



## Keeping Your Baby's Memory Alive

In my more than eleven years of directing our support groups, I have noticed a common fear we as parents all face: what if people forget our babies?!

It's natural for others to resume their lives within just weeks following our losses and only think about them from time to time. They might even actually forget as the years go on. But do they realize that we NEVER forget?? We always acknowledge the anniversary of a death, we remember the due date, and often-times can recite the day of the week and exact time the devastating details of the loss actually occurred.

When this particular topic comes up during our share times, I remind the parents that it is our responsibility to keep our babies' memory alive, which will alleviate the forgetfulness of our well-meaning family and friends. We can achieve this by exercising the following suggestions:

- Openly talk about your baby on a regular basis. Don't feel as though the subject of your child is taboo. Freely including your baby's name in conversations gives others permission to do so as well. If they don't hear us talking about our little ones, then they may assume it is too upsetting for us to discuss.
- Don't be afraid to display framed photographs of your baby in your home or work space. If you're not comfortable with this or do not have one, consider framing a footprint, handprint, or sonogram picture.
- Let someone know when your heart is heavy and you are missing your little one.
- Plant a tree or flowers in your baby's memory. However, be prepared that sometimes trees and flowers have to be replaced (we're on our third magnolia).
- Never shy away from including your baby during holidays, anniversaries, or other special days.
- Invite relatives and close friends to remembrance ceremonies such as the Walk to Remember or Christmas

Candlelight ceremony.

- On the anniversary of your baby's death, don't hesitate to acknowledge it by putting some sort of signage in your yard. Each year we put out a metal sign (much like a real estate sign) that reads:

*In loving memory of our baby  
Jonathan Daniel Mitchell  
Stillborn June 24, 1995  
Until we meet again...*

- Purchase a punch out or stamp in the shape of an angel or tiny footprints to include in your signature line on your Christmas cards or other family correspondence.
- Hang a stocking for your baby at Christmas-time. You can include it on the mantle with the others or display it elsewhere in your home.

Just remember, people will take their cues from you. Unfortunately, even in the midst of intense grief, we have to be the ones to initiate others remembering our babies. Pregnancy and infant loss is oftentimes uncharted territory for all involved. No one knows exactly what to do or say so we as the parents have to be the guide. But before we can effectively teach others, we have to be comfortable with it first. Never be afraid to remind your extended family that our babies are our children and will always be a special part of our family.

♥ *Rebekah Mitchell*

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M.E.N.D. is a Christian nonprofit corporation whose purpose is to reach out to those who have lost a child to miscarriage, stillbirth or infant death and offer a way to share experiences and information through monthly meetings, this newsletter, and our Web site.

For inquiries, subscription requests, deletions, and submissions to the newsletter, contact us at

M.E.N.D.

P.O. Box 1007

Coppell, TX 75019

Phone and Fax: (972) 506-9000

*(Please call before faxing)*

E-Mail: [Rebekah@mend.org](mailto:Rebekah@mend.org)

[Heather@mend.org](mailto:Heather@mend.org)

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*M.E.N.D. is a member of  
First Candle/SIDS Alliance*

FirstCandle

## Remembering Hope

My sweet baby girl was born on November 5, 2005, and went home to heaven on November 8, 2005. Hope was an answered prayer, as we longed for a daughter. She suffered from a very rare condition called amniotic band syndrome, but that didn't stop her spunky spirit from shining through! Many lives have been touched by both Hope's brave life and early death.

Immediately following Hope's death I had an intense need to keep her memory alive. The thought of people forgetting about her was terrible to dwell upon, let alone become reality. I began to seek creative ways to incorporate Hope's memory into the tapestry of our family and began by breathing new life into flower arrangements from Hope's memorial service. Many of the flowers were turned into the outside of oil burning candles. Each member of our immediate families have one of these special candles to light on Hope's anniversaries and other momentous days throughout the year, such as October 15 for Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day. The prettiest flowers were preserved and made into ornaments to adorn our Christmas tree.

Hope spent the majority of her life at Arkansas Children's Hospital in the NICU. She was given several beautiful handmade items that we greatly treasure. We were so touched that we felt the need to give this type of comfort to the families at ARCH. In the year after Hope's death I made many, many newborn-sized hats and quilts for the babies. On Hope's first birthday, we celebrated her life with an open house and requested that guests bring items for a one-year old that we could send down to the hospital. We were filled with gratitude by the kindness our family and friends showed through the giving of these gifts.

Former neighbors gave us a tree to plant so we could watch it grow and remember our little girl. Instead of planting it in our yard we had it planted in one of the community parks so that if we ever moved we could visit it. Throughout the year we visit Hope's tree and on special occasions adorn it with a bow. The ribbon is always fitting with the season and we take pictures of it, documenting the tree's growth. We remember Hope's life, particularly poignant on special occasions, and wonder what could have been.

An open house didn't seem fitting for Hope's second birthday. Instead, my husband, his parents, and I remembered quietly, along with the baby waiting to be born. Family and friends were invited to light a candle for Hope on her birthday in their own homes. We adorned Hope's tree with a special birthday bow and released balloons in the park. Afterwards we sang "Happy Birthday" over a butterfly-shaped (our special symbol for Hope) chocolate cake. A care package was sent down to ARCH in memory of Hope's special day. My husband and I had searched for a curio cabinet to display some of Hope's belongings, and we found one just before her birthday. It now stands in our study, giving her belongings a place of honor.

The collection of Christmas ornaments grows each year as dried flowers from rosebushes given to me in memory of Hope are preserved and M.E.N.D. ornaments from the candlelight ceremonies are received. Also at Christmastime a cream-colored velvet stocking hangs on the mantel for Hope. Last year a tiger Beanie Baby with Hope's exact birthday was hiding inside, waiting to be discovered on Christmas morning. A sparkly pink butterfly stamp marks Hope's presence on the holiday cards we send.

While we would prefer to have our daughter here with us, healthy and whole, we know that it cannot be. Our precious daughter is waiting in heaven for us, and until then we will remember her.

♥ *Aly Kirkpatrick*

## Book Review

### *Holding on to Faith*

By Audrey McDonald Carney  
Publish America  
ISBN-13: 978-1413798234  
[www.publishamerica.com](http://www.publishamerica.com)

*Holding on to Faith* is a very quick and easy read that details the author's journey of five pregnancies over seven years. Three pregnancies ended in early loss and two resulted in healthy thriving children. Carney describes her rollercoaster of emotions with each experience, the comments of others, and the faith she held on to. ♥

Review by Rebekah Mitchell

M.E.N.D. has a complete list of books, Web sites, organizations, and music resources available online at [www.mend.org](http://www.mend.org).



If you would like to submit a review of books, music, Web sites or other resources dealing with infant loss, please email them to our newsletter editor Heather Fann at [heather@mend.org](mailto:heather@mend.org).

### *Katie and the Magic Umbrella: A Stormy Adventure*

By Kristine Kahanek  
K.Co. Kids LLC  
ISBN-13: 978-0980142303

Nine years after losing her daughter Katherine, Dallas Channel 11 meteorologist Kristine Kahanek, is memorializing her daughter through a fun and educational children's book.

"It's been nine years since we lost Katherine—hard to believe," says Kahanek. "I'm just so grateful to have finally found a way to really create a living memory of her—something that's always been missing for me somehow."

In the book, Katie is a guardian angel looking after two children modeled after Kahanek's two living children, Jared and Savannah. The children are frightened of a big storm brewing outside their window. Katie flies down from heaven and takes them on a magical umbrella ride around the storm teaching about thunder, lightning, hail and tornadoes. At the end of the story they end up in their safe place and Katie flies back to heaven, leaving her magic umbrella in the corner of their bedroom, ready for the next adventure. The book was illustrated by a local artist for children ages 4 to 8 years old.

"I wanted this book to be a comfort book, one that parents and kids will turn to on a dark, stormy night to help make the noisy storm outside, not so scary," says Kahanek.

