parents Zeldia and Norma Ndambakuwa

Samuel James Nienhuis

Stillborn October 14, 2006

Factor V Leiden / MTHFR

Given by parents Seth and Marcie Nienhuis
and siblings Landon, Olivia,
James and Sarah

Eden Nwaokemeh

May 1-6, 2015

Sepsis

Gifts given by

Parents Nonye and Angelita Nwaokemeh
Felicia and Ronel Moline
Anonymous
Kim Wimberley
Uche Nwaokemeh
Ashley Smith

Cailey Elizabeth Ottinger

Stillborn June 7, 1996

Cord accident

Given by parents George and Laurie Ottinger
and sisters Hannah and Emily

Carter Patrick Outen

Stillborn November 6, 2000

Unknown cause

Baby Outen I

Miscarried April 3, 2001

Baby Outen II

Miscarried October 5, 2001

Gifts given by

Parents Chris and Shannon Outen
and sisters Erin and Charlie
Judy Outen
Kryl, Heather and Bristol Boedeker
Patricia Boedeker
Chris and Shantel Garner

Jacob Theodore Oxendine

April 29, 2001

PROM

Given by parents Chip and Christine Oxendine
and siblings Emily and Eric

Margot Lily Perry

Stillborn June 10, 2013

Cord accident

Gifts given by

Parents Brandon and Marisa Perry
and siblings Adeline and Bennett
Grandparents Norman and Mary Lorentz
Amanda Blackall
Jennifer Perkins
Kayla Lorentz

Elena Marie Rusert

May 23, 2011

Prematurity

Given by parents Tina and Michael Rusert
and brothers Liam, Asher and Gavin

James Dylan Schultz

November 22, 2004

Prematurity at 24 weeks

Given by parents James and Jill Schultz
and siblings Shelby and Jenson

Jordan Marie Sims

Stillborn November 10, 2006

Unknown cause

Given by parents Troy and D'Anna Sims
and siblings Jacob and Julia

Mindy and Maggie Smith

Stillborn November 4, 1997

TTTS and Polyhydramnios

Given by parents Scott and Karla Smith
and siblings Travis and Julia

Mercedes Ruth Spigener

Stillborn September 21, 1995

Intramembranous insertion of umbilical cord

Twin Blossoms Spigener

Miscarried July and August, 1996

Baby Spigener

Miscarried February 2004

Given by parents Grant and Jana Spigener
and siblings Wyatt, Ford, Porter,
Calvin and Sadie

Savannah Kate Stanley

January 3, 2004

Prematurity / incompetent cervix

Gifts given by

Parents Joel and Calli Stanley
and siblings Colton, Danika and Sara
Debra O'Brien

Connor Eugene Tidman

Stillborn April 21, 2010

Parents: Geoff and Rachel Tidman

Brothers: Caleb and Kyle

Given by Aaron Fontinott

Jordan Tschoepe

Miscarried August 1, 1999

Spencer Charles Tschoepe

Stillborn July 24, 2000

Unknown cause

Given by parents Ernie and Mandy Tschoepe
and siblings Clara, Kathleen and Bennett

Benson James Twyman

Stillborn March 9, 2015

Preterm labor caused by infection

Given by parents Stephen and Caitlin Twyman

Alivia Elizabeth-Grace Walker

July 24, 2006

Incompetent cervix

Given by parents Robert and Liz Walker
and siblings Jaxson and Lauryn

Caelan Matthew Wallace

July 30—August 3, 2010

Pre-term labor

Given by parents Andy and Dana Wallace
and sister Finlea

Cora Anne Watts

Stillborn February 10, 2015

Cord accident

Given by parents Alan and Kenzie Watts

Merida Rose Wendt

June 24, 2013

Cord accident

Given by parents Jonathan and Sara Wendt
and siblings Leo, Owen and Hazel

Mercy Elizabeth Whitfield

September 8-21, 2011

Trisomy 13

Given by parents Rodney Whitfield
and Allison D'Auteuil
and sisters Grace and Justice

