



M. E. N. D.

Mommies Enduring Neonatal Death

Early Diagnosis and Carrying to Term

Several times a year I'm privileged to speak to healthcare providers on how to care for families when a baby dies. Though the presentation primarily focuses on what to do, what not to do, what to say and what not to say, I always begin with points on giving the parents choices, especially when a baby has been given a fatal diagnosis. I've often explained when we parents learn of our baby's death or impending death, we immediately slip into a state of shock. While in this state, we completely depend on the expertise of our doctors to guide and direct us as to what the protocol is for what happens next. And whatever it is they say is what we should do next is usually exactly what we do, without question.

In the more than 18 years of directing an infant loss organization, I've heard countless stories of parents whose baby was given the diagnosis "incompatible with life," then told they needed to immediately deliver. Many moms are told it's "for the best," which she interprets as meaning safer for her health, which translates to "it would be detrimental and even dangerous to continue the pregnancy." So, usually without questioning or investigating options, the baby is delivered.

I should clarify that I do not have any sort of medical background, but my years of experience have given me personal insight into numerous situations where in fact, most of the time, continuing the pregnancy of a baby who has been given a fatal diagnosis is not dangerous. I have learned that oftentimes doctors recommend immediate delivery simply because they think it would psychologically be better for the parents rather than carrying a baby that is destined to die.

After hearing parents over the years share their stories of terminating or delivering their baby based on test results, I began to notice a pattern. Not only were these parents deeply grieving the death of their baby, many of them were also ridden with guilt, wondering,

Did I play God? Did I make a decision that wasn't mine to make? What if the test was wrong? What if, what if, what if...

Please understand I am not at all casting judgment on families who had to make this unthinkable decision; I'm just sharing my observations. I have further noticed when the shock begins to wear off, when the parents hear the stories of other parents who carried to term their little ones who were given the same diagnosis, or when parents start to research the Internet more, they begin to resent their doctor and even family members who encouraged this decision.

On the flip side of this topic, parents who were given the option to carry their baby to term (or until it died in the womb), oftentimes were not supported by those around them. Others could not understand how or why anyone would want to continue to carry a baby who was going to die. What others don't understand is, although test after test may show a fatal anomaly, parents are holding out for a miracle, or praying that the tests were wrong. They want the satisfaction of knowing they did all they could for their little one. They want to ultimately say, "No regrets."

If you are a parent whose precious little baby was given a fatal diagnosis, I'm so sorry for the unfathomable decisions you were likely forced to make. Some of you may wish you had been more informed and given more options, while the rest of you are satisfied with knowing you and your doctors did everything possible for the life of your little one. Either way, rest in knowing you did what was right for you and your family at the time. Others may not understand those choices, but you had to do what was right for you. I pray the Lord will continue to comfort you and cause those around you to love on you and support you as you walk this journey of grief.

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

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

Para ver el artículo de este mes en español, por favor vea la pagina numero 13.

Volume 21, Issue 2 • March/April 2015

© Copyright 2015 M.E.N.D.

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

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

M.E.N.D.

P.O. Box 631566

Irving, TX 75063

Phone and Fax: (972) 506-9000

(Please call before faxing)

E-Mail: rebekah@mend.org

jennifer@mend.org

www.mend.org

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

M.E.N.D. Board of Directors

Rebekah Mitchell

Byron Mitchell, D.D.S.

DaLana Barsanti

Brittney Fish

Shannon Outen

Brandee Dill

Marilyn Brown

Amber Zuckerman

Cheryl Davis

State Coordinators/Chapter Directors

M.E.N.D.—Dallas: Rebekah Mitchell

M.E.N.D.—Houston: Stormy Mitchell

M.E.N.D.—Texarkana: Monica Davis

M.E.N.D.—Tulsa: Lisa Daily

M.E.N.D.—SW Missouri: Heather Fann

M.E.N.D.—Bryan/College Station:

Jennie Drude

M.E.N.D.—Amarillo: Becky Anderson

M.E.N.D.—NW Washington: Stacy McGhee

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

M.E.N.D.—Chicagoland: Sara Hintz

Advisory Board

Paula Schear, Liz Walker,

Calli Stanley, Norma Jordan,

Tina Rusert, Courtney Frette

General Counsel

Dennis G. Brewer, Sr., Attorney at Law

Newsletter

Editor: Jennifer Harrison

Co-Editors: Byron and Rebekah Mitchell

Newsletter Volunteers:

Heather Fann, Sharlene Libby,

Brittney Fish and Sara Elliott

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

First Candle/SIDS Alliance

International Stillbirth Alliance

Books on Early Diagnosis/ Carrying to Term



A Gift of Time: Continuing Your Pregnancy When Your Baby's Life is Expected to Be Brief

Written by Amy Kuebelbeck and Deborah L. Davis, Ph.D.