The project has taken Kahanek a year to come to fruition and the books will be in stores in September. In addition, she has commissioned an 18" Katie doll to promote with the book that will be available in late October.

Books can be pre-ordered from [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com). Be sure to purchase through Goodsearch so M.E.N.D. can benefit from your order. First go to [Goodsearch.com](http://Goodsearch.com) and enter M.E.N.D. as your charity of choice. Then access Amazon from Goodsearch..

You can meet Kristine at the Irving Walk to Remember where she'll be selling and autographing the books.

### September/October Topic

Neonatal Death  
(when your baby dies after birth)  
Deadline: July 30, 2008

### November/December Topic

Holidays  
Deadline: September 30, 2008

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 Web site 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.

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Visit our Web site at:  
[www.mend.org](http://www.mend.org)



# Birthday Tributes

## Happy 2nd Birthday, HazelAnne Noelle!

We read this song at your funeral two years ago. I still hold to it today...finding peace in knowing through Jesus we will meet again. You've changed us forever.....you are a blessing. We love you so much sweet one.

### Near to the Heart of God

Cleland B. McAfee 1866-1944

*There is a place of quiet rest, Near to the heart of God,  
A place where sin cannot molest, Near to the heart of God.*

*There is a place of comfort sweet, Near to the heart of God,  
A place where we our Saviour meet, Near to the heart of God.*

*There is a place of full release, Near to the heart of God,  
A place where all is joy and peace, Near to the heart of God.*

*O, Jesus, blest Redeemer, Sent from the heart of God,  
Hold us who wait before Thee, Near to the heart of God.*

Happy Birthday Sweet Girl!

Love you forever,

Meme, Daga, Aryana, Adelaide and Joey Sibley

*HazelAnne Noelle Sibley  
Stillborn August 16, 2006  
Olgohydramnios  
Also remembering Sibley Twins  
Miscarried June 2002  
Baby Sibley  
Miscarried February 2, 2008  
Parents: Joe and Emily Sibley  
Siblings: Aryana, Adelaide and Joey*



## Happy Birthday, Alivia Elizabeth-Grace Walker!

Mommy and Daddy cannot believe it has been two years since you went to be with Jesus. We remember how we never thought we would make it without you. Although we still have no answer as to why you had to go to heaven, we know God's plans were not our own, but His promises are always fulfilled.

This April He fulfilled his promise by bringing us your little brother, Jaxson. Now as we look at your little brother Jaxson and are awe struck by your resemblance, we thank God for allowing us to have held you and studied your every feature just so we would always remember you and see you in your brother. As he gets older we will think, this is how Alivia would have looked at this age. We love you, baby girl!

Have a wonderful heavenly birthday party.

Mommy, Daddy and Jaxson

*Alivia Elizabeth-Grace Walker  
Incompetent Cervix  
August 24, 2006  
Parents: Robert and Liz Walker  
Siblings: Jaxson Robert-Allen*



## Happy 2nd Birthday, Theo!

Knowing that you are in Jesus' arms  
Gives me some comfort at times,  
Because you will never lack for anything.  
But not having you here,  
To hold, to hug and to spoil hurts.  
It still hurts and I miss you.

Anyway, Happy Birthday My Love!  
Grand-Mere

*Theo Fleurima Shannon  
August 10, 2006  
Perinatal Stroke  
Parents: Ted and Geri Shannon*



## Happy Birthday, Baby Girl!

Avery,

We hope you are doing well and cannot wait to hold you again. We hope your great-grandparents throw you a very special first birthday party in heaven. We love you and miss you so much.

Love,

Mommy and Daddy

*Avery Merae Longgood  
August 2-3, 2007  
Unknown cause, possible stroke  
Parents: Neil and Jaimie Longgood*



## Happy 10th Birthday, Jackson!

How can it be that ten years—an entire decade—have gone by since you were here on earth with us? It is amazing how much God has healed our broken hearts over these years, and yet, we still love you, miss you, and think of you every day. We have tried very hard to comfort other families who have lost babies as a way to honor your brief, but very precious life. We will never forget you.

Love,

Mommy, Daddy, big sister Hannah, and little brother Andy

*Jackson David Crowe  
August 22, 1998—September 9, 1998  
Congenital Heart Defect  
Parents: David and Marie Crowe  
Siblings: Hannah and Andy*



## To Our Beloved Babies

We love you both!  
Love, Mom and Dad

*Baby Nall  
Miscarried January 2008  
Kevin Anthony Nall, Jr.  
March 8, 2008  
Incompetent Cervix/Infection  
Parents: La Keshia and Kevin Nall*

## Sweet Baby August

We can't believe it's been four years since you returned to heaven. We wish we knew more about you, but we know that you and Caleb are safe with Jesus. We miss you and would love to see you playing with your baby sister Madison.

Love you—our precious second baby,  
Mommy, Daddy and Maddie

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



## Happy 2nd Birthday, John Robert!

Hey buddy! I can't believe that you would be turning two this year. In some ways it feels like it was just yesterday that we held you in our arms and said goodbye. Mommy and Daddy love you so much and think about you every day.

Caroline talks about you all the time. I made a video with your pictures and she loves to watch it with me. She asks me why you had to go to heaven and why you couldn't stay with us. One day she told Daddy that we should go to heaven to see you. It is so hard for us to answer her questions when we don't understand ourselves.

Your little brother, Ross, was born on December 9, 2007. He is such a sweet little boy and smiles all the time. I know that you and Ross would have been best friends. We will make sure that Ross knows all about his big brother as he grows up.

We will always treasure the thirteen hours that we had with you, and we will always wish that we had been given so much more time together. We will be sending you blue balloons on your birthday, so be looking for them.

Please keep watch over us, especially your big sister and little brother. We miss you and remember, you'll be in our hearts, always.

Love,  
Mommy, Daddy, Caroline and Ross

*John Robert Konkle*  
*August 11, 2006*  
*Premature due to PROM*  
*Parents: J. and Shannon Konkle*  
*Siblings: Caroline and Ross*



## Happy 6th Birthday, Michelle!

May God continue to use your life and death for His glory! Your younger brother talks of you often as if he knows you, though he's never met you. He loves you as much as he does his two sisters here with us. When I say I have three children, he is quick to remind me I really have four!

We love you our sweet daughter!  
Joe, Marie, Caleb, Audrey and Claire

*Michelle Grace Stockdale*  
*August 22—September 16, 2002*  
*CHD, Ebstein's Anomaly*  
*Parents: Joe and Marie Stockdale*  
*Siblings: Caleb, Audrey and Claire*



## Happy Birthday, Our Little Angels!

We miss you so much and how we wish that both of you would be here with us.

Love you and miss you so much,  
Mommy, Daddy, little sister Abby and little brother Victor Jr.

*Angelica Meza*  
*Stillborn July 1, 2000*  
*Cord Accident*  
*Andrea Meza*  
*August 3, 2001*  
*Premature at 22 weeks*  
*Parents: Victor and Elizabeth Meza*  
*Siblings: Abby and Victor Jr.*



## Happy 7th Birthday, Addie!

Addie, seven years have come and gone and it seems like yesterday that we held you and loved on you for a moment. My, has God taught us a lot through your little life.

Colin remembers to thank God for you each day in his prayers and Meg often wishes for the big sister that she never got to know. She is sure one day you will come down and play with her for a day. I assure her one day we will come to you and what a reunion that will be! Until then, wait for us and know that each day my heart longs for you, my beautiful one.

Love,  
Daddy, Mommy, Colin and Meg

*Addie Grace Metzger*  
*August 1, 2001*  
*Undiagnosed vasa previa*  
*Parents: Philip and Stephanie Metzger*  
*Siblings: Colin and Meg*



## Our Sweet Child, Matthias Paul

Oh, Matthias, you are so precious to us! You are always in our hearts, and as we look back to those sweet moments we had together three years ago, we still ache. But we also speak remember you with joy.

