



# M. E. N. D.

Mommies Enduring Neonatal Death

## Celebrating Life...

## By Being Moms and Dads

### “Thanks for Making Me a Mom!”

During my early years of motherhood, I developed a tradition with my husband on Mother’s Day and Father’s Day. On Mother’s Day, Byron took over most of the parental duties in caring for our little son, Byron, Jr., and on Father’s Day, I reciprocated. I viewed those Sundays as well-deserved days off.

On my first Mother’s Day as a grieving mom, nearly one year had passed since the stillbirth of my baby, Jonathan. That particular year, it wasn’t that I wanted a day off; I pretty much required one just to cope with the overwhelming sadness of not having both of my sons with me. By the next year, my perspective of Mother’s Day had changed. I decided I did not want or need a day off that day. Instead, I found that I deeply desired to do everything for and with my young son. I needed to actively be a mom that day. I further started a new tradition that when he tells me, “Happy Mother’s Day,” I reply with, “Thanks for making me a mom.” And I truly mean that. I came incredibly close to losing him when he was born, Jonathan was stillborn, and our third child was miscarried. If it weren’t for Byron, Jr., I would not have the joy and privilege of having a child on earth to raise.

I feel I view and observe Mother’s Day with different eyes than moms who have never experienced a loss or have never suffered with fertility issues. So many women, in my opinion, feel they are entitled to great honor and allegiance, instead of being thankful and grateful that they get to be a mom. Many women take the beautiful gift of motherhood for granted, and admittedly, I’m sure I did, too, before I lost Jonathan. The death of Jonathan taught me to cherish every day, every event, and every milestone we get to experience with our now 20-year-old son, who is a sophomore in college. We never missed a ball game, never missed a band performance, we continue to take advantage of every opportunity to be a part of his life in any capacity, and we still make big to-dos over his birthdays. We realized years ago that we only get one shot at raising a child, and we want to make sure we do it with no regrets.

So really, every day is Mother’s Day for me. I am immeasurably grateful for my three children. Although two of them were born into their heavenly home, I remain their mother and am thankful beyond words that they each made me a mom!

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

### *New Online Magazine: Still Standing*

Several Houston area M.E.N.D. members participated in a photo shoot over Easter weekend to help launch the new online magazine. Our mission is to reach anyone and everyone who has experienced the loss of a child, or is struggling with infertility. Our goal is to inspire healing, in spite of loss and infertility and to share the voices of women through articles on how to deal with all the life situations that happen after losing a baby- including topics like helping children through grief, taking care of your own body, going back to work after loss and so much more. Here are some ways to get involved:

- Guest Post - please follow the Facebook page for submissions and opening
- Blog Link Up on sharing your place in grief each month
- Submit posts of your own to be featured in the “Featured Blogs” section

To sign up for the newsletter: <http://eepurl.com/kpmZn>

Website: <http://stillstandingmag.com> Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/StillStandingMAG>

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

Para ver el artículo de este mes en español, por favor vea la página número 19.

Volume 17, Issue 3 • May/June 2012

© Copyright 2012 M.E.N.D.

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

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

M.E.N.D.

P.O. Box 631566

Irving, TX 75063

Phone and Fax: (972) 506-9000

(Please call before faxing)

E-Mail: rebekah@mend.org

jennifer@mend.org

Donations make the printing and distribution of this newsletter possible. Your tax-deductible contributions are greatly appreciated and should be sent to the address listed above. If your gift is made in memory of a baby, please include that baby's name (if named), date of birth and/or date of death, the parents' names, and the name of the benefactor. You may also include the cause of death (if known).

#### M.E.N.D. Board of Directors

Rebekah Mitchell

Byron Mitchell, D.D.S.

DaLana Barsanti

Brittney Fish

Shannon Outen

Brandee Dill

Marilyn Brown

Amber Zuckerman

#### State Coordinators/Chapter Directors

M.E.N.D.—Dallas: Rebekah Mitchell

M.E.N.D.—Houston: Jaimie Crump

M.E.N.D.—Texarkana: Monica Davis

M.E.N.D.—Tulsa: Lisa Daily

M.E.N.D.—SW Missouri: Heather Fann

M.E.N.D.—Bryan/College Station:

Jennie Drude

M.E.N.D.—Amarillo: Becky Anderson

M.E.N.D.—NW Washington: Susan Crow

M.E.N.D.—Hot Springs: Amy Humphries

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

#### Advisory Board

Yvette Grau, Melissa Stephens, Paula Schear,

Liz Walker, Cheryl Davis and Calli Stanley

#### Medical Advisor

Gonzalo Venegas, M.D.

#### General Counsel

Dennis G. Brewer, Sr., Attorney at Law

#### Newsletter

Editor: Jennifer Harrison

Co-Editors: Byron and Rebekah Mitchell

#### Newsletter Volunteers:

Heather Fann,

Sharlene Libby, Melissa Stephens,

Brittney Fish and Sara Elliott

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

First Candle/SIDS Alliance

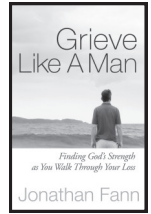
International Stillbirth Alliance

## Book Reviews

### *Grieve Like a Man:*

### *Finding God's Strength as You Walk Through Your Loss*

By Jonathan Fann



This insightful book talks about grief in ways that we don't normally think about: loss of career, loss of dreams, loss of marriage. It was a real eye-opener to me in how to help the men I love deal with the people and things in their lives they've lost. If you are a man or have a man in your life whom you care about, this book can help. It will speak to you like a friend over a cup of coffee, using stories about real men who have suffered real loss to explain pain that seems unexplainable. And then it gives advice—good advice for men and for women. The stories are the author's own first-hand accounts of the losses he suffered that brought him to the brink of despair. However, at that pivotal moment, he chose to use his suffering to help others. This book isn't a pity-party or an excuse for men's behavior when grieving. It's a roadmap to walk that road of grief as a man or with the men in your life. Trust me when I say that you will see yourself or someone you love in the pages of this book, and you will be glad to have the roadmap when you do.

Jonathan Fann is a graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary. He serves as a chaplain in the United States Army Reserves and previously worked as a hospital and hospice chaplain. Jonathan and his wife, Heather, are the parents of two children, now both in heaven, and a daughter, Madison. Heather is the chapter director for M.E.N.D. - Southwest Missouri.

♥ Reviewed by Sara Elliott  
M.E.N.D.—Newsletter Volunteer

M.E.N.D. has a complete list of books, websites, 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, Jennifer Harrison, at [jennifer@mend.org](mailto:jennifer@mend.org).

## Reader's Corner



Just wanted to say how blessed I was in particular by this month's newsletter! Jaimie, your story of Abigail Grace was so sweet and touched my heart. What a testimony that you and Gerald carried her to term without hesitation or a second thought! Reading about her life was a blessing to me! Praise God for her life and death! Also, so encouraged by the adoption articles in this month's newsletter, in particular Brandy's article. Wow! What a testimony to God's sovereign plan. What a beautiful story. I would love to email her if you could send me her email address. The Lord has blessed us with five children since Michelle's death (our firstborn). Adoption has always been near to my heart, and I am often praying if this might be God's will for our family at some point.

Anyhow, thanks, ladies, again for the encouraging articles. Thanks for all you do to help hurting moms. This August will be 10 years since Michelle died. In some ways it seems like a world away, yet at the same time if I sit still for a minute and relive those days with her in the ICU, the pain and loss is still fresh. Strange how grief is!

Blessings,  
Marie

## A Letter to Mom

In 2008, when I was 19 years old, I got pregnant. I was so scared, but excited. I couldn't help but sit there and imagine holding that precious baby. On the day of my first ultrasound I went to the doctor, but he couldn't find a heartbeat and told me that I would miscarry that baby. He was right, and I was devastated.

I prayed each day that God would send me the baby that I yearned for. Two years later I got pregnant again. I just couldn't believe that it was true, and I was so nervous up until my first ultrasound. When I went to the doctor that day, and I heard my baby's heartbeat. I can't even express the happiness and joy that filled my heart. I saw the picture of the baby, and I just knew everything was going to be alright. I carried that baby for 21 weeks, until September 28, 2010, when I went into premature labor. I delivered a baby boy, my son, Hunter John Campbell, 15 ounces and 11 inches long, who passed away. Yet again, I was devastated.

