

Most Helpful/Least Helpful Things to Do or Say After the Death of a Child  
Volume 4, Issue 4. July/August 1999

*From Rebekah*

No one is completely comfortable dealing with death. When a friend loses a loved one or a family member loses a child, most often we are at a loss for words and feel our attempts at comforting are fruitless. After I lost Jonathan I decided I was an expert in dealing with the bereaved since I had experienced it firsthand. I was convinced that I would know just what to say and do for the next grieving family that crossed my path. How wrong I was! Oh, maybe I was somewhat better at expressing my condolences, but I soon realized that everyone's needs during grief are unique and what was perhaps helpful to me may not be the golden rule of mourning.

When Jonathan died, death was very new to me. Three of my grandparents passed away when I was young and certainly I had experienced the death of numerous family acquaintances, but never anyone extremely close to me. So I wasn't really sure how I was supposed to compose myself in front of others. Did everyone expect me to be strong and emotionally invincible to my baby's death or did they anticipate me falling on the floor and beginning to wail at any given moment? I wasn't sure. And I definitely didn't know how to respond to their words of sympathy. Should I say, "Thank you" or "I'm sorry, too" or not respond at all? I really didn't know.

It was very awkward at times because I knew some people had no idea how to express their sorrow. Some would just furrow their brow, cock their head to the side and stare at me. Others would attempt feeble clichés such as, "It wasn't meant to be" or "At least you have Little Byron." The one I disliked the most was, "God needed a beautiful rose for His garden." I thought that was so ridiculous because if God needed a rose, He could just speak it into existence and didn't need my child to do so. Not to mention how offensive it was to me to imply that my baby is now a flower!

However, many of my friends did know what to do and were extremely helpful and vital for my healing during my darkest days of grief. A simple, "I'm sorry" was very meaningful as was a strong hug or a gentle touch. Church members brought us food that could have fed an army and I received numerous phone calls and cards. On occasion, I still glance through all the sympathy cards I received, many of them from people I didn't know.

Some of my friends not only showed me their love with phone calls, cards and food, they also showed it by their actions and kind deeds. My friends, Tom and Kristi, planted a magnolia tree in our front yard in Jonathan's memory and my friend, Valerie, asked me to take her to the cemetery to see Jonathan's grave since she missed his funeral. Some would remember to acknowledge my grief on holidays such as Christmas and Mother's Day even though months had passed since my loss. These acts of kindness and sensitivity will always mean more to me than these friends will ever know.

I wholeheartedly believe God sends people our way to help us in time of need. I Corinthians 12:26 tells us, "if one member of our body suffers, all the members suffer with it," and I Thessalonians 5:11 says to "comfort and edify each other." The Lord expects us to help each other during sufferings as well as to accept the helping hand of those coming to our aide. I encourage all of the bereaved to pass out this newsletter to family and friends in order to help them reach out to you in a way that is beneficial and not hurtful. And I want to suggest to all the

family members and friends reading this issue to take to heart what is printed on these pages and learn how to effectively extend a caring hand.

*Rebekah Mitchell*

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The article *How Can I Help...When A Child Dies?* is something you may want to show to family and friends to help them better understand what you may be going through and what they can do to help. Also, we hope that you will remember these suggestions if you are faced with the death of a friend's or family member's loved one. Many of these suggestions would be helpful for the surviving friends and family no matter what the age of the person who died.

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### *How Can I Help...When a Child Dies?*

A child has died. Regardless of the child's age or the circumstances of death, you feel empty and helpless. What can you say that will ease the pain and help mend the hurts?

#### **What Can You Do To Help?**

There are no easy answers, no standard approaches that are universally helpful. There are no magic formulas which will make the pain go away. It is natural to feel helpless when the child of a friend or relative dies. Remember that showing your loving concern can be very comforting to a grieving family. Please don't avoid them because you feel inadequate. Families are more likely to reach a healthy, positive resolution of their grief if they receive continuing support and understanding. The following suggestions may help you provide that support:

**Don't try to find magic words that will take away the pain.** There aren't any. A hug, a touch and a simple, "I'm so sorry," offer real comfort and support.