You have made our lives richer, you have blessed us in countless ways, you have been God's instrument of grace in our lives.

We dearly miss your presence here with us but rejoice to know we will join you one day around the throne of the Lamb.

You are loved, dear Matthias.  
Papa, Mama, Grace, Moses and Judah

*Matthias Paul Maily*  
*August 9-10, 2005*  
*Hypoxic-Ischemic Encephalopathy*  
*Parents: Richard & Melissa Maily*  
*Siblings: Grace, Moses and Judah*



## In Loving Memory



### **Colton Benjamin Ballmer**

Stillborn May 28, 2000  
Umbilical Cord Stenosis  
Parents: Jamieson and Regan Ballmer  
Little brother: Logan  
Given by grandparents  
Kathie and Gilbert Menough

### **Ty Colton John Barnhart**

Stillborn April 11, 2008  
Anencephaly / Premature due to  
Polyhydramnios  
Parents: Les and Michelle Barnhart  
Siblings: Clint, Kyle and Katie  
Given by great aunt and uncle  
Kathleen and Kenneth Scheve

### **Jordan Alexander Booker**

Stillborn January 11, 2007  
True Knot in Cord  
Parents: Norma Jordan & Mark Booker  
Given by mommy Norma Jordan

### **Olivia Kady Breazell**

Stillborn April 23, 2005  
Placental Abruption  
Mommy: Suzette Breazell  
Given by Nanette Argabrite

### **Julia Eileen Brown**

May 1, 2006  
Cord Accident  
Given by parents  
Spencer and Rachel Brown  
and little sister Sydney Elaine

### **Julia Eileen Brown**

May 1, 2006  
Cord Accident  
Parents: Rachel and Spencer Brown  
Sibling: Sydney Elaine  
Given by Jeffrey and Noelle Windsor

#### 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!**

### **Julia Eileen Brown**

May 1, 2006  
Cord Accident  
Parents: Rachel and Spencer Brown  
Sibling: Sydney Elaine  
Given by Short Benefit Services, Inc.

### **Julia Eileen Brown**

May 1, 2006  
Cord Accident  
Parents: Rachel and Spencer Brown  
Sibling: Sydney Elaine  
Given by Edward and Karen Beattie

### **Julia Eileen Brown**

May 1, 2006  
Cord Accident  
Parents: Rachel and Spencer Brown  
Sibling: Sydney Elaine  
Given by Lauren and Clay Fostel

### **Julia Eileen Brown**

May 1, 2006  
Cord Accident  
Parents: Rachel and Spencer Brown  
Sibling: Sydney Elaine  
Given by Kevin and Sandra Cofer

### **Julia Eileen Brown**

May 1, 2006  
Cord Accident  
Parents: Rachel and Spencer Brown  
Sibling: Sydney Elaine  
Given by Donna Stein

### **Julia Eileen Brown**

May 1, 2006  
Cord Accident  
Parents: Rachel and Spencer Brown  
Sibling: Sydney Elaine  
Given by Ivy and Todd Kuzdzal

### **Julia Eileen Brown**

May 1, 2006  
Cord Accident  
Parents: Rachel and Spencer Brown  
Sibling: Sydney Elaine  
Given by Matt and Julia Hershberger

### **Julia Eileen Brown**

May 1, 2006  
Cord Accident  
Parents: Rachel and Spencer Brown  
Sibling: Sydney Elaine  
Given by Viswanathan and Jennifer Aiyer

### **Sydney Lynne Brown**

May 18, 2000  
Cord Accident  
**Ashley MacKenzie Brown**  
May 18, 2001  
Antiphospholipid Antibodies Syndrome  
Given by parents Marilyn and Brian Brown  
and little brother Samuel

### **James Newton Cochran**

Stillborn May 18, 2007  
Cord Compression  
Parents: Sallie and Stuart Cochran  
Siblings: Betsy and Alice  
Given by Heather Fish

### **Abigail Grace Crump**

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

### **Abigail Grace Crump**

Stillborn July 1, 2003  
Trisomy 18  
Parents: Gerald and Jaimie Crump  
Little sisters: Cami and Karli  
Given by grandparents  
Russell and Rosemary Massey

### **Abigail Grace Crump**

Stillborn July 1, 2003  
Trisomy 18  
Parents: Gerald and Jaimie Crump  
Little sisters: Cami and Karli  
Given by Ryan and Amy Massey

### **Abigail Grace Crump**

Stillborn July 1, 2003  
Trisomy 18  
Parents: Gerald and Jaimie Crump  
Little sisters: Cami and Karli  
Given by Brian and Tara Murray

### **Abigail Grace Crump**

Stillborn July 1, 2003  
Trisomy 18  
Parents: Gerald and Jaimie Crump  
Little sisters: Cami and Karli  
Given by Ben Pickrel

### **Abigail Grace Crump**

Stillborn July 1, 2003  
Trisomy 18  
Parents: Gerald and Jaimie Crump  
Little sisters: Cami and Karli  
Given by George Reed

### **Abigail Grace Crump**

Stillborn July 1, 2003  
Trisomy 18  
Parents: Gerald and Jaimie Crump  
Little sisters: Cami and Karli  
Given by Adam and Jamie Savona

### **Abigail Grace Crump**

Stillborn July 1, 2003  
Trisomy 18  
Parents: Gerald and Jaimie Crump  
Little sisters: Cami and Karli  
Given by Tom and Alice Spencer

**Abigail Grace Crump**

Stillborn July 1, 2003  
Trisomy 18  
Parents: Gerald and Jaimie Crump  
Little sisters: Cami and Karli  
Given by Trisha and Mike Faherty

**Abigail Grace Crump**

Stillborn July 1, 2003  
Trisomy 18  
Parents: Gerald and Jaimie Crump  
Little sisters: Cami and Karli  
Given by great aunt and uncle  
Robin and David Smith  
Also given in loving memory of their  
son BJ Smith

**Abigail Grace Crump**

Stillborn July 1, 2003  
Trisomy 18  
Parents: Gerald and Jaimie Crump  
Little sisters: Cami and Karli  
Given by Craig and Barbara Weisinger

**Abigail Grace Crump**

Stillborn July 1, 2003  
Trisomy 18  
Parents: Gerald and Jaimie Crump  
Little sisters: Cami and Karli  
Given by Chuck and Lori Adam

**Abigail Grace Crump**

Stillborn July 1, 2003  
Trisomy 18  
Parents: Gerald and Jaimie Crump  
Little sisters: Cami and Karli  
Given by Brian and Carolyn Benandi

**Abigail Grace Crump**

Stillborn July 1, 2003  
Trisomy 18  
Parents: Gerald and Jaimie Crump  
Little sisters: Cami and Karli  
Given by Rocky and Linda Cates

**Abigail Grace Crump**

Stillborn July 1, 2003  
Trisomy 18  
Parents: Gerald and Jaimie Crump  
Little sisters: Cami and Karli  
Given by George and Rachel Fritz

**Riley and Parker Davis**

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

**Lawson T. Dody**

Stillborn June 8, 2006  
Cord Accident  
Parents: Aron and Blythe Dody  
Little brother: Landon  
Given by great-grandmother Elaine Fulton

**Kyler Paul English**

Stillborn January 20, 2006  
Cord Accident  
Given by parents Laurie and Bob English  
and brothers Justin, Kinser, Kelson,  
and Kayden

**Michael Garabedian, Jr.**

Stillborn February 2, 1998  
Cord Accident / Velamentous Cord  
Insertion

**Adam Michael Garabedian**

Stillborn July 25, 2001  
Cord Accident  
Parents: Mike and Cindy Garabedian  
Sisters: Victoria, Elizabeth, and Catherine  
Given by Garabedian Properties

**Elizabeth Gentry**

Stillborn August 24, 1996  
Cystic Hygroma and Anasarca

**Baby Gentry**

Miscarried May 10, 1997

**Meghan "Meggie" Elizabeth Gentry**

Kidney Abnormality  
June 3, 2001  
Given by parents Shary and John Gentry  
and siblings Alison and Mark