As I held that sweet baby boy in my arms, looking at his perfect face I could not imagine a child to be more perfect. But to not have him here with me, I did not know how I would ever make it. I found myself asking God. "Why? Why Lord? Why me? Why my son? What did I do so wrong to deserve this?" But the truth is that God didn't take him from me. He loved Hunter so much that he got to skip this awful world, and go straight to heaven, as my guardian angel. You ask me how I know this. I had asked my daddy to speak at Hunter's funeral, and he read me something that he told me the Lord inspired him to write. Today I want to share this with you, in hopes that you will see that a baby's life does not just start at birth; their journey begins way before they are ever born.

To read the letter that the Lord inspired my daddy's to write to me, turn to page 13.

### *July/August Topic*

Living for Life (Not letting Grief  
Steal Your Blessings)  
Deadline: May 31, 2012

### *September/October Topic*

Roller Coasters of Grief  
Deadline: July 31, 2012

Stories, poems, thoughts, and/or feelings regarding these topics are welcomed. Submissions must be received by the deadline to be considered for publication in the newsletter. Unfortunately, there is not enough room to include all submissions. Choices will be left to the discretion of the editors. Please see page two of the newsletter for the appropriate address to send your submissions. Any submission printed in our newsletter will also be posted to our website indefinitely unless we receive notice in writing that you are only granting permission for your submission to appear in the printed version of the newsletter.

### **Reprint Policy:**

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

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

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



# Birthday Tributes

## Happy 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Jonathan!

Gone but not forgotten, you will always be in my heart.

*Jonathan Lee Tardiff*

*June 5, 1982*

*Premature*

*Also remembering*

*Rebecca Leigh Tardiff*

*October 1, 1981*

*Mommy: Vanessa Tardiff*

*Sister: Jessica*



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

This is for my son who died before he even got to see one day. I miss you and I love you, wherever you are.

*Damen William Halliday Donovan*

*Miscarried May 5, 2011*

*Parents: Kyle Donovan and Britany Halliday*



## Happy 4<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Rami!

My big boy, you are now 4 years old. Mommie misses you so much, and she can't wait to see you one day. Te amo mi chiquito angelito.

Mommie

*Ramiro "Rami" Faustino, Jr.*

*May 20 - June 19, 2008*

*Premature*

*Also remembering*

*Baby Anaya*

*Miscarried February 2000*

*Mommy: Elisa Ramirez*



## Happy 6<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Destiny!

Not a single day passes that I don't think of you and what I would give to see my baby girl growing up! There are so many things I wish we could have experienced together, but I am blessed with the memories I have of you that keep you alive in my heart forever. Mommy loves and misses you dearly!

*Destiny B Coronado*

*June 9, 2006*

*Cardiac Anomalies*

*Mommy: Karina Sanchez*



## Happy 15<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Caleb!

It's now been 15 years, but I can still feel the warmth of your little body when I first held you. There's not a day goes by when I don't think of you and what you might have become. I treasure the thought of seeing you again someday, to spend eternity together in heaven. I love you, Caleb.

*Caleb Moser*

*June 17, 1997*

*Hypoplastic left heart syndrome*

*Mommy: Jen Moser*

*Siblings: Cameron, Courtney and Cassandra*



## Happy 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday, RuthAnne!

She blessed us for the short time she was here with us. I was blessed to carry her and her twin brother in my womb for nine months. She changed our lives. We still miss her every day and look forward to the day we will get to make up for all the lost time in Glory!

*RuthAnne Michelle Hawksley*

*May 14 - June 10, 2002*

*Sudden heart attack caused by heart defect*

*Also remembering*

*Elijah Hawksley*

*Miscarried May 1995 at 13 1/2 weeks gestation*

*Lily Hawksley*

*Miscarried March 2009*

*Shalom Hawksley*

*Miscarried January 2012*

*Parents: John and Ambra Hawksley*

*Siblings: Morgan-Britney, Josiah, Zechariah, Gabriellia,*

*Quentin, Micah (her twin), Isaac, ZaraLayna, Jaiden Noah*

*and Kian Adley*



## Happy 11<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Griffin!

Dear Griffin,

Enjoy what your birthday holds

As God will unfold

His blessings given to you.

Your family loves you so

And we want to let you know

That we have birthday wishes to send to you!



*Griffin Caleb McIntosh*

*Stillborn June 6, 2001*

*Parents: Matthew and Naomi McIntosh*

*Siblings: Mya Quinn and Aidan Pierce*



### Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday, June Angel!

If you'd stayed a little longer,  
I might have felt you there,  
I could've told you that your life  
Was the answer to my prayers.

If you'd stayed a little longer,  
I'd have looked into your eyes,  
And giggled when you giggled,  
And rocked you when you cried.

If you'd stayed a little longer,  
I would have kissed your cheek,  
And sang to you a lullaby  
As you drifted off to sleep.

If you'd stayed a little longer,  
I'd have told you of God's love  
Instead HE gets to SHOW you  
As He holds you up above.

I have to stay a little longer,  
Until my work is through.  
So please wait just a little longer,  
And I'll come Home to you.



*June Angel Fannin*  
*Miscarried June 18, 2011*  
*Parents: Jason and Natalie Fannin*  
*Siblings: Racheal, Jenna and Liam*

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

Audrina, we are so proud of you, baby girl! You tried so hard to stay here with Mommy and Daddy. We love and miss you so much!

*Audrina Kay Duke*  
*April 21 - May 4, 2011*  
*Non-Immune Hydrops, caused by congenital heart defects*  
*Parents: Brandon and Ashley Duke*



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

For a life that was too short, for our love that is so strong. Our baby girl is in our hearts always and forever. Just because you are not here doesn't mean that you will ever be forgotten. We love you.

*Aspen Renee Poda*  
*May 10, 2011*  
*Turner's Syndrome*  
*Parents: Heath and Jennifer Poda*  
*Sibling: Tristian*



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

It's hard to believe you'd be five years old already. I wonder all the time what you would be like. You'd certainly be busy trying to keep up with your older brothers and sisters. I miss you every day. Every time someone asks about our children, my heart hurts that I don't get to mention your name. I love you so much, and I'm sad that I never had the chance to show you how I love you. I'm so grateful Jesus has made heaven for you, and I can't wait to meet you there and hold you. You are a special treasure, and I'm so grateful that I get to be your mommy, even if it's not in the way I wanted to be. Though I can't understand it, I know that God has a special plan for you and that somehow this world is better because you were here for a short while.

Love and Kisses,  
Mommy



*Timothy Isaac Meyers*  
*Stillborn May 28, 2007*  
*Unknown cause*

*Parents: Joel and Elizabeth Meyers*  
*Siblings: Josh, Abby, Sam, Jake, Rebekah, Mary Faith, Hannah and Baby Benjamin*

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

I can't believe it's been two years since I held you in my arms. You are now in God's loving hands, but I wish you were here with us. We love and miss you, sweet boy. Happy birthday.

*Gabriel Levi Conaway*  
*May 25, 2010*  
*PROM*  
*Also remembering*  
*Sophia Conaway*  
*Miscarried January 22, 2002*  
*Parents: David and Christy Conaway*  
*Siblings: Caleb, Joshua and Elijah*



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

Wow, it's been 5 years already, and not a day goes by that your mommy and I don't think of you. We miss you very much and wish to God you were here helping us control your little brother "J" and little sister "Adrina Bear." You have taught us to be appreciative, thankful and humble about the life God has chosen for our family. We speak of you often to those who understand and are able to help those who have lost a little one themselves. Until we see you again... Love you, Daddy, Mommy, Bear and J.

*Adrian James Hernandez*  
*June 23 - July 14, 2007*  
*Neonocritizing*  
*Parents: Fito and Jackie Hernandez*  
*Siblings: Twin Sister Adrina and Brother Julian*



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

Now we know what our angel looks like. We love you and miss you.

*Michael Heaven Gibson*

*April 3 - 4, 2008*

*Multiple abnormalities*

*Parents: Michael and DeAndra Gibson*

*Siblings: Michael Jr. and Christopher*

**Happy 4<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Sweet One!**

I was thinking about you a lot today and was just in awe over how big you would be now. It sure would be exciting to have you here, running around with C.J., but until that day comes, know that we miss you terribly and love you so very much! Happy Birthday, Sweetheart!

*Baby Stephens*

*June 30, 2008*

*Ectopic pregnancy*

*Also remembering*

*David Atkins Stephens*

*October 23, 2003*

*Omphalocele, MTHFR*

*Baby Stephens II*

*January 2009*

*MTHFR*

*Baby Stephens III*

*February 15, 2010*

*Ectopic pregnancy*

*Parents: Rob and Melissa Stephens*

*Brother: C.J.*

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

To our little angel, you were so special to us. We remember everything about you. I was so thankful you stayed nine days with us - the best nine days of our lives. I hope you are looking down on us smiling because every time I think of you, I smile.