At 373 pages, this book can look a bit daunting, but it is an excellent resource for any family dealing with a difficult diagnosis for their unborn baby. Exhaustive in its breadth, *A Gift of Time* addresses each step of the journey and does a tremendous job of preparing parents for all scenarios. Each section contains a beautiful balance of thoughtful information and parents' personal testimonies. With a substantial index, it is easy to find information on a specific topic or concern. Anyone wanting to better support parents going through such an experience would also benefit immensely in reading this book. It succeeds in sparking thoughtful conversation.

Waiting with Gabriel: A Story of Cherishing a Baby's Brief Life

Written by Amy Kuebelbeck

Beautifully painful. When author Amy Kuebelbeck and her husband are told their son has a terminal diagnosis, they set out to make the best choice for their son's short life. Drawing on her background as a journalist, Kuebelbeck takes the reader along as she researches the possible risks and possible blessings of each scenario. With great honesty, the author shares their family's journey from receiving the diagnosis, to making difficult decisions, and finally to experiencing their son's birth, death, burial and their life after. It is a very poignant and moving story that will inspire and get you thinking.

I Will Carry You: The Sacred Dance of Grief and Joy

Written by Angie Smith

In *I Will Carry You*, Angie Smith weaves her story, her faith and the Bible's truth together to create a moving picture of grief and joy. When she and husband Todd Smith (of Christian music group *Selah*) are told their daughter will not survive, they choose to believe God's goodness has not changed and decide to give their daughter the best life possible. The author is honest about her doubts and struggles, as she tries to walk this difficult path. Many times I have returned to reread passages I have underlined. One word of consideration: if, like me, your baby died earlier in pregnancy or you did not have time to make the memories the author did, you may need to set the book down at times to grieve. In spite of this, I was and continue to be greatly blessed and comforted by this book.

Letters to Gabriel: The True Story of Gabriel Michael Santorum

Written by Karen Garver Santorum

Karen Garver Santorum began writing her baby letters as soon as she found out she was pregnant. About halfway through her pregnancy, she and her husband, former Senator Rick Santorum, were told their son had a fatal defect. *Letters to Gabriel* is a collection of her letters—the early ones filled with joy and anticipation, the middle ones chronicle the Santorums' fight to save their son's life, and the final ones share the author's grief journey. Written as private letters and never intended to be published, this book paints an honest picture of one mother's determination to endure anything that might save her baby's life. At various points, it also intertwines her husband's work in the Senate concerning the sanctity of life, which was occurring concurrently with Gabriel Santorum's short life here on earth.

♥ Reviewed by Kathleen Moore,
Mommy to Lily Joy

M.E.N.D.—Southwest Missouri Chapter Assistant

M.E.N.D. has a complete list of books, websites, organizations, and music resources available online at www.mend.org.

If you would like to submit a review of books, music, websites or other resources dealing with infant loss, please email them to our newsletter editor Jennifer Harrison at jennifer@mend.org.

Stay Connected!

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



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



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



Find local chapter Facebook pages at www.mend.org

An Excerpt from “The Other Side” By Michael Boggs

On the other side a mother who lost her child at birth
She'll hold that precious baby and let go of the hurt
Oh how she's waited for the day where she would see
that little face
On the other side
There are no more goodbyes
Every heart will be unbroken
Every tear wiped from our eyes
Oh sorrow has no grip there
And death is left behind
On the other side...

May/June Topic

Mother's Day/Father's Day
Deadline: March 30, 2015

July/August Topic

Parental Rights
(legislative issues surrounding infant loss,
taxes, time limit after stillbirth, etc.)
Deadline: May 31, 2015

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

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

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

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

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



Birthday Tributes

Happy 6th Birthday, Baby Wheeler!

Little One, we can't believe it has been six years. You would be such a big boy now. Daddy would have loved to take you to baseball games, and Mommy would have loved to read books to you. We both would have loved to see you play with your sister. We love you and miss you so much.

Baby Wheeler
Miscarried March 2009



Happy 5th Birthday, Michael!