**Baby Goodwin 1**

Miscarried December 2001

**Baby Goodwin 2**

Miscarried October 2003  
Given by parents Lisa and Todd Goodwin  
Siblings: Truman and Jackson

**Baby Goodwin 1**

Miscarried December 2001

**Baby Goodwin 2**

Miscarried October 2003  
Parents: Lisa and Toddy Goodwin  
Siblings: Truman and Jackson  
Given by grandparents  
Roger and Sharon Dickson

**Baby Goodwin 1**

Miscarried December 2001

**Baby Goodwin 2**

Miscarried October 2003  
Parents: Lisa and Toddy Goodwin  
Siblings: Truman and Jackson  
Given by Diane and Chuck White

**Gift of Support**

Kevin and Dell Coutant

**Gift of Support**

West Conroe Baptist Church  
in Conroe, Texas

**Gift of Support**

Ashbury United Methodist Church  
of Tulsa, Oklahoma

**Erika Brienne Grau**

July 9 - August 3, 1997  
Anoxic Brain Injury due to Ruptured  
Uterus / VBAC  
Given by parents Ray and Yvette Grau  
and siblings Nikryan and Nataly

**Michael Edison Harding**

April 27 - October 19, 2001  
Immune Deficiency  
Given by parents Jeff and Larissa Hallford  
and siblings Danielle, Emily, and Kate

**Penn River Harding**

May 13 - September 24, 2007  
Parents: Brad and Tanya Harding  
Given by Larissa Hallford

**Molly Catherine Harper**

Stillborn May 18, 2007  
Unknown Cause  
Parents: Scott and Melanie Harper  
Siblings: Oliver and Mitchell  
Given by Angela Wilson

**Baby Henderson 1**

Miscarried August 2007

**Baby Henderson 2**

Miscarried March 2008  
Given by parents Collin and Leah Henderson  
and siblings Victoria, Kelly, and Riley

**James Jackson "Jack" Henry**

Stillborn July 4, 2001  
Tetralogy of Fallot  
**Baby Henry**  
Miscarried October 2003  
Parents: Chris and Renee Henry  
Siblings: Evan and Luke  
Given by grandparents  
Larry and Glenda McLeskey

**Matthew Shane Kennedy**

April 28, 2008  
Parents: Zac and Dawn Kennedy  
Given by Atlanta Church of Christ, Atlanta, TX

**Matthew Shane Kennedy**

April 28, 2008  
Parents: Zac and Dawn Kennedy  
Given by Bob and Kathy Valenta

**Kaitlynn Louisa Lara**

Stillborn October 21, 2007  
Given by parents  
Micaela Vela and Richard Lara

**Allison Marie Martinez**

December 13, 2005  
Cord Accident  
Given by parents  
Jesse and Margaret Suzanne Martinez

*Continued on page 8-9...*

In Loving Memory ... continued**Scarlett Lovejoy**

Stillborn November 24, 2006  
Unknown Cause  
Given by parents Emily and Jeff Lovejoy  
and little brother Benjamin

**Jonathan Daniel Mitchell**

Stillborn June 24, 1995  
Cord Accident

**Baby Mitchell**

Miscarried December 2001  
Given by parents  
Byron and Rebekah Mitchell  
and big brother Byron, Jr.

**Jonathan Daniel Mitchell**

Stillborn June 24, 1995  
Cord Accident

**Baby Mitchell**

Miscarried December 2001  
Parents: Byron and Rebekah Mitchell  
Big brother: Byron, Jr.  
Given by grandparents  
Dennis and Sue Brewer

**Ashley Nicole Muirhead**

Stillborn January 15, 2007  
Infection  
Parents: Craig and Daphne Muirhead  
Given by grandparents  
Bob and Cindy Muirhead Owens

**Christian Allen Scott**

June 1, 2005  
Bilateral Renal Agenesis

**Savannah Scott**

Miscarried January 7, 2003  
Given by parents Leonard and Mary Scott  
and siblings Lenny, Will, and Ariel

**Steven Wilson Shook**

Given by Larissa Hallford

**HazelAnne Noelle Sibley**

Stillborn August 16, 2006  
Olgohydrannios

**Twin Babies**

Miscarried July 11, 2002

**Sibley Baby**

Miscarried April 10, 2008  
Given by parents Emily and Joe Sibley  
Siblings: Aryana, Adelaide, and Joey

**Michelle Grace Stockdale**

August 22 – September 16, 2002  
Ebstein's Anomaly  
Given by parents Joe and Marie Stockdale  
and little siblings Caleb, Audrey, and Claire

**Mindy and Maggie Smith**

Stillborn November 4, 1997  
Twin to Twin Transfusion and  
Polyhydramnios  
Given by parents Scott and Karla Smith  
and little siblings Travis and Julia

**Aiden Shaw Vander Cruyssen**

October 2 – December 3, 2005  
Polycystic Kidney Disease  
Given by mommy Shane  
and little sister Cameron

**Alivia Elizabeth-Grace Walker**

July 24, 2006  
Incompetent Cervix  
Given by parents Robert and Liz Walker  
and little brother Jaxson

**Gift of Support**

Eric and Jill Marshall

**Elaine Kelly Wilson**

Stillborn February 28, 2000  
Unknown Cause  
Given by parents Brandy and Bryan Wilson  
and siblings Emma, Evelyn, Eli, Ezekiel, and  
Everett

**Elaine Kelly Wilson**

Stillborn February 28, 2000  
Unknown Cause  
Parents: Brandy and Bryan Wilson  
Siblings: Emma, Evelyn, Eli, Ezekiel, and  
Everett  
Given by Scott and Tiffany Bunker

**Elaine Kelly Wilson**

Stillborn February 28, 2000  
Unknown Cause  
Parents: Brandy and Bryan Wilson  
Siblings: Emma, Evelyn, Eli, Ezekiel, and  
Everett  
Given by Noel and Lynda Kersh

**Elaine Kelly Wilson**

Stillborn February 28, 2000  
Unknown Cause  
Parents: Brandy and Bryan Wilson  
Siblings: Emma, Evelyn, Eli, Ezekiel, and  
Everett  
Given by grandparents  
Roger and Sharon Dickson

**Elaine Kelly Wilson**

Stillborn February 28, 2000  
Unknown Cause  
Parents: Brandy and Bryan Wilson  
Siblings: Emma, Evelyn, Eli, Ezekiel, and  
Everett  
Given by Josh and Jill Betz

**Elaine Kelly Wilson**

Stillborn February 28, 2000  
Unknown Cause  
Parents: Brandy and Bryan Wilson  
Siblings: Emma, Evelyn, Eli, Ezekiel, and  
Everett  
Given by Rodney and Lisa Johnson

**Elaine Kelly Wilson**

Stillborn February 28, 2000  
Unknown Cause  
Parents: Brandy and Bryan Wilson  
Siblings: Emma, Evelyn, Eli, Ezekiel, and  
Everett  
Given by Diane and Chuck White

**Gift of Support**

Bobby and Heather Hart

**Shauna Elisabeth Winebrenner**

Stillborn April 12, 2003  
Trisomy 18  
Given by parents Tim and Sarah Winebrenner  
and siblings Saul and Ella

**Shauna Elisabeth Winebrenner**

Stillborn April 12, 2003  
Trisomy 18  
Parents: Tim and Sarah Winebrenner  
Siblings: Saul and Ella  
Given by grandparents  
Wayne and Susan Hanks

**Shauna Elisabeth Winebrenner**

Stillborn April 12, 2003  
Trisomy 18  
Parents: Tim and Sarah Winebrenner  
Siblings: Saul and Ella  
Given by Kyle and Chelsea Sherburne

**Shauna Elisabeth Winebrenner**

Stillborn April 12, 2003  
Trisomy 18  
Parents: Tim and Sarah Winebrenner  
Siblings: Saul and Ella  
Given by Anna Hanks