**Don't be afraid to cry.** Your tears are a tribute to both child and parents. Yes, the parents may cry with you, but their tears can be a healthy release.

**Avoid saying, "I know how you feel."** It is very difficult to comprehend the depth of the loss when a child dies and to say you do may seem presumptuous to the parents.

**Avoid using, “It was God’s will,” and other cliches that attempt to minimize or explain the death.** Don’t try to find something positive in the child’s death, such as, “At least you have other children.” There are no words that make it all right that their child died.

**Listen!** Let them express the anger, the questions, the pain, the disbelief and the guilt they may be experiencing. Understand that parents often have a need to talk about their child and the circumstances of the death over and over again. It may be helpful to encourage them to talk by asking a gentle question such as, “Can you tell me about it?”

**Avoid judgements of any kind.** “You should...” or “You shouldn’t...” is not appropriate or helpful. Decisions and behaviors related to displaying or removing photographs, reliving the death, idealizing the child, or expressing anger, depression or guilt may appear extreme in many cases. These behavior patterns are normal, particularly in the first years following the child’s death.

**Be aware that, for parents with religious convictions, their child’s death may raise serious questions about God’s role in this event. Do not presume to offer answers.** If the parents raise the issue, it would be better to listen and allow them to explore their own feelings. They will need to arrive at an individual philosophy about this.

**Be there.** Run errands, help with household chores, provide child care and help in whatever way is needed. Don’t say, “Call me if there is anything I can do.” That call will probably never come. Be aware of what needs to be done and offer to do specific tasks.

**Give special attention to surviving children.** They are hurt, confused and often ignored. Don’t assume they are not hurting because they do not express their feelings. Many times siblings will suppress their grief to avoid adding to their parents’ pain. Talk to them and acknowledge their loss.

**Mention the name of their child who has died.** Don’t fear that talking about the child will cause the parents additional pain. The opposite is usually true. Using the child’s name lets parents know that they are not alone in remembering their child.

**Be patient.** Understand that grieving families respond differently to their pain. Some verbalize, others may seem unable or unwilling to talk, some withdraw and others strike out angrily.

**Share a fond memory of the child.** “I remember when she...” or “He had a wonderful gift for...” can be reassuring to parents that you appreciated their child and are aware of their sense of loss. Relate amusing anecdotes about the child. Don’t be afraid of laughter. It helps to heal the hurt.

(Editor’s note: This suggestion is obviously for those who have lost an older child. We were granted permission to reprint this article in its entirety and therefore we are including it here even though it doesn’t really apply to those of us who have lost a baby due to miscarriage or stillbirth. As well, maybe you can remember this suggestion if you are ever faced with the death of a friend’s child.)

**Remember the family on important days such as the child’s birthday and death anniversary.** Send a card, call, or visit. Let them know you remember, too.

**Gently encourage a return to outside activities.** Suggest a lunch or movie as relief from the isolation of grief. If your invitation is declined, don’t give up! Ask again and again, if necessary. The third or fourth time you call may be just the day that an outing would be most welcome if someone takes the initiative.

**There is no standard timetable for recovery.** Grief usually lasts far longer than anyone expects. Encourage bereaved families to be patient with themselves. They often hear, “Get on with your life; it’s time you got over this!” Those demands are unfair and unrealistic. When parents express concern about being tired, depressed, angry, tearful, unable to concentrate or unwilling to get back into life’s routines, reassure them that grief work takes time and that they may be expecting too much of themselves too soon.

**Be sensitive to the changes a bereaved family experiences.** Family members will adopt new behaviors and roles as they learn to live without the child. This is a painful and lengthy process. Don’t expect your friends to be unchanged by this experience.

**Refer a grieving family to The Compassionate Friends.** There may be a chapter near them, ready to offer support, friendship and understanding.