*Arun Lokireddy*

*May 25 - June 3, 2010*

*Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome*

*Parents: Mastan and Rhonda Lokireddy*

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

We know we will join you in heaven one day. We love you so much and always will. You hold a piece of our hearts forever, my sweet angel, Trae.

*Trae Babb Sanders*

*Stillborn March 29, 2007*

*Parents: Nick and Tara Sanders*

*Siblings: Dre and Keion*

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

To our little boy, happy first heavenly birthday! This year has been the toughest ever! We never imagined writing a tribute for our little boy; we planned on holding you in our arms and planning your first birthday! Instead, we get to plan how to celebrate your first birthday in heaven by making it a super fantastic day and remembering you like we have done since the day we lost you! Mommy and Daddy both hope you are proud of everything we do to remember you and know that we will always, always love you...and remember you! We miss you so much, and we can't wait to see you again when the Lord hands you to us up in heaven! "A Moment in Our Arms, Forever in Our Hearts"

*Jacob Teran*

*Stillborn June 27, 2011*

*Umbilical cord knot*

*Also remembering*

*Cousin Olaya*

*June 2001*

*Cousins Gabriela and Camila*

*April 2002*

*Parents: Nolvía Varela and Richard Teran*

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

Our precious daughter... How can it have already been a year since we met and then lost you? Your brother takes you balloons and flowers, and we're making sure he knows all about you. Your mommy picked up a copy of the children's version of *Heaven is for Real* the other day, and just looking over the pictures that were painted according to the little boy's memory gave her peace. We know beyond any shadow of a doubt that you are in the arms of our Lord, and you are saving a place for each of us when our turn to come home arrives. We love you forever, Kaidi. You are always in our hearts, minds and words.

*Kaidance Brynna MaeKayla Koopman*

*May 29, 2011*

*Potters Syndrome*

*Parents: Jeff and Tara Koopman*

*Brother: Kamden*

**Happy 13<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Joseph!**

We miss you and look forward to seeing you again one day!

Love,

Mom, Dad, Will, John and Mary Grace

*Joseph Charles Libby*

*Stillborn May 26, 1999*

*Cord accident*

*Parents: Wim and Sharlene Libby*

*Siblings: Will, John and Mary Grace*



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

Dear Emma,

It is hard to believe that already three years have passed since we got to know you. Not a day goes by without our thinking about you.

We hope you enjoy your third birthday in heaven as we will celebrate yours here on earth.

I miss you very much, big sister. I wish you were here so I would have a partner to get in trouble with.

Love,  
Mommy, Daddy and little sister Isabella

*Emma Krymkiewiez*  
*May 5, 2009*  
*Neonatal hemochromatosis*  
*Also remembering*  
*Baby Girl Krymkiewiez*  
*Miscarried June 13, 2008, at 11 weeks*  
*Parents: Hernan and Ana Krymkiewiez*  
*Sister: Isabella Mia*



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

We send you lots of hugs and kisses!

Dear Abby,

It's crazy writing your name,  
but the thought of never knowing you,  
makes me insane more and more each day.  
I can never teach nor hold you,  
and can never say I love you,  
but I can keep you in my heart forever.  
In my eyes I see a young girl,  
The same one that visits Daddy in his dreams.  
And for every thought of you I have,  
My love grows and my sorrow dies.  
Bless your heart,  
Love, Daddy

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



### Happy 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday, Sweet Cambron!

We miss you daily, but it brings smiles to our faces when we think about how much you are enjoying celebrating in heaven. We love you so much!

*Cambron Edward Fisk*  
*June 28, 2010*  
*Cord accident*  
*Parents: Darren and Meredith Fisk*  
*Sister: Madison*



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

"...My universe will never be the same, I'm glad you came..."

Happy birthday, baby girl! Today we celebrate the time that we got to spend with you, and what you have added to our family. We are so grateful to have had you in our lives, and every day Mommy and Daddy think of, love and miss you.

*Genevieve Rose Blais*  
*May 8 - June 14, 2011*  
*Meningitis*  
*Parents: Ricky and Mary Blais*



### Happy 4<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Hudson, Weston and Jackson!

My Precious Three,

It is hard to believe that it has been four years since I first saw your sweet faces. I am so very grateful that I was the one God chose to be your mom. Your short lives have made more of a difference in my life than any other experience that I have ever had. I often think of you when I see the 4-year-olds walking through the hallways of my school and wonder about what it would be like to have you there with me.

Happy birthday to you, my three! You will always have such a big place in my heart.

I love you so much,  
Mommy  
Your family loves you!  
"Ma," Collin and Holden



*Hudson Wrenn, Weston Cole and Jackson Reed Crumley*  
*June 30, 2008*  
*Premature birth*  
*Mommy: Alisha Crumley*  
*Siblings: Collin and Holden*

### Happy 4<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Noah!

Dearest Noah, happy fourth birthday in heaven. It's hard to believe it's been four years since we said "hello" and "goodbye" all on the same day, but I know your purpose in heaven is greater than your purpose on earth.

We miss you and think about you every day of our lives, and I know that one sweet day, we'll meet again.

"You belong among the wildflowers, you belong in a boat out at sea. Sail away, kill off the hours. You belong somewhere you feel free."

*Noah Powell*  
*Stillborn July 22, 2008*  
*Hypercoiled umbilical cord*  
*Parents: Nate and Barb Powell*  
*Sisters: Julia (twin sister) and Sydney (little sister)*



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

Our little love, happy birthday! Mommy and Daddy love you so very much. We know that right now you are having the most wonderful first birthday party we can imagine! Oh, sweet boy, I can just see you dancing and laughing in the presence of the Lord. We can't believe it has been one year since we got to hold you, kiss you and snuggle you. One year without you. One year of missing you. One year of clinging to the Lord. One year of wondering who you would be. One year of deeply loving you. One year of looking forward to the day when we can be with you again. That has been our last year. Your last year has been glorious. One year of magnificence. One year of peace. One year of being complete and whole. One year of worshipping the Lord in His presence. One year of joy and everlasting love. What an indescribable year you have had, sweet one! Our arms ache for you every single day, but we know that you are being held in the arms of Jesus. And, precious Gideon, that is so amazing! We are anxiously awaiting the day when we are with you in eternity and we can worship the Lord together. We love you with every fiber of our being and with every breath we take. Happy first birthday in heaven, Gideon.

With all our hearts,  
Daddy, Mommy and baby brother Silas

*Gideon Zeller Mitchell*

*May 17, 2011*

*Membranous cord insertion*

*Also remembering*

*Avery Mitchell*

*Miscarried May 2008*

*Unknown cause*

*Parents: Todd and Stormy Mitchell*

*Brother: Silas*



### Happy 3<sup>rd</sup> Birthday, Lauren Ashley!

“As time passes by each and every day, the love we feel for you will never fade away.”

It's hard to believe it's been 3 years since you left this world, but every time we look at Tanner, we see a glimpse of you. We always imagine what it would be like to have you here with all of us and think about all the things you could teach your little brother.

We love and miss you so very much, baby girl. You're in our thoughts, our prayers and always in our hearts.

*Lauren Ashley Scott*

*Stillborn June 23, 2009*

*Trisomy 18*

*Parents: Troy and Emily Scott*

*Brother: Tanner William*



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

They say that time's a great healer,

But I don't think that's true.

My heart's been aching so much  
since the day that I lost you.

You never got the chance to open your eyes,  
so Mommy could wipe your tears or hear your cries.

I had to say goodbye before I could say hello.

I wish I could have told you just how much I loved you so.

You mean more to me than anything  
even though we never formally met.

Mommy loves her precious baby  
and I promise I won't forget.

You're my shining star and

in my heart is where you'll always stay.

But don't be too sad my precious little one,

because Mommy promises we will meet someday.

*Skyla Olivia Burns Ennis*

*May 21, 2011*

*Pre-term labor*

*Also remembering*

*Baby Ennis*

*Miscarried January 2007*

*Parents: R. Burns and Tarsha Ennis*

*Sibling: JoAliece*



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

Our Little Bird is three years old, and we are thankful for each moment we had together. Haley speaks of you often and says you are drawing pictures in heaven of your family. Your little brother, Jacob, looks so much like you. Know that you are dearly loved, sweet one, and the Lord will provide just the right birthday party for you. We will be looking to the sky and celebrating with you. The thought of you brings joy and strength to our hearts.