**Shauna Elisabeth Winebrenner**

Stillborn April 12, 2003  
Trisomy 18  
Parents: Tim and Sarah Winebrenner  
Siblings: Saul and Ella  
Given by great aunt and uncle  
Jessica and Jimmy Winebrenner

**Shauna Elisabeth Winebrenner**

Stillborn April 12, 2003  
Trisomy 18  
Parents: Tim and Sarah Winebrenner  
Siblings: Saul and Ella  
Given by Todd and Tiffany Way



**A.J. Zuckerman**

Stillborn March 30, 2007

Cord Accident

Parents: Al and Amber Zuckerman

Little brother: Eli

Given by Jane Gartenhaus

**A.J. Zuckerman**

Stillborn March 30, 2007

Cord Accident

Parents: Al and Amber Zuckerman

Little brother: Eli

Given by Jennifer Hutcherson

**A.J. Zuckerman**

Stillborn March 30, 2007

Cord Accident

Parents: Al and Amber Zuckerman

Little brother: Eli

Given by Jeannine Calhoun

**Gift of Support**Metropolitan Baptist Church  
of Houston, Texas**Gift of Support**

United Way of Denton County

## *A Mother's Memories*

On the topic of "keeping your baby's memory alive," I'd like to suggest a few things that I've done.

I made a scrapbook for Matthias, because it was too hard for me to keep the baby book I started for him while I was pregnant. All the blank pages that were meant to be filled in with information about his life here on earth were just too heart-wrenching to look at.

Instead, I kept the things I wrote while pregnant and put them into a scrapbook. Because Matthias lived for 36 hours, I had some memorabilia from his short life, that I also put into his scrapbook, along with many of the cards we received after his death.

Of course I included pictures of him, scripture verses, song lyrics and poems, and special notes we wrote for him. I also wrote out my remembrances of his birth and short life because I don't want to forget those precious hours with him.

I have been able to add to his scrapbook over the last three years with cards I've received on the anniversaries of his birth and death, poems I've come across, and other special items. His big sister writes notes to him frequently, and I always save them in his scrapbook.

Matthias' scrapbook has become a treasure to us, and also a way to share him with close friends and family.

Friends we've made since his death have been blessed to look at his scrapbook and get to know our first son, about whom they otherwise would know very little.

One other thing we do as a family is to hang a small stocking up for Matthias at Christmas time. A family tradition of ours is to write a letter to each member in the family and place them in each other's stockings. So my husband, oldest daughter and I all write a note to Matthias expressing our love for him. (The youngest two boys are not yet old enough to do this, but we hope they will want to participate in the years to come, even though they were both born after Matthias died.) This is a special way to remember our the sweet child we miss and love.

Here is the note I wrote for Matthias' stocking last year:

Dear Matthias,

Your name means "Gift of God," and so it is fitting to write this little note about God's gifts and remember you.

When I think about the miracle of God becoming a baby, I remember you, so helpless and tiny, lying in my arms, and I am amazed! God was a baby, just like you in many ways.

I am also thankful for the many ways God blessed us through you. We love you so much, sweet Matthias, and miss you this Christmas and always.

We are awaiting our Lord's coming with eager anticipation, but you are with Him already. We can't wait to join you around the throne!

With love, Mama

♥ *Melissa Mailly*

*Mommy of Matthias Paul Mailly, August 9-10, 2005*

### Upcoming Events

*October 4*

- Walk To Remember in Irving, TX

*October 11*

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

*December 6*

- M.E.N.D. - Houston Christmas Ceremony

*December 8*

- M.E.N.D. - Texarkana Christmas Ceremony

*December 9*

- Christmas Ceremony in Irving, TX
- M.E.N.D. - NW Arkansas Christmas Ceremony



## M.E.N.D. Chapter Corner

### Chapter Meeting Information

#### M.E.N.D. - NW Arkansas

Meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday from 6:30—8:00 p.m.  
Jones Center for Families, Room 206,  
922 East Emma Avenue,  
Springdale, AR 72765  
Director: April Moreton  
April@mend.org, (479) 524-3500

#### M.E.N.D. - Kansas

Meets the 2nd Thursday, 7:00 p.m.  
at Cora Miller Hall/Newman  
Division of Nursing, Room 107  
1127 Chestnut, Emporia, KS 66801  
Director: Stephanie Metzger  
Stephanie@mend.org., (620) 343-6357

#### M.E.N.D. - Houston

Meets the 3rd Thursday, 7:30 p.m.  
HEALTHSOUTH Houston  
Rehabilitation Institute  
17506 Red Oak Drive, Houston, TX 77090  
Director: Jaimie Crump  
Jaimie@mend.org, (281) 374-8528  
**Subsequent pregnancy group  
and daddies group meet regularly.**  
Contact Sarah Winebrenner for meeting times  
(swinebrenner2004@yahoo.com).

#### M.E.N.D. - Georgia

Offers peer support via phone and email contact.  
Director: Marie Stockdale  
Marie@mend.org, (678) 634-3686

#### M.E.N.D. - Texarkana

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

#### M.E.N.D. - Nacogdoches

Meets the 2nd Thursday at 7:30 p.m.  
The Badders Law Firm  
4002 North St., Nacogdoches, TX 75961  
Director: Lori De La Torre  
Lori@mend.org, (936) 569-1739

#### M.E.N.D. - Hill Country

Meets the 1st Thursday at 7:00 p.m.  
Gillespie County Historical Society Building  
312 W. San Antonio St.  
Fredericksburg, TX 78624  
Director: Larissa Hallford  
Larissa@mend.org, (830) 456-4178

#### 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  
Michele Wilson  
michele@mend.org, (918) 694-4325 (HEAL)

## M.E.N.D. Chapter Updates

### *NW Arkansas*

It's humbling to consider that the Northwest Arkansas chapter is now in its fourth year of existence. When Rebekah and I began discussing a chapter in this area and I began inviting other moms to participate in the chapter's founding, I had no idea how God would use those initial steps to reach out to hurting moms and dads. We meet in the busiest area of the growing northwest Arkansas region, and have been featured extensively in the local media. We've hosted two beautiful Christmas Candlelight Ceremonies and a phenomenal fundraiser. And the initial drive for me? Keeping the memories of my sweet babies in heaven alive. Our first three babies may be gone from this earth, but serving in M.E.N.D. helps me to honor their memories.

*April Moreton*

### *Kansas*

We sadly continue to have new members in our group and reach out to the community. Our next big event will be the Candlelight Ceremony in December and our Bunco Bash in January.

*Stephanie Metzger*

### *Houston*

We just wrapped up our annual Texas Hold'em Fundraiser with great success. Thank you to everyone who played and were so generous with your contributions. Thanks also to those who helped coordinate the event: Rachel Brown, Emily Lovejoy, Shane Vander Cruysen, Sarah Winebrenner, Brandy Wilson her mom, Sharon Dickson and my parents, Russ and Rosemary Massey. Congratulations to Daphne Muirhead, M.E.N.D. member, who won the tournament! We are now looking forward to helping out with the Houston Medical Center's "A Life to Remember" on September 27<sup>th</sup> and start the planning for our Walk to Remember on October 11.

*Jaimie Crump*

### *Georgia*

The Atlanta Chapter continues to minister to hurting families through email and by phone. It is our prayer that God will once again open the door to resume our support group meetings. Please pray about ministry opportunities available through M.E.N.D.-Georgia. If you feel led to apply as a chapter leader or assistant, please email Rebekah@mend.org or Marie@mend.org for more information or call Rebekah Mitchell at 972-506-9000.

*Marie Stockdale*

### *Texarkana*

God continues to use the testimonies and experiences of our group to minister to hurting families in our area. I look forward to another year to see how God will use M.E.N.D.—Texarkana to reconcile broken hearts.