Hi, Michael! Mommy is so sorry she made your birthday tribute late. We miss you so much and love you. We can't believe it's been five years since we said goodbye. You would be such a big boy now. You would be playing t-ball and learning how to write your name and tie your shoes. We wish you were here. Your little sister, Julianne, talks about you all the time. You would have been a great big brother to her. We are sure you are helping take care of Abigail. Happy birthday, our angel baby!

Michael Noah Wheeler
Stillborn January 27, 2010
Unknown cause



Also remembering
Abigail Mercy Wheeler
Miscarried June 3, 2014
Cystic hygroma
Parents: Jim and Larissa Wheeler
Little sister: Julianne

Happy 3rd Birthday, Gabriel!

Our precious Gabriel, we can't believe you are now our big 3 year old! Mommy and Daddy miss you more and more with each passing year. Sometimes it amazes us we have made it this long without you. Being pregnant with your sister has made us remember and cherish the beautiful 38 weeks we had together even more. We wish you could be here with us, but in our hearts we know we will see you again. We love you so much, baby boy! xoxoxox

Love,

Mommy and Daddy

"You're absence has gone through me like thread through a needle. Everything I do is stitched with its color."

-W.S. Merwin

Gabriel Gimlin
Stillborn March 29, 2012
Parents: Gary and Andrea Gimlin
Sister: Athena Rose (due April 2015)



Happy 8th Birthday, Jordan!

My darling Jordan, happy 8th birthday, my love! It has been a true journey here on earth without your physical presence. We miss you...we love you...we truly thank God for you! As we celebrate your blessed birthday, know that we understand God chose us for His specific purpose, and we seek to serve and honor His calling on our lives. I love you, and, as always, we must remember we have to trust God's plan, endure this temporary separation, and I will continue celebrating all the love that you are!

We love you, sweet baby boy!

Mommy and Jazz (Your Puppy-Doggie)

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



Happy 4th Birthday, Jo Jo!

Happy 4th heavenly birthday! We all love and miss you so very much! We keep you with us always, not only in our hearts, but with us in our everyday life. You grow with us as we do. Remembering you always and forever! Fly high, baby boy! Until we meet again...

Thank you for sending your little rainbow brother to us. I know you helped hand-pick him.

Love,

Mommy, Daddy, Brothers and Sister

Josiah Julian Peck
January 2—April 1, 2011
SIDS

Parents: Cecil and Julie Peck
Siblings: Trent, Kashayla, Malachi and Zyon



Happy 5th Birthday, Alexander!

Your baby sister, Leah, was born in May; you have more duties now—to watch for your siblings. Thank you for choosing us as your parents and showing us love is forever. Have a blast in heaven. There is not a day goes by we don't miss you! This year we will do something special! A memorial for you!

Te amamos,

Dadda, Mama, Abraham and Leah

Alexander Seely
April 30, 2010
Cord accident
Parents: Ron and Raquel Seely
Siblings: Abraham and Leah



Happy 1st Birthday, Dakota, Hunter and Landon!

Happy 1st birthday, boys! It's so hard to believe it's already been a year since you blessed our lives entering into this world too early. We know you are having the time of your life in heaven, but we miss you so much! Take good care of each other, and be nice to one another! Happy 1st birthday, Dakota Lane, Hunter Ryan and Landon Kyle! We love you to the moon and back! Hugs and kisses!

Mommy and Daddy

*Dakota Lane, Hunter Ryan and Landon Kyle Marek
March 21, 2014*

Premature birth

Also remembering

Tanner Case Marek

Miscarried July 17, 2013

Parents: Dennis and Ali Marek



Happy 3rd Birthday, Bryson Cross!

There is not a day goes by I do not think of you and wish you were in my arms. I miss you with all of my heart and know you are in the arms of God. It does not seem like three years. It seems like just yesterday you were in my arms taking your last breath. Your sisters and brothers love and miss you, too, and we cannot wait to meet you again up in heaven. We love you, little monkey. Happy 3rd birthday!

Love,

Mommy :-) xoxoxoxoxoxo

Bryson Cross

February 25—March 3, 2012

NEC

Mommy: Carrie Walls

Siblings: Brayden, Breanna and Brooklynn



Happy 4th Birthday, Lily!

Dearest Lily, four years ago I woke up with great joy thinking about hearing your heartbeat later that afternoon. I did not know that day my joy would turn to sorrow. Your heart was silent; such beauty replaced with ashes. What gives me hope is anticipating the day I will wake up with sorrow not knowing that this will be the day it turns to tremendous joy. My ashes traded for beauty; my spirit of despair for a garment of praise (Isaiah 61:3). Precious daughter, I love you more and more. Daddy, Isaac, Judah and I will be celebrating your special day!