Love Always,  
Mommy, Daddy, Haley and Jacob

*Lindsay Claire Alexander*

*May 24 - 27, 2009*

*VLCAD (fatty-acid oxidation disorder)*

*Parents: Lane and Leslie Alexander*

*Siblings: Haley and Jacob*



### Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday, D.J.!

Mommy and Daddy miss you. There's not a day that goes by we don't stop thinking of you. We loved you, but the Lord loved you more. Love you, D.J.

*Dewayne Malone Jr.*

*April 13 - June 2, 2011*

*SIDS*

*Parents: Shaletha Mayse and Dewayne Malone Sr.*





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

So much love we have for her

*Madison Humitz*

*June 27, 2011*

*Infection*

*Parents: Jason and Jen Humitz*

*Siblings: Brenden and Brady*

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

Happy birthday, sweet girl! It doesn't seem possible that it has been five years since we held you in our arms, but you are forever in our hearts. We love you so much and miss you every minute of every day. We know you are the best big sister and taking care of your sister, Emma, in heaven. Thank you for sending your little brother, Wyatt, to us. We are sure when he is chattering away he is talking to you and Emma.

We love you with all our hearts,  
Forever and ever,  
Infinity,  
Daddy, Momma and Wyatt

*Gracie Renee Dorr*

*May 15, 2007*

*Incompetent cervix*

*Also remembering*

*Emma Grace Dorr*

*October 16, 2008*

*Incompetent cervix*

*Parents: Dustin and Janine Dorr*

*Brother: Wyatt*

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

Dear Henry, I can't believe you are already 4! I look at your sister and brother and miss you so much. I know that you would have been the best big brother to them both! I can't wait until I get to hold you in my arms again in heaven. I am so thankful that you are praising God and living a wonderful life with Him.

We miss you so!  
Mommy, Daddy, little sister Kate  
and little brother Ben!

*Henry Ian Ilgenfritz*

*May 5, 2008*

*Cord accident*

*Also remembering*

*Baby Ilgenfritz*

*Miscarried August 30, 2007*

*Parents: Jody and Rhonda Ilgenfritz*

*Siblings: Kate and Ben*

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

It's hard to imagine that you would already be 3 years old! I often wonder if you would be the complete opposite of your little sister or if you would have been two peas in a pod. I usually imagine you would be opposites since you were born weighing 9 pounds and 7 ounces, and she only weighed 5 pounds and 15 ounces. I don't know what it's like to raise a living 3-year-old yet, but from the joy your sister has already brought into our lives this past year and a half, I know we are missing SO MUCH without you here. You will always be an incredibly special part of our family, and I hope you feel included. You will always be our baby. We love you with all our hearts!

Love,  
Mommy, Daddy and Paisley

*Mackenzie Noelle Frederickson*

*June 17, 2009*

*Full term stillbirth - unknown cause*

*Also remembering*

*Baby "Skyler" Frederickson*

*January 2, 2010*

*Ectopic pregnancy*

*Parents: Mike and Ashley Frederickson*

*Little Sister: Paisley Noelle*

**Happy 12<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Chrissie!**

Your little brothers talk about you often. Can you hear us?

They wanted to buy fabric for you to have a new soft blanket, too. Can you feel it?

We wished for you at dinner the other night.

Could you smell it?

Great Mother joined you two years ago.

Are you two playing together?

*Chrissie Steen*

*May 3, 2000*

*Ectopic pregnancy*

*Parents: Lynn and Mary Steen*

*Siblings: John, William and Michael*

**Happy 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday, Lucas and Caleb!**

Happy second birthday, sweet boys! We love you so much, and we miss you every day. We are grateful for all you have shown and taught us. Your short lives have made such an amazing impact on so many others.

Lots of love,  
Mommy, Daddy, Colton, Ethan and Baby Cinco

*Lucas Earls*

*Stillborn June 1, 2010*

*Caleb Earls*

*June 1-2, 2010*

*Twin-To-Twin Transfusion Syndrome*

*Parents: Willy and Carrie Earls*

*Siblings: Colton, Ethan, Baby Cinco due October 1*



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

Noah Bear, it is hard to believe that it's already been a year. It seems like just yesterday I had everything ready, waiting for your arrival and within a matter of minutes, I was told that you were gone. You've touched many lives in your 39 weeks and 6 days on this earth, and you continue to do so! Happy first birthday, Noah Bear! I love you to Pluto and back!

-Mommy

"I'll love you forever, I'll like you for always,  
as long as I'm living my baby you'll be!"  
Happy birthday! We all love you and miss you!

Noah Thomas Romo  
May 21, 2011  
Clot in umbilical cord  
Parents: Megan Isabell and Phillip Romo



### Happy 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday Madelyn Hope!

To our sweet little princess, Madelyn, we love you and miss you so much. We can't believe you are already 2 years old in heaven and can't wait to see you again. You are a blessing to us, and we thank God every day for your life. Your brothers and sisters miss you and talk about you all the time. We think about you every time we look at the beautiful flowers in your memory garden. We love you, princess!

A moment in our arms, a lifetime in our hearts.

Love,  
Daddy, Mommy, Brett, Hailey,  
Ava, Brayden and Ethan

Madelyn Hope Henry  
May 4, 2010  
Placental abruption  
Parents: Andy and Kim Henry  
Siblings: Brett, Hailey, Ava, Brayden and Ethan



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

Happy first heavenly birthday Max! Mommy, Sam and I miss you so much. We think about you all the time and can't wait to share your story with anyone who will listen. Thank you for giving us the most amazing 22 hours as a family of four. Sam is a lucky little girl because you taught us how to love. Every night when Sam falls asleep, we tell her if she sees you in her dreams to kiss you, hug you and tell you we miss and love you! We will never forget you, Max. We are honored to call you our beautiful, perfect son.

Max Emmanuel Novik  
May 9 - 10, 2011  
Anencephaly  
Parents: Mark and Melinda Novik  
Sister: Sam Elana (Max's twin)



### Happy 6<sup>th</sup> Birthday, RykerLee!

It's so hard to believe it has been six years since we held you in our arms. In August your little brother Kase was born and joined you in heaven. I know you and Grandma Jan welcomed him with open arms. We all talk about how we know you are showing him the ropes in heaven. Not a day goes by that we don't think about you both and can't wait to see you again! We love you, son!

Hugs and Kisses XOXOXO

Mommy, Daddy, Mariah, Derrick and Kellen

RykerLee Serrano  
May 18, 2006  
Placenta deficiency  
Also remembering  
Kase Todd Angelito Serrano  
August 4, 2011  
Placenta deficiency  
Parents: Ed and Carrie Serrano  
Siblings: Mariah, Derrick, Kellen and Kase



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

Precious Lauren, I cannot believe you are turning 1 year old! I can only imagine what life would be like if you were still with us. There is not a day that goes by that the three of us do not think about you, talk about you or miss you. I am so thankful you entered our lives, even if it was just for a short time, and we will never forget those precious moments we shared with you. I cannot wait to see your beautiful face again. Happy first birthday, Lauren! We love and miss you more than I can express with words.

Lauren Isabelle Autry  
June 17 - July 2, 2011  
Campomelic dysplasia  
Parents: Brandon and Melissa Autry  
Sister: Halley



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

Our sweet little love! It has been five years since you came into our world and changed it forever. We miss you every day and cannot wait until we have the opportunity to hold you again in heaven. We will forever be proud parents of an angel! Happy 5<sup>th</sup> birthday to the most amazing little soul we have ever known!

Carsen Matthew Landis  
April 30, 2007  
Birth injury consistent with the use of forceps  
Also remembering  
Baby May  
May 1, 2008  
Spontaneous miscarriage  
Parents: Josh and Jenny Landis  
Siblings: Fisher, Brysen and Layne



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

My perfect precious princess Kamille, you are the best little gift (aside from big brother) that God has blessed us with! Although you are not here to entertain us with your little sassy personality, you live on with us every day. Mommy and Daddy and brothers miss you immensely. Mommy will see an outfit and say, "Ooo, Kamille would be perfect in that color!" I miss feeling you, hearing the sound of your heart beating, looking at you. Our days without you here physically are tough, but you've touched us each in such a different way that we are healing in different ways and trying to find a "new" way of "living."

We love and miss you dearly!  
Until we meet again our sweet Angel!  
Love always and forever,  
Mama, Daddy, brothers and  
the host of family/friends that love you, too!

*Kamille Antionette Semien*

*June 22, 2011*

*Unknown cause*

*Parents: Brandon Semien and Karen McCarter*

*Siblings: Brandon, Kaiden and Bryce Semien*



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

Mommy and Daddy miss you and think of you every day!