**Continue your contact with the family.** Grief does not end at the funeral or on the first anniversary. Stay in touch--often--and don’t forget to mention the name of the child who died in conversation as easily as you would the name of any other member of the family.

*On behalf of all the families involved in The Compassionate Friends, we thank you for caring enough to want to help. Your loving concern makes YOU a “Compassionate Friend.”*

**The Compassionate Friends**

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*They Tell Me*

Author Unknown

They tell me “time will heal this wound;”  
I don’t believe it’s true.  
For every day that passes by  
This pain still feels brand new.

They tell me “I should be happy and relieved  
you are free from all your agony,”  
but that doesn’t comfort the pain in my heart.  
You are gone, you no longer live here with me.

They tell me “only time will tell  
just when this torture will cease.”  
I don’t think there will be a day in my life,  
when I will find complete peace.

They tell me, “don’t worry it gets better with time”  
They’ve lost a mother, a pet, or a wife.  
But the loss of a child is the worst to me.  
It has upset the balance of my life.

They tell me "I should go on with my dreams."  
I guess that is easy for them to say.  
For they don't have to live with this grief.  
They have their children to hold and kiss every day.

I'll tell them, "I miss you!"  
Always and forever your Mommy, sweet Angel.

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### *Birthday Tributes to Our Special Angels*

Dear Michael,

We miss you very much. However, MANY times we have been aware of your presence in our lives and are very grateful for the gift God gave us when you touched our lives. We wish with all our hearts that we could have known you longer but we know that God's plan is always better.

Keep "a light in the window" for us.

Love, Gram and Grandad  
(Jo & Denny Askew)

*In Loving Memory of  
Michael Joseph Böer  
Stillborn July 17, 1996*

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Happy 3rd Birthday, Michael!

We love and miss you!

Mom, Dad,  
Paul & Maggie

The Böers:  
Lynne, Paul, Sr.,  
Paul, Jr. & Maggie

*In Loving Memory of  
Michael Joseph Böer  
Stillborn July 17, 1996*

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*In Loving Memory of  
James Michael Szaroleta  
August 11, 1998*

To our baby boy,  
The one we can't hold  
The one we won't see  
Is what we are told.

I felt your little spirit  
living in me  
Though such a short time  
It was precious you see

My life seemed so perfect  
My dream would come true  
My own little bundle  
Whether pink or blue

Everyone loved you  
Just waiting to see  
Would you look like your daddy  
Or exactly like me

These are the things  
We will never know  
Because God in Heaven  
Said you needed to go

He must have his reasons  
We can't yet understand  
Did He come down to get you  
Did He hold out his hand

Someday you can tell me  
About His sweet embrace  
As He took you from us  
To that wonderful place

Till that day comes  
Don't be afraid  
Heaven is safe  
For us it was made

We won't say good~bye  
Because you see  
You'll always be  
A part of me

We love you my baby  
My sweet little one  
We'll see you again

When our time here is done

*Happy 1st Birthday James!!*

*We love you and miss you so much!*

*Love,*

*Mommy, Daddy,  
Bryan and Tommy*

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### *God Promises*

Anonymous

God promises to always be there,  
to hold and comfort me  
when life at its best is unfair.  
God promises to share my sorrow,  
to wipe away my tears,  
then assure me of tomorrow.  
God promises to lend a helping hand,  
to help me through this lifetime  
when I can no longer stand.  
God promises me many things,  
but I can't see Him  
nor His angels with their gold-tipped wings.  
So He created friends like you,  
to help carry out His promises  
and help me in all that I do.

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This article may help your co-workers understand what you are experiencing and the best ways to assist you during this difficult time after the loss of your baby. Maybe a friend at work could post it to a company or departmental bulletin board so that your co-workers may read it.

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### *When a Co-Worker is Grieving the Death of a Child*

A child has died. There are no words to make that all right. But there are some things you can do to be supportive. You are taking the first step in caring by reading this.