*Monica Davis*

### *Nacogdoches*

Families are receiving comfort and encouragement in beautiful ways as members reach out to each other with the comfort they themselves have received from God.

*Lori De La Torre*

### *Hill Country*

The Hill Country Chapter is ministering to many families on the phone and email. I am praying for assistants to help me run M.E.N.D.—Hill Country. The community of Fredericksburg continues to support our group with prayers, sponsorships, and help spreading the word about our chapter.

*Larissa Hallford*

### *Tulsa*

M.E.N.D.—Tulsa is still in the infant stages of development, but progress is being made. We owe many thanks to News on 6 for giving M.E.N.D.—Tulsa some coverage and placing interviews and an article on their Web site as well as the M.E.N.D. Web site link. This has helped to get the word out. I remain forever indebted to all the assistants and their spouses who took time out on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend to help with the news segment. You all are the best, and without you, M.E.N.D.—Tulsa would not make it.

*Michele Wilson*

## *A Scrapbook for Alivia*

by Liz Walker

When you lose a child by miscarriage, stillbirth or neonatal death your memories of that child are very few. They are precious memories you will remember for a lifetime, you hope.

I remember the day Alivia came and went into the arms of Jesus but, not every detail. I was told very early in our grief to write down everything I could remember, because as the days, months and years passed your memory would begin to fade on several of the details of that day and the days after.

“You become angry with yourself for not remembering this or that detail,” my friend had said. I thought I would never forget any detail, but needless to say, I have.

Grief affects certain memories in your brain for some reason. I took my friend’s advice and wrote down everything I could about that day, the service and the days after. I took all I had written and created a scrapbook for our little girl, which is so special to us. This scrapbook gives us comfort and allows God to be glorified in our testimonies.

Alivia’s memory is kept alive because we use her name very often. People may look at you strangely if you do that, but be proud of your child.

We became pregnant with our subsequent baby in August 2007. From the very beginning I thought of how we would have to change the nursery and what we would do with Alivia’s things. We did not want to pack them away, never to be seen again.

We wanted to make sure people were not thinking our new baby was a replacement for her. We love her and would never try to replace her. We looked at our home to determine what area of the house we wanted her items to be in. We finally agreed on a bookshelf next to our fireplace where her items could be on display for all to see. This allows all to see that Alivia’s life is a testimony and gives glory to God. Finding ways to glorify God is the only way for our children’s memories to be kept alive.

### *You Will Be Remembered*

by Judith Bulock Morse

You will be remembered when the  
flowers bloom in spring.

In the summertime remembered  
In the fun that summer brings.

You will be remembered when fall  
brings leaves of gold

In the wintertime, remembered in  
the stories that are old.

And you will be remembered each  
day right from the start.

For the memories that we once  
shared

Forever live within my heart.

*Submitted by Liz Walker*

*Mommy of Alivia Elizabeth-Grace*

*July 24, 2006*

*Incompetent Cervix*

*Sibling: Jaxson*

### **M.E.N.D. *Support Group Meetings***

Join us for a time of sharing experiences.

#### **M.E.N.D. main chapter meetings**

are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month  
from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

#### **Daddies group**

meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of  
March, June, Sept. and Dec., 7:30—9:00 p.m.  
*A time for dads to meet together and discuss topics  
relevant to them as fathers. Our moms and dads  
meet together for introductions before dividing into  
two groups for discussion.*

#### **Food and Fellowship**

*A time to relax and meet with other M.E.N.D.  
parents in a social setting*  
Contact Brittney Fish: [Brittney@mend.org](mailto:Brittney@mend.org)

#### **Subsequent pregnancy group**

meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Led by Melissa Stephens:

[Melissa@mend.org](mailto:Melissa@mend.org)

*For families who are considering becoming preg-  
nant or are currently pregnant after a loss.*

#### **Playgroup**

*For families with children born prior to or  
subsequent to a loss. Meeting at various locations.*

Contact Mary Steen or Brandee Dill for more  
info: [Mary\\_Steen@hotmail.com](mailto:Mary_Steen@hotmail.com)  
or [dillsforchrist@yahoo.com](mailto:dillsforchrist@yahoo.com)

**Mommies AND daddies are both welcome  
at all M.E.N.D. meetings.**

#### **All main chapter support group meetings are held at:**

**Suggs Law Firm**

**1522 W. Airport Freeway, Suite 200  
Irving, TX 75062**

(Located on the south side of the highway,  
Between MacArthur Boulevard  
and Story Road)

For more information, call (972) 506-9000.

#### **Infertility group**

Meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday from 7:30—9:00 p.m.

Led by Melissa Stephens:

[Melissa@mend.org](mailto:Melissa@mend.org)

*For families experiencing infertility after a loss.*

## Keeping Erika's Memory Alive

by Yvette Grau, Mommy of Eirka Brianne, July 9—August 3, 1997

As we approach Erika's 11th birthday and anniversary I reminisce back to her previous years' memorials and remembrances of these and other events. Each birth date, anniversary, milestone or significant moment has been special in its own way. Sadly, I find that as each year approaches time seems to contribute to the emotional disconnect that I find most have toward this very emotional event in my life.

Respectfully, I've accepted that I am, for the most part, alone with my memories of my sweet girl after almost 11 years. I've also realized that my love would never diminish for her but that because of my unique and individual journey through her grief, it would naturally mean that each milestone, birthday, anniversary or unexpected emotional moment was going to be felt and celebrated differently.

Some of the initial things I did were not planned in any which way or form. In fact, some of the things that I've kept up are a result of unconscious actions I did during those first 18 months after her death, like journaling. Unbeknownst to me in my state of mind, I actually recorded every detail of her 26 living days in a journal, followed by a detailed day-to-day journal for the entire first year. At her first year birthday/anniversary I decided I would journal every year for those 26 days to record exactly where I was and where I've come to be. I was blessed to be with my baby for 26 days. These 26 days each year are sacred to me even after almost 11 years. As each year approaches I continue to do some of the things I did back 11 years ago, as well as some new special things that are specific to a certain year or event. For example:

- I light a candle on her birthday around the time she was born and keep it lit for 26 days. On her anniversary I blow it out around the time she died.
- We request a dedicated mass service in her name/memory on her birthday and anniversary.
- After service, we go to the cemetery and leave her flowers and have a sweet peaceful morning with her. In addition to her fresh flowers, I have also had a silk replica made of the spray of flowers that was draped over her casket. This arrangement is left at the cemetery for 26 days. On her anniversary, I usually spend the afternoon and watch the sunset. It's usually a beautiful and peaceful time that allows me to spend time with memories of my daughter and with my heavenly Father. I then remove the flower arrangement and put it away until the next year.
- I try to write an article or some special words about Erika for the M.E.N.D. July/August newsletter.

More recently I realized that for me, celebrating my living children's five-year birthday was a big deal. Even bigger was my son's tenth birthday, the first year of double digits! Long before Erika's tenth birthday approached I could sense the overwhelming sadness that was enveloping me. I would not be planning her surprise birthday party like I did for NikRyan. Who would even really remember that it was ten years ago when so many had walked by our side?

In the midst of my sadness, I decided to plan for a special and unique celebration, and I wanted to include these same friends and family to join me. I wrote a letter describing all the blessings that had resulted from Erika's passing and shared some leaps and bounds I'd taken in my grief and in my faith. I also ordered custom-made soft lavender silicone bracelets with Erika's name, birthday and anniversary date. I sent the letters attached with a bracelet for each family member. I invited them to join me in wearing the bracelet to commemorate her 26 days of life as we remembered her for her tenth birthday. Although subconsciously I was doing this more to fulfill my own desire of keeping her memory alive, I found that each and everyone who received the letter and bracelet was honored to be invited to wear the bracelet. It was the perfect way to celebrate Erika's tenth birthday.

Now 11 years later I must say that initially during grief it was about recording and remembering each second by second, each day by day and each thought that crossed my mind all of which are forever engraved in my mind. Then it transitioned very slowly to each month, each year and every milestone.