*Brianna Denise Segovia*

*April, 30 - May 9, 2010*

*Metabolic acidosis*

*Also remembering:*

*Baby Segovia*

*Miscarried July 4, 2011*

*Parents: Homero and Brenda Segovia*



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

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

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

We all love you and look forward to the day we all meet again! Here for a moment, in our hearts for a lifetime!

*Jackson Connor Wood*

*Stillborn June 6, 2009*

*Blood clot in cord*

*Parents: Darin and April Wood*

*Siblings: Isaiah and Thomas*



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

I can't believe you're turning 9,  
oh, dear precious son of mine!  
Wasn't it just a short time past  
when I held you in my arms for last?  
Your days were few, but oh so sweet  
as you lived all your days complete.  
I held you tight with eyes in tears  
wondering how I'd live through the years.  
But God is good; He's walked by my side.  
He gives me strength; in Him I abide.  
As thoughts of you mark each day,  
I hold you close in heart and say,  
"You are God's precious gift to me!"  
I miss you so now, but wait for eternity!"

I love you more and more each day, and I can't wait to see you again, sweetheart! Happy birthday, Matthew!

*Matthew Joel Mifflin*

*June 6, 2003*

*True knot in cord*

*Also remembering*

*Little One Mifflin*

*Miscarried February 6, 2006*

*Lil' Rosebud Mifflin*

*Miscarried March 10, 2007*

*Parents: Dennis and Janet Mifflin*

*Siblings: Thomas and Michelle*



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

"How very softly you tiptoed into our world, almost silently, only a moment you stayed. But what an imprint your footprints have left upon our hearts!"

-Dorothy Ferguson

Sweet Elena, words are not adequate to describe how much we miss you and long to hold you again. Your short life blessed us immensely, and we rejoice in the knowledge that we will embrace you again someday. We love you forever and carry you always in our hearts. Happy birthday, precious baby!

*Elena Marie Rusert*

*May 23, 2011*

*Premature birth*

*Parents: Michael and Tina Rusert*

*Big Brother: Liam*



### Happy 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday, Elena and William!

To my darling twins who died with out being able to experience life: I love you, my little angels, always and forever. Love, Mom.

*Elena and William*

*Miscarried March 7 - May 5, 2011*

*Parents: Britany Halliday and Alexander Stanelle*



## Remembering Brianna

I have to say that Mother's Day is bittersweet for my husband and me and even my family. Our daughter, Brianna Denise Segovia, was born on April 30, 2010, only 24 weeks into my pregnancy. Eight days later, I remember my husband and me being at the hospital with my sister and her boyfriend, just waiting to hear that Brianna would be ok. At first, we were hopeful Brianna was going to pull through. For some reason, I remember we had beautiful spring-like days, and that night we had a terrible thunderstorm. Around 3:00 in the morning, we were asked to make the most heartbreaking decision of our lives: to keep her alive on machines, or let heaven have her.

We made the decision to let her go, but before we said goodbye, our desire was to have her baptized. As a Catholic, we believe being baptized while a baby as a way to introduce the little one to the faith from a very young age. The parents and godparents make a commitment to keep the child in the faith and lead and teach them to live in God's way. Brianna was only with us a short time, but during the time we did get to parent her, we wanted her to be a part of our faith. We wanted to make our commitment to God and to her, too, that whatever time He let us have with her, we would raise her as He desired.

We were able to have her baptized, and at 5:00 a.m., just two short hours after we had to make our decision, Brianna was disconnected from all of the machines that were trying to keep her alive. Brianna entered heaven on May 9, 2010, Mother's Day. It was my first Mother's Day as a mom, and I had to make the decision to say goodbye to the little girl who

made me a mother. She was our first child, and the pain of losing her was something words cannot describe. Throughout the day, I received texts and phone calls wishing me a Happy Mother's Day, and with each one, I had to explain why Mother's Day was not happy, and felt my heart break over and over again.

So how can I celebrate Mother's Day after my first was so heartbreaking? We turned again to our faith - to remember our daughter and to keep us strong. Last year we celebrated Mother's Day with a mass in Brianna's honor. This year we plan to do the same. The mass is a Catholic mass. It is similar to a regular Sunday mass, and Brianna Denise Segovia's name is brought up in remembrance, and the congregation is asked to keep our family in their prayers. On Sunday, May 13, Brianna's name will be brought up in remembrance of her life, even though her life here on earth was only a few days.

Since having my little angel, I have had a miscarriage, but I am hopeful and still trying to get pregnant to have that little bundle of joy that my husband and I truly desire. I would like to thank my family and friends for being there when we have needed them. Also to my wonderful friends for all of their prayers and support.

♥ *Brenda Segovia,*

*Mommy to Brianna Denise Segovia and Baby Segovia*

### Happy 12<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Sydney! Happy 11<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Ashley!

We love and miss you both so very much. May all your birthdays be together. Until we meet again.

*Sydney Lynne Brown*  
*May 18, 2000*

*Unknown causes/2 vessel cord*

*Ashley Mackenzie Brown*

*May 18, 2001*

*Premature due to antiphospholipid syndrome (APL)*

*Parents: Brian and Marilyn Brown*

*Brother: Samuel*



### Happy 6<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Ava!

It's hard to believe that you would be 6! What a joy it would be to see you grow, but God had other plans. Your family misses you terribly. To know that Jesus is holding you tight and giving you birthday kisses from all of us makes me smile. We love you!

Mom, Dad, Madison, Spencer and Garrett

*Ava Grace Browning*  
*March 7, 2006*

*Epstein's anomaly*

*Parents: Kevin and Christal Browning*

*Siblings: Madison, Spencer and Garrett*



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

Lucas, as your feet take their first steps on those streets of gold, our hearts long for the memories that you are making in heaven. Until we meet again, we pray our lives and the world you left behind will be changed by our One and only Healer.

*Lucas Michael Buckley*

*Stillborn May 25, 2011*

*Unknown cause*

*Parents: Danny and Lyndsey Buckley*

*Sisters: Raegan and Rylee*



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

Your sister, Jules, has nicknamed you Bill because William is tricky for her to say. You continue to live on in our hearts...forever loved, forever missed.

*William Roland Pallant*

*June 4, 2007*

*Severe Pre-eclampsia and HELPP*

*Also remembering:*

*Baby Pallant #2*

*Miscarried September 2007*

*Parents: Andrew and Kristel Pallant*

*Siblings: Julia and Matthew*





Continued from "A Letter to Mom" on page 3...

Hey Mommy,

This is Hunter. I am sorry that I had to leave so soon, but I want you to know how much I love you. At first I didn't know how I was going to tell you, but things here are a lot different than you can imagine. When I first got here, you would not believe how beautiful it is. In John 13:7, Jesus said, "What I do thou knowest not now, but thou shalt know hereafter."

I had so many questions. I kept hearing people talk about a man that could answer all my questions, so, you know me. I started to look for Him and found Him beside a great river that flows from the throne of God. It is called the River of Life—can you beat that? I ran up to Him and He looked at me and said. "You look just like your mama." I told Him thank you. He said, "Why did you thank me." I told Him that I thought He was going to say I looked like my papa.

Then He said something that really confused me at first. He said that He loves you more than anyone can. You know me; we had our first words then. You know what I told Him? I said, "No matter how much You say You love my mama, there is no one who loves her more than me." Then He explained what He meant. He keeps carrying me back to the Holy Bible where it says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not die but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). I asked Him how can I let my mommy know how much I love her. He said that things are a lot different here. He told me of the Holy Spirit and what He does there with you, so He came up with the idea to have Papa write this for me. I said, "Papa is really going to have a great time doing this." We talk about love up here so much it seems that no one is afraid to use that word or to let you know how they feel. I think that I understand a little better now.

They talk about a mansion that is ours—yes, yours and mine. I know He wanted me to come and decorate it, because I am the only one who knows what you like, and where it needs to go. I hope you like it when you get here. That just got me to thinking even more, so I asked Him how I can know that my mommy is coming here. So you know what He did? He keeps bringing me back to that Bible. He said all of my questions and yours are in it. He showed me the Book of Life with my name, Hunter Campbell, and guess what I saw beside mine? It was "Kassie Campbell, Hunter's mommy." He said that you belong to Him and nobody can take you out of that book. I have a lot more to say, but I'll save it for later. By the way, this man's name is Jesus; He is pretty smart. Don't worry about me. I'll be talking to you later. Listen to a little voice inside of you or a little breeze on the cheek - that will be me. Never forget how much you mean to me and be happy; I can't stand it when you cry.