It is important to know that grief is a normal, healthy response to loss. It is a physical, emotional, spiritual, and psychological reaction. Anger, fear, frustration, sadness, loneliness, guilt and despair are all part of the grief process.

Understand that grief is not a sign of weakness nor a lack of faith. Actively grieving people experience pain, confusion, lack of concentration and isolation. Those surrounding them often express frustration and a sense of helplessness which may, in time, turn to annoyance if the grieving “takes too long.” Yet, the disorientation of grief lasts far longer than our society recognizes.

### **How Can I Help At The Time Of Death?**

- Contact other co-workers to let them know the situation.
- Attend the funeral or call on your co-worker to extend personal condolences.
- Offer to help by doing something specific such as driving, making telephone calls, running errands.
- Do not be afraid of tears. *"Why do they always turn away when tears come?" -- Manager*
- Be sensitive to the fact that people grieve differently. Some may find great comfort in their work, while others may view it as an extra burden.
- Offer to share the person's workload, if you can. Sometimes the smallest gesture lightens the load.

### **What Can I Say?**

- There are no magic words to take away the pain? “I’m so sorry” will express your feelings honestly, while a hug or a touch will give comfort. “A co-worker touched my aching heart when she shared her memories of my child at company picnics.”
- Mention the name of the child who has died and listen as your co-worker talks.
- Avoid saying, “I know how you feel.” It is very difficult to comprehend the depth of the loss when a child dies.
- “It was God’s will,” and other cliches minimize the death and may not be helpful.
- Don’t try to state something positive about the child’s death, such as, “At least you have other children,” “At least he didn’t suffer,” or “You can always have another baby.”

### **What Can I Do At Work?**

- Listen. Let your co-worker express the anger, pain, disbelief or guilt that may be there. Bereaved parents often have a need to talk about their child and the circumstances of the death over and over again.
- Avoid judgements of any kind.
- Be there. Do not wait for your co-worker to ask for help. There are many tasks that need to be done when a child dies. Offer to accompany your co-worker during some of these tasks, perhaps on your lunch hour or before or after work. *"Someone met me at work to buy my son's car. How I wished one of the guys had been with me as the car pulled away." -- Construction Worker*
- Remember your co-worker on important days such as holidays or the child’s birthday or death anniversary. Send a card, call or visit. Let the person know you remember, too.
- Be patient. Grief can last many months. It can also re-surface unexpectedly!
- Be responsive to the changes a bereaved parent experiences. While learning to live without the child, the co-worker will adopt new behaviors and roles. Don’t expect him to be unchanged by this experience.



- Refer a grieving parent to The Compassionate Friends, Inc. There are bereaved parents in each chapter ready to offer support, friendship and understanding.
- Break the isolation that often surrounds the bereaved by encouraging others to maintain contact with the grieving parent.
- Continue your contact. Stay in touch by inviting your co-worker to lunch or coffee.

*On behalf of all the families involved in The Compassionate Friends, we thank you for caring enough to want to help. Your loving concern makes YOU a “Compassionate Friend.”*

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*Suggestions for Helping Yourself Through Grief*

This title is not meant to indicate that others in our lives do not help us through grief. We do need the help of relatives and friends, and may need the help of professional counseling. At the same time, it is important for us to make the effort to help ourselves. Remember that grief takes a lot of energy. Treat yourself with the same care and affection that you would offer to a good friend in the same situation. Most of us are aware of love your neighbor - we forget the part as you love yourself. Grief has its unique sides. Not all of the suggestions below will be helpful to everyone. Choose the ideas that appeal to you. Read them over at different times during your grief: our feelings change.

**Be Patient With Yourself:**

- Go gently. Don't rush too much. Your body, your mind and your heart need energy to mend.
- Don't take on new responsibility right away. Don't overextend yourself. Keep decision making to a minimum.
- Don't compare yourself to other bereaved. It may seem that you aren't adjusting as well as they are; in reality, you don't know what is behind their public facade.
- Throw away notions of a fixed period of mourning: “One year and then you're over it.” This is fiction! Grief takes time, whatever time it takes.