Along the memory journey, no doubt, there are always unexpected memories to keep alive, and there will continue to be more "firsts" to face, each of which will be celebrated and remembered in just the most appropriate way. With my faith and journey forward, I will continue to celebrate and commemorate her memory in all the old ways along with some new ways to come. Whether it be outwardly or with quiet thoughts of her in my mind, all will be special and sufficient for me to keep her memory alive. This year, I don't quite know what I'll do, but whatever it is, I know it will be perfectly planned for her.

♥ Erika, remembering you always Love, Mom

**M.E.N.D.—Houston would like to thank the following sponsors of our 3rd Annual Texas Hold'em Tournament:**

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| • Ace Hardware, Louetta @ Grant         | • Francesca's Collections               | • Marchelle Howard, Mary Kay             |
| • Angie Weiss, Arbonne                  | • George & Rachel Fritz                 | • Metropolitan Baptist Church            |
| • Ben Pickrel, CCS Presentation Systems | • Houston Astros                        | • Plants for All Seasons                 |
| • Best Buy, FM 1960 W                   | • Houston Dynamos                       | • Roger & Sharon Dickson                 |
| • Billiard Factory                      | • Jamie Savona, CABI                    | • Shane Vander Cruyssen                  |
| • Bo Sherer                             | • Jean Wallwin                          | • Starbucks, Kuykendahl @ Woodlands Pkwy |
| • Brian & Caroline Benandi              | • Jeni Plummer, Homemade Gourmet Basket | • The Salon                              |
| • Brian & Tara Murray                   | • Kevin Walker                          | • Tony Dupre'                            |
| • Carrie Morrison, Bliss Gifts          | • Kim Sharp, Homemade Gourmet           | • Trisha & Mike Faherty                  |
| • Craig Soudelier, Advantage Baseball   | • Lady Luck Hair Salon                  | • Urban Retreat Day Spa                  |
| • Denice Foose                          | • Lisa Johnson, JAG Photography         | • Valley Ranch                           |
|   | • Longwood Golf Club                    | • Weingarten Realty                      |
|   | • Lupe Tortilla                         | • YMCA—Cypress Creek                     |



## *Subsequent Births*

**Bryan and Brandy Wilson**  
of Tomball, Texas,  
along with big siblings Emma,  
Evelyn and Eli,  
announce the adoption  
consummation of little brothers  
Ezekiel "Zeke" (5 yrs) and  
Everett (1.5 yrs),  
on May 27, 2008.  
The Wilsons lovingly remember  
Elaine Kelly,  
stillborn February 28, 2000,  
unknown cause.

**Jennifer and TJ Forner**  
of Fairview, Texas,  
joyfully announce the arrival of  
Annabelle "Bella" Ellen,  
born May 21, 2008,  
measuring 7 lb., 9 oz.  
and 19 inches long.  
The Forners remember  
James,  
January 5, 2007,  
cord accident,  
Baby Forner 1,  
miscarried May 2007  
Baby Forner 2,  
miscarried June 2007.

**James and Angie Graves**  
of Fayetteville, Arkansas,  
along with  
big brother Charlie,  
joyfully announce the birth of  
Henry James,  
born April 30, 2008,  
measuring 6 lb., 1 oz.  
and 19 inches long.  
The Graves lovingly remember  
Jackson Lee,  
October 12, 2004 —  
February 19, 2005,  
from complications due  
to omphalocele,  
and Cydney,  
miscarried November 17, 2005.

**Kevin and Robyn Andersen**  
of Spring, Texas,  
along with big siblings Faith, Hope,  
and Benjamin,  
joyfully announce the arrival of  
Joy Marie,  
born May 14, 2008,  
measuring 5 lb., 6 oz.  
and 19 inches long.  
The Andersens lovingly remember  
Caleb Eugene,  
stillborn January 6, 2006.

**Liz and Robert Walker**  
of North Richland Hills, Texas,  
announce the safe arrival of  
Jaxson,  
born April 23, 2008,  
measuring 6 lb., 4 oz.  
and 20 1/2 inches long.  
The Walkers lovingly remember  
Alivia Elizabeth-Grace,  
stillborn July 24, 2006,  
incompetent cervix.

**Mark and Melissa Bloom**  
of Fort Worth, Texas,  
joyfully announce the arrival of  
Macy Allison Brooke,  
born May 20, 2008,  
measuring 8 lb., 1 oz.  
and 20 inches long.  
The Blooms always remember  
Molly Grace,  
stillborn February 17, 2007,  
unknown cause.

**Sallie and Stuart Cochran**  
of Dallas, Texas,  
are overjoyed to announce the  
adoption  
of their twin girls  
Elizabeth "Betsy" Frost and  
Alice Sellers Cochran,  
born May 20, 2008,  
and placed in their arms on  
June 10, 2008.  
The Cochrans lovingly remember  
James Newton,  
stillborn May 18, 2007,  
cord compression.

**Brandon and Ashley Hoffman**  
of Fort Worth, Texas,  
joyfully announce the arrival of  
Parker Warren,  
born June 7, 2008,  
measuring 7 lb., 2 oz.  
and 19 3/4 inches long.  
The Hoffmans lovingly remember  
Lily,  
stillborn April 24, 2007,  
cord accident

**Troy and D'Anna Sims**  
of Hurst, Texas,  
along with big brother Jacob,  
joyfully announce the arrival of  
Julia Grace,  
born May 26, 2008,  
measuring 8 lb., 1 oz.  
and 18 1/2 inches long.  
The Sims lovingly remember  
Jordan Marie,  
stillborn November 10, 2006,  
unknown cause.

**William and Noel Giger**  
of Little Elm, Texas,  
along with siblings  
Calvin and Jordan,  
joyfully announce the birth of  
Gavin Robert,  
born June 5, 2008,  
measuring 7 lb., 10 oz.  
and 20 1/2 inches long.  
The Gigers lovingly remember  
Ian Wesley,  
August 3 - November 5, 2006,  
SIDS,  
and Baby Giger,  
February 2007,  
ectopic pregnancy.

**Richard and Melissa Mailly,**  
of St. Paul, Minnesota,  
along with siblings  
Grace and Moses,  
happily announce the birth  
Judah Michael,  
born February 19th, 2008  
measuring 8 lb., 9 oz.  
and 20 inches long.  
The Maillys fondly remember  
Matthias Paul,  
August 9-10, 2005.

*Son Above**by Michelle Russell*

I held you round for nine months tight  
And what a very sweet delight

You brought us closer  
You brought more love  
My sweet son who's up above

You were my little man, my angel,  
The son I always dreamed of

You left so fast  
But so peaceful in sleep  
It hurts so deep

God bless you son,  
My only son  
My sweet son who's up above

To my Dearest Maxwell  
In remembrance of your  
one-year memorial  
leaving our arms...but not our hearts.

*Maxwell Parker Russell*  
*December 19, 2007- June 5, 2008*  
*S.I.D.S.*  
*Parents: Parker and Michele Russell*  
*Big Sister: Madison*

*Remembering Through Poetry**Both by Summer Williamson**Little Man Our Angel*

My little man is gone.  
I feel my heart has left me too.  
Where I use to hold him so close to me,  
I now feel so empty.  
The Lord has taken him from me and John  
And to heaven I know his soul flew.  
One day I know I will see him there.  
But right now this knowledge is not enough.  
Dear God please take care of my son.  
You are now his parents our job is done.  
Help me to remember that you Lord are just  
and fair.  
Help me to know that you are there when life  
is rough.  
I am not sure what do now.  
Where does one begin from the end?  
What future lies ahead of me?  
Children? Can I have more?  
Could I love another as he?  
Answers to these questions could help me  
begin to live more freely.  
Until then all I can do is let my heart mend.  
Never forgetting my little Matthias  
And always letting his angels guide me.  
I Love You Matthias.