See you soon!

Hunter

P.S. You are my hero. I love you, Mommy!

This letter was written by Kassie Campbell's father, Hunter's Pop-Pop, in memory of Hunter John Campbell, September 28, 2010, 15 ounces, 11 inches long.

## M.E.N.D.

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

Meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

Northwest Medical and Professional Building  
17117 Cali Dr, Suite 112, Houston, TX 77090

Director: Jaimie Crump

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

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

**Daddy's group** meets quarterly on the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Thursday at 7:30 p.m.,  
led by Tim Winebrenner  
(swinebrenner2004@yahoo.com).

**M.E.N.D.—Texarkana**

Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 7:00 p.m.

CHRISTUS St. Michael Rehab Hospital  
2400 St. Michael Drive  
Texarkana, TX 75503

Director: Monica Davis

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

**M.E.N.D.—Tulsa**

Meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

Canyon Crossing  
1651 E Old North Rd.

Sand Springs, Oklahoma 74063

Director: Lisa Daily

lisa@mend.org, (918) 694-4325 (HEAL)

**M.E.N.D.—SW Missouri**

Meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

Project H.O.P.E.  
1419 S. Enterprise

Springfield, Missouri 65804

Director: Heather Fann

heather@mend.org, (417) 818-0489

**M.E.N.D.—Bryan/College Station**

Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

Hawthorn Suites

1010 University Drive East  
College Station, Texas 77840

Director: Jennie Drude

jennie@mend.org, (979) 220-7851

**M.E.N.D.—Amarillo**

Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

First United Bank of the Colonies/  
Lonestar Room

One First United Bank Parkway  
45<sup>th</sup> and Soncy

Amarillo, Texas

Director: Becky Anderson

becky@mend.org, (806) 570-4344

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

M.E.N.D.—Houston is anxiously awaiting our 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk to Remember, which will take place on October 6. We continue to support families all over the Houston area by giving out comfort bags and holding our monthly support group meetings on the third Thursday of each month.

*Jaimie Crump*

*Texarkana*

M.E.N.D.—Texarkana had a great time at our annual multi-family sale. Thanks to everyone who donated items and to everyone who helped with the sale: Tania Greer, Dawn Kennedy, Jessica Standridge, Laura Aguilar, Barbie Fugitt, Toni and Randy Sherman and Shawn Davis. Thanks to Nash First Baptist Church for hosting this event.

*Monica Davis*

*Tulsa*

M.E.N.D.—Tulsa would like to wish all of the parents in the Tulsa area a happy Mother's Day and Father's Day. May our babies in heaven continue to enrich our lives, and may we find peace in knowing that we will meet them again.

*Lisa Daily*

*SW Missouri*

M.E.N.D.—Southwest Missouri continues to be in awe of the Lord's timing! Just this past fall, our members expressed a need for a memorial garden in the area. During a conference in February, He brought our organization to the attention of a local garden designer, who just happened to finish a design for a new memorial garden that DAY, and just happened to introduce me to the president of the board for the gardens and land donors the NEXT DAY, and just happened to present it to the board of a local park that WEEK who approved for M.E.N.D. to sponsor the garden! God is so good! Now, we are trusting in Him to continue this much-needed site and help us to raise \$15,000 to get it built. If all goes as planned, families will be able to purchase engraved bricks in honor of their babies, and we can host our October balloon release in the midst of this amazing garden. Join us in prayer and let me know if you are interested in making a contribution.

*Heather Fann*

*NW Washington*

On March 19, M.E.N.D.—NW Washington had our first ladies' gathering outside of our meetings. Michele Kulhanek, one of my amazing assistants, served a scrumptious brunch to the 17 mommies who attended. We are so pleased to have had such a good turnout. On April 11, we had our first M.E.N.D. playgroup, and we are planning a family barbeque for this summer. Our monthly meetings continue to be well attended, and our Facebook page is a constant source of comfort and encouragement.

*Susan Crow*

*Hot Springs*

M.E.N.D.—Hot Springs continues to minister to our families. We have had several subsequent births in the past month. These amazing blessings are in some ways a reminder of our losses, but more importantly, a reminder that God answers prayers. We are planning our first Christmas Candlelight service. The service will take place Saturday, December 1, at 7:00 p.m. at New Life Church in Hot Springs.

*Amy Humphries*

**Bryan/College Station**

M.E.N.D.—Bryan/College Station is continuing to serve the families of Brazos Valley. We are preparing to have several summer fundraisers, including a memory quilt, a shopping day at Charming Charlie's and a Bunco tournament! We are looking forward to what God has for us this coming summer.

Jennie Drude

**Wichita Falls!!**

Our first chapter meeting was held April 12 and we welcomed three families. We are working hard to reach out to our community and are looking forward to providing support to those in need. We welcome new members daily on our Facebook page as well. We are grateful to have a M.E.N.D. chapter in Wichita Falls, and we are excited to see our work in action!

Sarah Fukasawa

**Amarillo**

God is truly blessing us here in Amarillo! We have been holding subsequent pregnancy group meetings, and it has been going great. We received our books from Jonathan Fann, *Grieve Like a Man*, and are extremely anxious to get them out to our grieving fathers.

Becky Anderson

M.E.N.D.—**NW Washington**  
Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at 6:30 p.m.  
Harrison Medical Center/Iris Room  
1800 Myhre Rd.  
Silverdale, Washington  
Director: Susan Crow  
susan@mend.org, (360) 516-8617

M.E.N.D.—**Hot Springs, Arkansas**  
Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.  
National Park Medical Center/Maurice Room  
1910 Malvern Avenue  
Hot Springs, AR  
Director: Amy Humphries  
amy@mend.org, (501) 620-9930

M.E.N.D.—**Wichita Falls, Texas**  
Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday at 7:30 p.m.  
Christ Home Place Ministries  
1420 Twin Oaks Street  
Wichita Falls, TX  
Director: Sarah Fukasawa  
sarahf@mend.org, (940) 642-3284

**Looking Ahead**

**October 6**  
• M.E.N.D.—  
Houston  
Walk to Remember

**October 6**  
• M.E.N.D.—  
Dallas  
Walk to Remember

**October 20**  
• M.E.N.D.—  
SW Missouri  
Balloon Release

**December 1**  
• M.E.N.D.—  
Hot Springs  
Christmas Candlelight  
Service

**December 11**  
• M.E.N.D.—  
SW Missouri  
Christmas Candlelight  
Service

**M.E.N.D. Support Group Meetings in the Dallas Metroplex**

Join us for a time of sharing experiences.

**M.E.N.D. main chapter meetings**  
are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of  
every month  
from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

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

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

**Food and Fellowship**  
are held the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of  
every month at 8:00 p.m.  
at the Corner Bakery in  
Southlake Town Center

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

**Subsequent pregnancy group**  
meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday  
from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.  
Led by Liz Walker: liz@mend.org  
*For families who are considering  
becoming pregnant or are currently  
pregnant after a loss.*

**MENDING Mommies**  
Meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.  
Contact Marilyn Brown:  
Marilyn@mend.org.  
*MENDING Mommies is a group of  
M.E.N.D. moms (and grandmothers)  
who create and sew tiny gowns, caps,  
and blankets that are donated to area  
hospitals for new heavenly babies.*

**Parenting After Loss Playgroup**  
Meets monthly at various locations in the  
Dallas / Fort Worth metroplex.  
Contact Magen Kaye: Magen@mend.org  
or call (214) 435-3870

**Infertility group**  
meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday  
at 7:30 p.m.  
Contact Cheryl Davis for meeting  
location and information at  
Cheryl@mend.org  
*For families experiencing  
infertility after a loss.*

**Mommies AND daddies are both  
welcome at all M.E.N.D. meetings.  
Unless otherwise noted, all support  
group meetings are held at:**

**Wells Fargo Bank  
800 W. Airport Freeway  
Irving, TX 75062**

(Located in the Crystals Pizza parking  
lot, between MacArthur and O'Connor)  
Meetings will be in the bank board room,  
located on the first floor.  
For more information,  
call (972) 506-9000.