Arianna Elizabeth Wilkinson

Stillborn July 3, 2010

Unknown cause

Given by parents Leroy and Monica Wilkinson

Elliot Joseph Wood

Stillborn December 21, 2011

Unknown cause

Livvy Diane Wood

March 1993

Given by parents Ron and Halee Wood
and siblings Reese and Hyun

Adrian Joseph "AJ" Zuckerman

Stillborn March 30, 2007

Cord accident

Gifts given by parents Al and Amber Zuckerman
and brothers Eli and Alex

Gifts of Support

JustGive

Janis Kidder

Valerie Jones

Lisa Vallejo

West Conroe Baptist Church, Conroe, TX

Second Baptist Church, Springfield, MO

Silverleaf Resorts

Jeremy McKinns

Cari Frank

Isabelle Haemisegger

Paul Goyne

Ana DeForge

Roxanne Boyer

John and Jenny Juneau

Casey Gann

Mercy Hospital, Springfield, MO

Subsequent Births



Shawn and Courtney Lopp, of Sand Springs, Oklahoma, along with big sister Ireleigh Raye, joyfully announce the arrival of Dossalyn Jean, born August 14, 2015, measuring 5 lb., 14 oz., and 18.5 inches long. The family lovingly remembers Macklen Joshua Ryan, stillborn May 7, 2014, at 24 weeks, blood clot

Bryan and Stephanie Yerg, of Bedford, Texas, joyfully announce the arrival of Presley Renee, born December 5, 2015, measuring 6 lb., 3oz., and 19.25 inches long. The family lovingly remembers Jax Edward, stillborn June 28, 2013, unknown cause

Joshua Markus and Precia Wheat, of Springfield, Missouri, joyfully announce the arrival of Rhett Alexander, born December 8, 2015, measuring 8 lb., 11 oz., and 21 inches long. The family lovingly remembers Mila, miscarried April 9, 2010, and Charlotte, October 17, 2011, Trisomy 13

Michael and Kailey York, of Springfield, Missouri, along with big sister Braelyn, joyfully announce the arrival of Henry Matthew, born December 17, 2015, measuring 9 lb., 3 oz., and 21 inches long. The family lovingly remembers Maris Adeline, January 17, 2015, unknown cause

Texarkana Christmas Candlelight Ceremony



Garrett Browning holding his candle for Ava Grace, Baby Browning, Twin Baby Browning and Baby Girl Browning



Toni Sherman lighting M.E.N.D. candle



The Bates family remembering Alex.



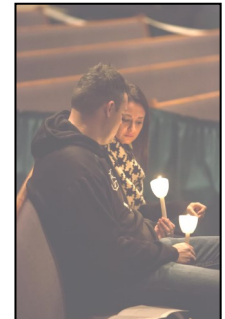
NW Washington Christmas Candlelight Ceremony



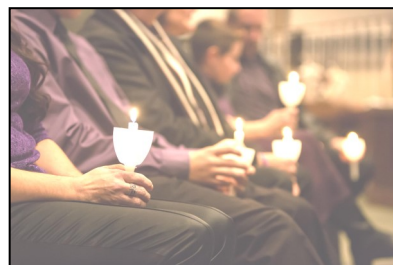
Assistants Joanna Bennett, Katherine Sandoval and Lindsey Spears lighting the M.E.N.D. candle



Ornaments made by Sallie Nau of Seattle Porcelain Company



Patrick and MaryAnn Majcher in memory of Camden



Somers family lighting candles in memory of Wyatt

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

NONPROFIT ORG
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 DALLAS, TEXAS
 PERMIT NO. 57

“... 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 2015-2016 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.
- **GoodSearch.com** is a search engine that donates half its revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Powered by Yahoo!, it is used like any other search engine. To earn money for M.E.N.D. using Goodsearch.com, go to www.goodsearch.com and designate M.E.N.D. as your charity of choice.
- **Ebay** has a charitable giving program that can benefit M.E.N.D. If you sell items on Ebay and would like to designate a percentage of your revenue to M.E.N.D., visit www.missionfish.org to find out how.
- **Igive.com** will donate a penny a search and a portion of each purchase made through their website to M.E.N.D. Sign up today! M.E.N.D.’s cause number is 52025.



www.mend.org