Love,

Mom

Lily Joy Moore

Early pregnancy loss

March 2, 2011

Parents: Jeremy and Kathleen Moore

Brothers: Isaac and Judah



Happy 4th Birthday, Charlie!

Dear Charlie, it is hard to believe four years have passed since you came into our lives and left. Not a day goes by I don't think of you and miss you with all my heart. I thank God every day for giving me four short days with you....I only wish it could have been a lifetime. I know you are watching down from heaven and guiding me, your dad, your sister and brother! We miss you! Love you so much Happy 4th birthday in heaven, my choo choo Charlie!

Love,

Mommy, Daddy, Katie and Jack

xoxoxoxoxoxoxoxoxoxoxo

Charles John Vogel

April 5-9, 2011

Complications at delivery/cord accident

Parents: Marc and Eileen Vogel

Siblings: Katie and Jack



Happy 5th Birthday, Elliot!

We are comforted this year to know you are celebrating your 5th birthday in heaven with Granddad. We imagine you giggling with delight as he transforms into the Tickle Monster. Maybe you will have your friends climb aboard to join you as he gives his famous John Deere tractor rides, with all of you grinning from ear to ear. While we miss both of you dearly, we feel joy that your granddad, who was touched to know you briefly, now gets to spend endless time with you in heaven. We long for the day when our family will be complete again. We hold you in our hearts until then.

Elliot Gerriets

March 18, 2010

Congenital heart defect - HLHS

Parents: Chris and Faith Gerriets

Siblings: Evie and Ethan



Happy 1st Birthday, Alexa!

To our sweet angel baby on your 1st birthday, since you had to be in someone else's arms besides ours, we are so glad you are in God's arms. Only He can care for you better than us. We rest in that peace. You will never hunger or thirst. You will never know the pain, sickness nor hurt of this world. You make the reward of heaven that much sweeter! We love and miss you so much. We can't wait to see you again someday.

Love and kisses,

Mommy, Daddy, Drew and Paige

Alexa Grace Tucker

February 26—March 6, 2014

Asphyxiation from uterine rupture

Parents: Daran and Ashley Tucker

Siblings: Drew and Paige



Happy 1st Birthday, Angel Aralynn!

We were so looking forward to your December arrival. You were loved beyond words even though you weren't with us long. Our hearts break for you, and we miss you every day. It's slightly comforting knowing you are not alone because you are there with Aylin. We would rather you both be here with us, though.

Love you always,
Mommy, Daddy and
big brothers, Ryan, Riley and Christopher

Angel Aralynn Cooley
April 30, 2014
Intrauterine fetal demise
Also remembering
Baby Lappin 1
Miscarried 2004
Baby Lappin 2
Miscarried 2006
Baby Cooley 3
Miscarried 2008
Baby Cooley 4
Miscarried 2009
Aylin Christian Cooley
July 1, 2012
Intrauterine fetal demise
Baby Cooley 5
Miscarried July 2014
Parents: Chris and Jessica Cooley
Big brothers: Ryan, Riley and Christopher



Happy 13th Birthday, Elizabeth!

Wow! Elizabeth, it is hard to believe you would be 13, an official teenager. Oftentimes we stop and wonder things like, who you would look like, what your personality would be, what would be your favorite things to do? We can't help but think you and your sister Emily would be great friends. Now you have your little brother Isaac in heaven with you. Take care of him, give him lots of hugs for us and learn a lot from Jesus. Until we get to be together in heaven as a complete family, we will cherish your memory and do things in your honor. We love you, sweet girl.

Love,
Mom, Dad and Em

Elizabeth Abigail Jackson
April 29, 2002
Full Trisomy 16
Also remembering
Isaac David Jackson
Full Trisomy 13
June 24, 2013
Parents: Jeromye and Angi Jackson
Sister: Emily Faith



Happy 1st Birthday, Peace!

You came to our lives from the day we knew we were having a second child. You were so peaceful and even in death, you looked so peaceful. We love you and miss you.

Love you,
Mum, Dad and Amor

Peace Omondi
March 2, 2014
Cord accident
Parents: Fred and Perpetua Omondi
Brother: Daniel



Happy 2nd Birthday, Joey and Sydney!

We miss you every day. We know one day we will be together again.