*In Loving Memory***Liam and Sebastian Callaway**

Stillborn August 5, 2011

Unknown cause

Given by parents Zack and Rori Callaway

**Angel Christian Oswald Cockrell III**

March 17, 2009

Given by Christina Campos

**Abigail Grace Crump**

July 1, 2003

Trisomy 18

Given by parents Gerald and Jaimie Crump and little sisters Cami and Karli

**Aidan Shaw Vander Cruyssen**

October 2 - December 3, 2005

Kidney disease

Given by Mommy Shane Meyer and sibling Cameron Shaw

**Riley and Parker Davis**

November 14, 2006

Prematurity

Given by parents Rob and Cheryl Davis and little sister Annalise

**Royce Haskell Dugan**

Stillborn October 9, 2011

Cord accident

Parents: Sean and Ashley Dugan

Given by Dana Fernandez

**Kyler Paul English**

Stillborn January 20, 2006

Cord accident

Parents: Laurie McPike and Bob English

Given by Jon and Laurie McPike and brothers Kinser, Kelson and Kayden

**Caleb Scott Fann**

December 1, 2003

PROM

**Baby August Fann**

Miscarried August 13, 2004

Parents: Jonathan and Heather Fann

Little sister: Madison Grace

Given by friends Neal and Sara Elliott

**C.J. Gold**

Miscarried August 12, 2008

**Marina Gold**

Miscarried July 14, 2009

Parents: Greg and Kathryn Gold

Big sister: Emily

Given by Bradley and Julie Wagner

**Lauren Paige Grimes**

Stillborn March 6, 1999

Unknown cause

**Baby Grimes**

Miscarried January 25, 2001

Given by parents Paula and John Grimes and sister Rileigh (Baby Grimes' twin)

**Camden Asher Haltom**

Stillborn October 31, 2009

Possible cord accident

Given by parents James and Jill Haltom

**Marcus Alan Johnson, Jr.**

July 5, 2011

Cord accident

Parents: Marc and Jena Johnson

Given by Windrich Dotcom Inc

**Aiden and Cameron Lewis**

January 1, 2009

Incompetent cervix

Given by parents Erica and Andre Lewis and little brother Nathan

**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

**Lyle Dale Mitchell**

February 21, 1937 - March 30, 2012

Papa to Jonathan Daniel Mitchell and Baby Mitchell

Given by Mark and Beth Shelton

**Lily Joy Moore**

Miscarried March 2, 2011

Unknown cause

Parents: Jeremy and Kathleen Moore

Big brother: Isaac

Given by Grammy Marsha Neely

**Max Emmanuel Novik**

May 9 - 10, 2011

Anencephaly

Given by parents Melinda and Mark Novik and twin sister Sam

**Alexander Seely**

April 30, 2010

Given by mommy Raquel Robles

**Hannah Shachov**

Stillborn September 23, 2003

Unknown cause

**Baby Shachov**

Miscarried June 2007

Given by parents

David and Poliana Shachov and brother AJ

**Mindy and Maggie Smith**

Stillborn November 4, 1997

Twin to twin transfusion syndrome and Polyhydramnios

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

**Benjamin Harrison Taylor**

Stillborn December 20, 2011

Trisomy 18

Given by parents

Rebecca and Michael Taylor

**Alivia Elizabeth Grace Walker**

Stillborn July 24, 2006

Incompetent cervix

Given by parents Robert and Liz Walker and little brother Jaxson

**Gifts of Support**

Harrison Medical Center Foundation, Bremerton, Washington

Second Baptist Church, Springfield, MO  
West Conroe Baptist Church, TX**Legacy Giving**

Losing a child has changed each of our lives forever. We appreciate all financial support of the services our organization gives to bereaved parents—no matter the size of the contribution. However, some of you may have the capacity and desire to give a lifelong gift to M.E.N.D.

If you're interested in creating a legacy gift or endowment in honor of your baby, M.E.N.D. would be happy to assist you in gathering the necessary information to remember our organization in your will or trust. For more information about legacy giving, please contact Rebekah Mitchell at [rebekah@mend.org](mailto:rebekah@mend.org).

**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!**



## A Father's Day Tribute

“God, we love You, and You are so good!” That is how the prayers of my father-in-law, Lyle Mitchell, typically began. Even after a devastating accident in 2005 left him paralyzed from the shoulders down, he acknowledged the love and goodness of the Lord.

Lyle endured 6 1/2 years of complete dependency upon others to care for his every need. Unimaginable, really. We as a family watched as his independence, modesty, and any pride he may have had was taken from him in a matter of seconds. Yet, we never heard him speak a harsh word or utter a complaint.

I was privileged to be his daughter-in-law for 23 1/2 years. I loved him tremendously, and he loved me back. When our first son was born, Lyle was a commercial airline pilot for TWA. When he was not flying, he spent a lot of his time playing with, loving, and babysitting his little grandson, Byron, Jr. Anytime I was in the hospital dealing with kidney issues, difficult pregnancies, and births, Lyle was always by my side. He would just sit in my room for hours. In fact, almost every time I have been in the hospital, Lyle has been the one to drive me home.

I vividly remember the day after our baby Jonathan was stillborn. Somehow, Lyle got the job as designated photographer. He took picture, after picture. Admittedly, I was a little irritated at first. I wasn't sure if he expected me to pose with a smile, or if he was content just capturing candid, tender moments. At the time, never did we dream that the photographs he took would be printed in brochures and literature that is now distributed all over the world. I also remember someone asking him to pray that day, and he said he couldn't. I have always wondered if it was because he was a little mad at God, or if he was afraid he would break down and cry.

On March 30, 2012, Lyle fought his good fight and ended his race. Mysteries surround heaven and exactly what it's like until the resurrection of the saints and we receive our glorified bodies, but I like to think my two babies, Jonathan and Baby Mitchell, met their Papa as he entered into his eternal home. I like to imagine that both of his grandchildren each took a hand and led Lyle around the Celestial City and were among the first to see him walk again and be free!

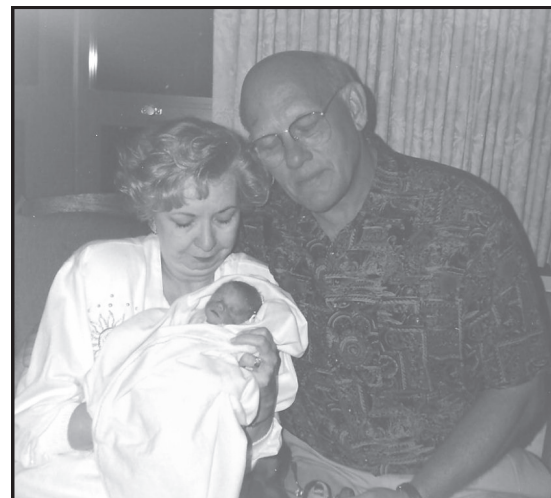
Oftentimes, Lyle told me I was his hero. My response was and still is, “No, Lyle, you're *my* hero!” Lyle will always be missed, and truthfully, as I write this, the idea that he is forever gone from this earth has not yet sunk in. I pray that the legacy he leaves will be that despite our suffering, we never cease to acknowledge the goodness of the Lord.

I love you Lyle!

♥ *Rebekah Mitchell, M.E.N.D. President/Founder*  
*Mommy to Jonathan Daniel and Baby Mitchell*  
*Daughter-in-law to Lyle Mitchell*



Lyle holding Byron, Jr. and  
Rebekah pregnant with Jonathan



Mimi and Papa (Marnie and Lyle Mitchell)  
holding Jonathan



### *Subsequent Births*

**Craig and Daphne Muirhead**, along with big sister BrookeAnn, of Houston, Texas, joyfully announce the arrival of Kate Alexis, born February 23, 2012, measuring 7 lb. and 15 oz. The Muirheads lovingly remember Baby Muirhead, miscarried October 2005, Ashley Nicole, stillborn January 15, 2007, cause unknown, and Baby Boy Muirhead, miscarried November 2010, Trisomy 10

**Andy and Kim Henry**, along with siblings Brett, Hailey, Ava and Brayden, of Cameron, Missouri, joyfully announce the arrival of Ethan Blake, born September 17, 2011, measuring 7 lb., 8oz., and 19 inches long. The Henry family lovingly remembers Madelyn Hope, May 4, 2010, placental abruption

**Diana and Michael Murphy**, of McKinney, Texas, joyfully announce the arrival of Trevor Joseph, born February 8, 2012, measuring 7 lb., 6 oz., and 20 inches long. The Murphys lovingly remember Jason Michael, stillborn July 29, 2010, unknown cause

**Lee and Natalie Reeves**, of Fort Worth, Texas, joyfully announce the arrival of Ruby June, born March 24, 2012, measuring 7 lb., 14 oz., and 20 inches long. The Reeves lovingly remember Baby Reeves #1, miscarried July 26, 2010, unknown cause, and Baby Boy Reeves #2, miscarried February 9, 2011, Trisomy 13

**John and Patty Lee**, of Flower Mound, Texas, joyfully announce the arrival of Ayden Jeffrey, born April 6, 2012, measuring 8 lb., 2 oz. The Lees lovingly remember Josephine Ann, October 9, 2009, PROM, and Baby Juno, miscarried November 2010

## *Capturing the Moment*

I know how difficult Mother's Day can be for those of us who have lost children. Watching other moms celebrate with their living children can pour salt in an already deeply painful wound. I, too, have felt that sting, even as I celebrated with my own living children, because the day reminded me of my little one who was missing. However, as I look back, one particular Mother's Day has been a balm, a sweet reminder of a time when all of my family was still together.