**Ask For and Accept Help:**

- When you need it, don't be afraid to ask for help from those close to you. So much hurt and pain go unheeded during grief because we don't want to bother anyone else with our problems. Wouldn't you want someone close to you to ask for help if they needed it? Our family and friends can't read our minds; we have to let our needs be known. But be aware that some relatives and friends may not be able to handle your grief. It is very important to find someone who cares and understands your grief and with whom you may talk freely. Seek out an understanding friend, another bereaved person, or a support group member.
- Accept help and support when offered. It's okay to need comforting. Often people wait to be told when you're ready to talk or if you need something. Tell them!
- Pray to the person who has died.

- If you are troubled and need help, contact your local twenty-four hour hotline.
- Join a self-help group. They offer support, understanding, friendship and HOPE.
- Give yourself some time to sort out your thoughts, but don't build a wall around yourself in fear of being hurt again. It is important to love and enjoy the people in your life instead of distancing yourself from them. If grief is intense and prolonged it may harm your physical and mental well being. Consider seeking out a competent counselor. (Check to see if your health insurance covers the charges.) It is important to take care of yourself.

### **Accept Your Feelings:**

- Feel what you feel! You don't choose your emotions - they choose you.
- It's okay to cry. Crying makes you feel better.
- It's okay to be angry. You may be angry with yourself, with God, with the person who died or with others. Or just angry in general. Don't push it down. Let the anger out -- hit a pillow or a punching bag. Scream, chop wood, exercise, etc.
- Thinking you are going crazy is a very normal reaction. Most grieving people experience this. You are not losing your mind, only reacting to the death.
- Depression is common to those in grief. Be careful not to totally withdraw from others. If your depression becomes severe or you are considering suicide, get professional help immediately!
- The emotions of a survivor are often raw. It is important to get these feelings out. If you don't they will come out some other time, some other way. You won't suffer nearly as much from "getting too upset" as you will from being brave and keeping your honest emotions all bottled up inside. Share your "falling-to-pieces" feelings with supportive loved ones.
- You may have psychosomatic complaints, physical problems brought on by an emotional reaction. The physical problems are real: take steps to remedy them.

### **Lean Into The Pain:**

- Lean into the pain. It cannot be outrun. You can't go around it, over it, or under it. You must go through it and feel the full force of the pain to survive. Be careful not to get stuck at some phase. Keep working on your grief. Save time to grieve and time to face the grief. Don't throw yourself into your work or other activities that leave you no time for grieving.
- In a time of severe grief, be extremely careful in the use of either alcohol or prescription drugs. Tranquilizers don't end the pain; they only mask it. This may lead to further withdrawal, loneliness and even addiction. Grief work is done best when you are awake, not drugged into sleepiness.
- If grief is unresolved after a time, seek the help of a good counselor or clergy.
- Be determined to work through your grief.

### **Be Good To Yourself:**

- Keep a journal. It is a good way to understand what you are feeling and thinking. Hopefully, when you reread it you will see that you are getting better.
- Try to get adequate rest. Go to bed earlier. Avoiding caffeine in coffee, tea and colas may help you to sleep better.
- Good nutrition is important. Eat regular, well-rounded meals. Now is not the time to diet.
- If certain days are especially difficult, schedule activities that you find particularly comforting into these time periods.
- Read books on grief. It will help you to understand what you are going through and you

may find suggestions for coping.