*Matthias Swithin Williamson*  
*September 11, 2001—March 14, 2002*  
*Spinal Muscular Atrophy*

*For a Season, Autumn*

For a season I held you.  
For a season you smiled.  
For a season I had you.  
Forever my child.  
Autumn, my love, in my  
Heart you will stay beautiful  
And strong in spirit.  
I'll never forget you not  
For a season not for a minute.  
So many lives you have  
Touched and changed.  
Your memory a hope, a light  
In a world deranged.  
You came to this world a miracle,  
Like every new life it is true.  
But in passing there too  
You were a miracle letting Christ's  
Love shine through.  
Autumn's season may have  
Passed but it is in our memories  
Where her love's beauty  
Will forever last.

*Autumn Lily Williamson*  
*August 1, 2006—January 3, 2007*  
*Spinal Muscular Atrophy*  
*Parents: John and Summer Williamson*  
*Sibling: Thaddeus Cole*

*Keepsake Resources*

There are several resources available on the M.E.N.D. Web site for remembering your babies. Some items include:

- Remembrance stuffed animals
- Birthstone jewelry
- Portraits and artist sketches
- Scrapbooking memory kits
- Touch-ups for infant photos
- Greeting cards
- Miscarriage items

For a complete list of items and links to additional Web sites, visit [www.mend.org](http://www.mend.org) and select Keepsake Items from the Resources section.

*Suggestions from the Editor*

Over the years, we've implemented a number of ways to remember Caleb and August. I hope they'll help you with your traditions.

- I wear a bracelet with Caleb's initials.
- I completed Caleb's baby book from finding out I was pregnant through his headstone at the cemetery.
- I made "birth" announcements to commemorate his first heavenly birthday and mailed them to our friends and family with reply cards asking for their thoughts about how Caleb's short life touched theirs. We read them on his birthday.
- We have a family portrait on our mantle from the Angel Lady (see M.E.N.D. resources).
- Each year—and only once a year—I bake "Caleb's Eggnog Cheesecake" to have on his birthday.
- I talk about both of my babies in heaven whenever I can and I use their names. I also expect others to use their names.
- At Christmas we have a stocking and small special tree with ornaments from the M.E.N.D. walk and others with Caleb's name.

### Walk to Remember T-Shirt Order Form

*Deadline is September 1 (no exceptions).*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City : \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ -

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ - - E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Monogram: (ex. Celia Jones Remembering Jason Alexander)

Select Quantity Per Size: Adults: S M L XL XXL Kids: XS (2-4) S (6-8) M (10-12) L (14-16)

Check here if you will be picking up your t-shirt:

Check if you would like your t-shirt shipped to you:

**Payment Info:**

Make checks payable to M.E.N.D. Credit Card orders are now accepted:

Type of Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Tax rates differ for Dallas and Houston. Prices below **INCLUDE** tax.

**DALLAS Monogrammed:** # of shirts \_\_\_\_\_ x \$17.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

**DALLAS:** # of shirts \_\_\_\_\_ x \$12.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

**HOUSTON Monogrammed:** # of shirts \_\_\_\_\_ x \$16.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

**HOUSTON:** # of shirts \_\_\_\_\_ x \$11.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Postage & Handling (\$3 per order **ONLY** for those orders being shipped) = \_\_\_\_\_

**Total \$** \_\_\_\_\_

*Orders for the Irving, Texas Walk: return to M.E.N.D. P.O. Box 1007, Coppell, TX 75019*

*Orders for the Houston, Texas Walk: return to M.E.N.D. 13121 Louetta Rd., #505, Cypress, TX 77429*

### ***Walk to Remember Sponsorship Opportunities***

Each October M.E.N.D. hosts a Walk to Remember, which is a ceremony that honors and commemorates our babies. This year M.E.N.D. will host two ceremonies: one in Irving (DFW Metroplex) and one in Houston. The Irving Walk will be held Saturday, October 4 at 2 p.m. at Calvary Church. The Houston Walk will be held October 11 at 3 p.m. at Metropolitan Baptist Church in Houston. Reservations are requested for each.

These events require months of planning, thousands of dollars, and are only made possible by generous donations/sponsors. If you would like to help M.E.N.D. in this way, here's how you can help:

1. A monetary donation. For gifts of \$25 or more, your name will be listed on the back of the program and in the November/December newsletter. Donations can be given by you individually or if you own or work for a business, please consider donating as a corporation. Be sure to put "Walk Sponsorship" in the memo of the check.
2. FOR DALLAS WALK ONLY. Raffle item(s). We have a raffle to offset our expenses. If you work for a company that would be willing to donate something, please consider asking. This year we are requesting that ALL raffle items be valued at no less than \$25. Items usually include movie tickets, tickets to sports events, airline tickets, hotel gift certificates, restaurant gift certificates, electronics, etc.

To be included in the program, all monies and items must be received **no later than September 1**. For questions or to register for the Dallas Walk, contact Rebekah Mitchell at [rebekah@mend.org](mailto:rebekah@mend.org). To register for the Houston Walk, contact Jaimie Crump at [jaimie@mend.org](mailto:jaimie@mend.org).

M.E.N.D. Mommies Enduring Neonatal Death  
 P.O. Box 1007, Coppell, TX 75019  
 USA  
 (972) 506-9000  
*Return Service Requested*

Nonprofit Organization U.S. Postage Paid Coppell, TX 75019 Permit No. 139
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*“... that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God” (2 Corinthians 1:4)*

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### M.E.N.D. Fundraisers

*As a non-profit organization, M.E.N.D. is funded solely by private donations and fundraisers. Any assistance you can give us by participating in any or all of these fundraisers is greatly appreciated.*

- **Kroger grocery stores** donate a percentage of all purchases of those shoppers in Texas and Louisiana who have their Kroger Plus Card linked to M.E.N.D. To link your card, contact Rebekah (Rebekah@mend.org) to obtain the Kroger Customer Letter. You must only present this letter one time to link your card to M.E.N.D.
- **Tom Thumb** also has a program in Texas that can benefit M.E.N.D. If you have a Tom Thumb Reward Card, please ask your Tom Thumb cashier to link your card with M.E.N.D. Our number is **6265**. Reward cards can also be used at Randalls and Simon David stores.
- **Glenn Martin** is looking for M.E.N.D. families willing to grant space for small gumball machines in order to raise funds for M.E.N.D. If you have a retail business or connections to a high traffic location in the Grapevine, Southlake, or metroplex area, Glenn will place, stock, and service the equipment and give M.E.N.D. 35 percent of the proceeds. Glenn can be contacted at (817) 874-5366 or [glmartin@attg.net](mailto:glmartin@attg.net).
- M.E.N.D. can now earn funds through **i.think inc.**, an online marketing research firm. You can help by signing up as a survey panel member and designating us as the recipient of your fee. Just go to the Web site at <http://www.ithink.inc.com> and choose "Sign up to become an i.think inc. panel member." Fill out the sign-up survey. Under the "Funds for Charity" section, select M.E.N.D. from the list of names.
- **Little Beads & Macaroni & Cheese**, owned by M.E.N.D. member Marilyn Brown, offers custom jewelry. Her keepsake angel bracelets are \$20 each, and ten percent of each angel bracelet sale will be donated to M.E.N.D. Marilyn can be reached at 817/996-1920 or [msbrown16@hotmail.com](mailto:msbrown16@hotmail.com).
- **IBM employees** may now make charitable donations to M.E.N.D. through automatic payroll deductions. Choose Charity Code 0M562 from the *IBM Employee/Retiree Approved Charity List*.
- **GoodSearch.com** is a search engine that donates half its revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Powered by Yahoo!, it is used like any other search engine. To earn money for M.E.N.D. using Goodsearch.com, go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and designate M.E.N.D. as your charity of choice.
- **Ebay** has a charitable giving program that can benefit M.E.N.D. If you sell items on Ebay and would like to designate a percentage of your revenue to M.E.N.D., visit [www.missionfish.org](http://www.missionfish.org) to find out how.