My son Joseph was stillborn on May 26, 1999, just a couple of weeks after Mother's Day. As I awoke on Mother's Day that year, I had no idea of the pain that I would be facing just a few days later. I instead basked in the accolades and sweet little displays of affection that my two older children (ages 3 and 1-1/2 at the time) lavished upon me that morning. We went to church with dear friends and later went out for lunch with them, celebrating with high chairs, spilled milk and my swollen belly as visible reminders of motherhood. My husband gave me a small, portable Bible to commemorate the occasion, one that would easily fit in my diaper bag or purse so that I could have God's Word with me, no matter how busy my days as a mother became.

My husband took a photo of my kids and me, all dressed up for Mother's Day, as we were leaving church that day. The sky was a beautiful blue, and the sun shone warmly behind us. I was dressed in a yellow dress that draped over my protruding stomach. My boys were dressed in blue. I held the hand of the oldest and held the youngest on my hip, balanced just beside his unborn brother. It was a moment in time when we were all happily together as a family, captured forever on film.

As I face Mother's Day each year, that moment has been one that keeps coming back to me. It is a reminder of how important it is to appreciate what you have when you have it. It is a memory that sustains and comforts, bringing to mind the knowledge that, no matter what the future may hold, there are blessings in my life that can be appreciated now.

♥ *Sharlene Libby*  
Mommy to Joseph

*M.E.N.D.—Newsletter Volunteer*

## Celebremos la vida por ser Padres!

### “Gracias Por Hacerme Mamá!”

Durante mis primeros años de maternidad, desarrolle una tradición con mi esposo para la celebración del día de la madre y el día del padre. En el día de la madre, Byron asumía la mayor parte de los deberes parentales sobre el cuidado de nuestro pequeño hijo, Byron, Jr., y el día del padre, recíprocamente yo lo hacía de la misma manera. Mi punto de vista era que en nuestro día, nos teníamos merecidos descansar de nuestras labores cotidianas en el hogar.

En mi primer día de la madre como una madre doliente, pues ya había pasado casi un año desde la muerte fetal de mi bebé, Jonathan. Ese año en particular, no quería un día de descanso. Ese año en particular, no era que quería un día de descanso, sino que requería el día solo para poder enfrentar mi inmensa tristeza de no tener a mis dos hijos conmigo. Al año siguiente, había cambiado mi perspectiva sobre el día de la madre. Decidí que no deseaba o necesitaba un día de descanso ese día. En cambio, encontré que deseaba profundamente hacer todo para y con mi hijo. Necesitaba ser activamente una mamá ese día. Además, empecé una nueva tradición que cuando él me dice, “Feliz día de la madre,” Respondo con “gracias por hacerme una mamá.” Y realmente lo digo con sinceridad. Llegué increíblemente cerca, a perderlo a él cuando nació, Jonathan estaba muerto, y nuestro tercer hijo fue un aborto involuntario. Si no fuera por Byron, Jr., no tendría el privilegio de tener un hijo en la tierra a quien poder educar.

Ahora siento que yo veo y observo el día de la madre con ojos diferentes que las mamás que nunca han tenido una pérdida o nunca han sufrido problemas de fertilidad. Tantas mujeres, en mi opinión, sienten que tienen ganado el derecho a honor y lealtad, en lugar de ser sumamente agradecidas por poder llegar a ser mamás. Muchas mujeres toman el hermoso regalo de la maternidad por concedido, y es cierto, estoy segura de que yo también lo hice, antes de perder a Jonathan. La muerte de Jonathan me enseñó a apreciar cada día, cada evento y cada etapa que llegamos a experimentar con nuestro hijo de 20 años, que ya es estudiante de segundo año en el colegio. Nosotros nunca nos perdimos un juego de pelota, nunca nos perdimos una actuación de la banda, y todavía tratamos de no perdernos la oportunidad de ser parte de su vida en cualquier etapa recorrida y por recorrer y aún hacemos grandes fiestas para sus cumpleaños. Nos dimos cuenta hace años que sólo tenemos una oportunidad de criar a un hijo, y nosotros queremos asegurarnos de que lo haremos sin ningún arrepentimiento en el futuro.

Así que realmente, cada día es día de la madre para mí. Estoy enormemente agradecida por mis tres hijos. Aunque dos de ellos nacieron en su hogar celestial, sigo siendo la madre de ellos y estoy agradecida más allá de las palabras que cada uno de ellos me hizo mamá!

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

*Safe in His hands,  
Secure in His love,  
When Life gets too hard,  
Just look above.*



### For our Fathers:

It must be very difficult  
To be a man in grief,  
Since “men don’t cry”  
And “men are strong”  
No tears can bring relief.

It must have been very difficult  
To stand up to the test,  
And field the calls and visitors  
So she could get some rest.

They ask if she’s all right  
And what she’s been through.  
But seldom take his hand and ask,  
“My friend, but how are you?”

You hear her sometimes at night  
And you think your heart will break.  
You dry her tears and comfort her,  
But “stays strong” for her sake.

It must be very difficult  
To start each day anew.  
And try to be so very brave—  
You lost your baby, too.

### For our Mothers:

Time has taken me from you,  
although not very far.  
I’ll be watching through the sunshine  
And through the brightest star.

I’ll be watching you,  
from the heavens up above.  
So take good care of yourself  
and carry all my love.

If you’re ever wondering  
if I’m there,  
Here’s where you can start.  
Take a look inside yourself  
deep within your heart.

I’ll always be your baby,  
your child, your best friend.  
So anytime you need me,  
close your eyes, I’m back again.

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

Nonprofit Organization  
 U.S. Postage Paid  
 DeSoto, TX 75115  
 Permit No. 614

*“... that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God” (2 Corinthians 1:4)*

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

- **Kroger grocery stores** donate a percentage of all purchases of those shoppers in Texas and Louisiana who have their Kroger Plus Card linked to M.E.N.D. To link your card, contact Rebekah (rebekah@mend.org) to obtain the Kroger Customer Letter. You must only present this letter one time to link your card to M.E.N.D.
- **Tom Thumb** also has a program in Texas that can benefit M.E.N.D. If you have a Tom Thumb Reward Card, please contact Rebekah (rebekah@mend.org) to obtain the Customer Letter. You must only present this letter one time to link your card to M.E.N.D. Reward cards can also be used at Randalls and Simon David stores.
- **Glenn Martin** is looking for M.E.N.D. families willing to grant space for small gumball machines in order to raise funds for M.E.N.D. If you have a retail business or connections to a high traffic location in the Grapevine, Southlake, or metroplex area, Glenn will place, stock, and service the equipment and give M.E.N.D. 35 percent of the proceeds. Glenn can be contacted at (817) 874-5366 or [glmartin@attg.net](mailto:glmartin@attg.net).
- M.E.N.D. can now earn funds through **i.think inc.**, an online marketing research firm. You can help by signing up as a survey panel member and designating us as the recipient of your fee. Just go to the Web site at <http://www.ithink.inc.com> and choose “Sign up to become an i.think inc. panel member.” Fill out the sign-up survey. Under the “Funds for Charity” section, select M.E.N.D. from the list of names.
- **IBM** employees may now make charitable donations to M.E.N.D. through automatic payroll deductions. Choose Charity Code 0M562 from the *IBM Employee/Retiree Approved Charity List*.
- **GoodSearch.com** is a search engine that donates half its revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Powered by Yahoo!, it is used like any other search engine. To earn money for M.E.N.D. using Goodsearch.com, go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and designate M.E.N.D. as your charity of choice.
- **Ebay** has a charitable giving program that can benefit M.E.N.D. If you sell items on Ebay and would like to designate a percentage of your revenue to M.E.N.D. visit [www.missionfish.org](http://www.missionfish.org) to find out how.
- **Igive.com** will donate a penny a search and a portion of each purchase made through their website to M.E.N.D. Sign up today! M.E.N.D.’s cause number is 52025.



[www.mend.org](http://www.mend.org)