- Moderate exercise helps work off frustration and may aid sleep. Try walking, tennis, swimming, etc.
- Begin to build pleasant times with family and friends. Don't feel guilty if you have a good time. Your loved one would want you to be happy. They would want you to live this life to the fullest and to the best of your ability.
- Do things a little differently, yet try not to make a lot of changes. This sounds like a contradiction, but it is not.
- Plan things to which you can look forward to -- a trip, a visit, lunch with a special friend. Start today to build memories for tomorrow.
- Find quotes or posters that are helpful to you and hang them where you can see them.
- Become involved in the needs of others. Helping others will build your self-confidence and enhance your self-worth. Volunteer, join a support group. It does much to ease your pain.
- Be good to yourself: take a relaxing bath, bask in the sun, take time for a movie or dinner out. Read a good book.
- Put balance in your life; pray, rest, work, read, relax.
- When you feel ready, aim at regaining a healthy, balanced life by broadening your interests. Take time for activities that can bring some purpose into your life. Do something you have always wanted to do: take a class, learn tennis, volunteer for a worthwhile group, join church activities, become involved in community projects or a hobby club. Learn and do something new as well as rediscover old interests, activities and friends.

### **Grief Takes Time:**

- Do not have unrealistic expectations of yourself. Grief comes and goes and takes time to work through. There is no timetable for grief work. It is as individual as we are, but it will normally take years to work through your grief.
- Take your life one moment, one hour, one day at a time.
- Hold on to HOPE! Some days you just seem to exist but better days will be back. You will gradually develop a renewed sense of purpose.
- Remember, you will get better.

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*The Dam Burst Today*  
Author Unknown

Sometimes you have to let the dam burst.  
The daily "seeping" from the wall isn't sufficient.  
The pressure has built too much.  
The "walls" are too fragile at times

to withstand such extreme pressures  
from the waves of grief bombarding them.

Today my dam burst  
while driving home from a meeting.  
The flood of tears, at first, foreboding,  
eventually a relief.

Relief from the stress and pressure  
that had snuck up on me.  
Sometimes I know it is building;  
sometimes, I lie to myself  
that I am fine today -- coping.  
That's when the dam bursts.

Magically, the "walls," slowly  
restructure and glue together.  
Always leaving cracks for tears to seep through  
to handle the little waves of grief  
sloshing against them.

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### *Today's Sorrow*

Lord, there are times when we cry out why  
and within our hearts we think we'll die.  
The depth of sorrow is more than we can bear,  
we wish we could just expire and be with you there.  
We heard the joyful news of impending birth,  
and looked on life with a new sense of worth.  
Life was perfect and filled with such expectancy,  
there was a new life being formed inside of me.  
Then the news comes to tear us apart,  
the news that we feel will break our heart.  
The new life forming has ceased to be,  
God we cry what have You allowed to happen to me.  
But the pain we feel is for our great sorrow,  
we are seeing only today not thinking of tomorrow.  
We forget that this life is but the twinkling of an eye,  
that soon we'll be living in the great by and by.  
We don't remember during our great sorrow,  
that we'll be holding those babies in Heaven's tomorrow.

Angels will meet us and place them in their Mama's arms,  
never having had to face this earth's harms.  
Perfect more perfect than ever seen before,  
placed in Mama's arms to stay forevermore.  
Thank you, God, for allowing me to know there is a tomorrow,  
it gives me the strength to face today's sorrow.

*Barbara Philbrook*

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*Tears*

Author Unknown

There is a sacredness in tears,  
They are not a mark of weakness,  
But of power.  
They speak more eloquently,  
Than ten thousand tongues.  
They are messengers of  
overwhelming grief,  
Of deep contrition, and  
Of unspeakable love.

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*Thank You*

M.E.N.D. would like to express its deep appreciation to Marie & David Crowe for obtaining two sizable donations that are helping us to continue to provide support and assistance to families suffering the loss of a child free of charge. Thanks also goes out to the organizations who made the donations:

- The law firm of DeHay and Elliston of Dallas, Texas
- The Presbyterian Women of Highland Park Presbyterian Church, Dallas, Texas.

Many thanks to all involved in these donations. All donations to M.E.N.D., whether large or small, greatly assist us in helping others and are much appreciated. May God richly bless all of you.

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*In Loving Memory*

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. Your tax-deductible contributions are greatly appreciated and should be sent to the [M.E.N.D. address](#) listed at the bottom of the newsletter. **Thank you so much!**

*In Loving Memory of*

**Jonathan Daniel Mitchell**

Stillborn June 24, 1995

Cord Accident

Parents, Rebekah & Byron Mitchell, Sr. and big brother, Byron, Jr.

Given by his grandparents,

Sue & Dennis Brewer

**Jonathan Daniel Mitchell**

Stillborn June 24, 1995

Cord Accident

Given by parents,

Rebekah & Byron Mitchell, Sr.

and big brother, Byron, Jr.

**Michael Joseph Böer**

Stillborn July 17, 1996

Trisomy 18

Given by parents, Lynne & Paul Böer

and siblings, Paul, Jr., and Maggie

**Kali Alyssa Brown**

Stillborn April 12, 1996

Given by parents,

Nancy & Les Brown and

little brothers, Cody & Tyler

**Natalie Faith Reiman**

April 14, 1999

Anencephaly

Parents, Patty & Paul Reiman

Given by Deanna & John Grebeta

**Aaron H. Cole**

April 16, 1999

Neonatal Death

Parents, Lillian & Andy Cole

Given by Cynthia & Michael Dodson

and their sons, Andrew, Eric,

Matthew, & Christopher

**Natalie Faith Reiman**

April 14, 1999

Anencephaly

Parents, Patty & Paul Reiman

Given by Eileen & Bill Reiman

**Madison Paige Zahaczky**

Stillborn April 7, 1998

Cord Accident

Given by parents, Chris & Dan Zahoczky  
and big sister, Courtney

**Jackson David Crowe**

August 22 - September 8, 1998

Heart Failure

Parents, Marie & David Crowe  
and big sister, Hannah

Given by the Law Firm of DeHay & Elliston

**Jackson David Crowe**

August 22 - September 8, 1998

Heart Failure

Parents, Marie & David Crowe  
and big sister, Hannah

Given by Presbyterian Women  
Highland Park Presbyterian Church

**Natalie Faith Reiman**

April 14, 1999

Anencephaly

Parents, Patty & Paul Reiman  
Given by Lea & Tom Bosse

**Olivia Grace Wayne**

Stillborn May 11, 1995

Cause Unknown

Given by parents, Jeanette & Richard Wayne  
and little sister Emmaline

**Baby Girl Nielsen**

Stillborn April 14, 1999

Cause Unknown

Given by parents, Kimberly & Kyle Nielsen  
and sister, Katy Lou

**Cole Matthew Didier**

August 25, 1998

Bilateral Renal Agenesis

Given by parents, Nicole & Matt Didier

**Carson "Lil Whit" Cullum**

May 26 - May 27, 1994

Hypoplastic Left Heart

Given by parents,  
Carla & Michael Cullum

and siblings,  
Andrea, Keleigh, Coleton, & Carson

**Natalie Faith Reiman**

April 14, 1999

Anencephaly

Parents, Patty & Paul Reiman

Given by Holly & Brad Sauder  
and daughter, Rachel

**Natalie Faith Reiman**

April 14, 1999

Anencephaly

Parents, Patty & Paul Reiman

Given by Susan & Thomas Cousino

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*Online Resources*

Resources published in the printed version of this newsletter can be accessed on the Internet directly from M.E.N.D.'s resource pages. To access the resource pages, navigate to the following URL:

URL: [http://www.mend.org/resources\\_internet.asp](http://www.mend.org/resources_internet.asp)

In the M.E.N.D. resource listing, you will find resources which include internet web sites, national organizations, and family bereavement pages.

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*Contact Information*

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P.O. Box 1007

Coppell, TX 75019

(972) 459-2396 Phone/Fax

1-888-695-MEND

Email:

[Rebekah@mend.org](mailto:Rebekah@mend.org) and [Lynne@mend.org](mailto:Lynne@mend.org)

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