Joey and Sydney Chavez
Miscarried April 29, 2013
Parents: Robert and Ana Chavez
Siblings: Anissa and Cristian



Happy 1st Birthday, Garrison!

We can't believe our Gare Bear is turning 3! It seems like just yesterday we were cradling you in our arms. We love and miss you so much and can't wait to hold you again one day! Happy birthday, sweet boy!

Love,
Mommy, Daddy and baby brother Lawson

Garrison William Penley
March 10, 2014
Incompetent cervix
Also remembering
Callen Michael Penley
October 5, 2014
Incompetent cervix
Parents: Joseph and Kelsie Penley
Little brother: Lawson Reed



Happy 6th Birthday, Damien!

I heard a million things that were supposed to help me with the pain, but nothing did. The one thing that did was a cruel comment stating I was never supposed to keep you. You weren't for me. He was an angel sent from above to help me out of the hole I was in, to allow me to see the right path. Once the mission was complete, he had to return home. God does work in mysterious ways, and even though it made sense why you had to leave, I still don't accept it and miss you dearly. I thank you for guiding me, and one day I'll fly up to you. I love you, Damien. Happy 6th birthday, my love!

Damien Villasenor
Stillborn March 3, 2009
Mommy: Ambar Villasenor



Happy 4th Birthday, Chase!

Our sweet Chase, it is hard to believe another year has passed, and here we are at your 4th birthday. As time goes on, I find myself watching the kids who are the age you would be and trying to envision myself mothering you and your sister together. She loves her cousins so much, and I know she would love her big brother the most! She has learned to say your name and recognize your picture. It warms mine and your daddy's hearts to hear her say "Chase." We love you and miss you so much, buddy, but we are so thankful we have the hope of heaven and seeing you again one day!

Love,
Mommy and Daddy

*Chase Austin Miller
Incompetent cervix
April 21, 2011*

*Parents: Greg and Stephanie Miller
Sister: Cora Ainsley*



Happy 1st Birthday, Rosi!

Our little Angel Rosi, as we celebrate your heavenly birthday together, we want you to know you are always loved and remembered by all of us. We immensely miss you. We are looking forward to being united soon. When you see balloons in the sky and a million kisses coming your way, you know it is from the broken hearts of your parents and your sisters. Happy 1st birthday, our little Angel Rosi. I wonder why you had to go, Baby? Why? Why? Why? We love you, dear one.

*Rosilyn Angel Bob
April 20-21, 2014
Two Vessel Cord*

*Parents: Manidhar and Willuna Bob
Siblings: Romilyn, Raelyn and Rhealyn*



Happy 2nd Birthday, Levi!

My sweet boy, how can it be that two years have passed since the day we first saw your precious face? We miss you every single day. We are so thankful to call you our son. You helped open our eyes to those around us who need to be shown love. Thank you for letting us be your parents. Your life was brief, but your legacy lives on in those of us who love you so much. Today I know you are safe and whole in heaven, and I can just imagine you playing with all your friends. I cannot wait until we are together again. Until then, happy birthday, Levi boy.

Life is short. Heaven is forever.

*Levi Samuel Bowmer
April 19, 2013*

*Trisomy 13, Tetralogy of Fallot
with absent pulmonary valve
Parents: Sam and Jenae Bowmer
Little sister: Evelin Jean*



Happy 9th Birthday, Morgan!

Dear Morgan, happy birthday! We love you so much! We are so thankful the Lord brought you into our lives, even for such a short time. He comforts us, and He holds us until we will finally hold you in our arms. We feel so blessed Jesus and you are having a joyful celebration in heaven with other loved ones who are waiting for us, too.

All of our love,

Mom, Dad, Big Brother Isaac, Grandma and Grandpa

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



Happy 6th Birthday, Alethia Joy!

Happy 6th birthday, our sweet Alethia Joy! Not a day goes by we don't think of you, miss you and wonder about life with you, our firstborn baby girl. How we wish so much we could watch you grow up—being in kindergarten this year, acting as a "little Mommy" to your younger brothers, dancing with Daddy, helping Mommy cook and bake, and playing princesses with your sister. Your brief time on earth has blessed and touched our lives more than we can say, and we are so thankful you are safe in the arms of our Savior, Jesus. In Him we have Hope. We love you!

Daddy and Mommy

*Alethia Joy Myers
Stillborn February 3, 2009, at 39 weeks
Unknown cause
Also remembering
Baby Grace
Miscarried July 2009
Baby Myers
Miscarried September 2012
Parents: Tony and Charity Myers
Siblings: Hannah Beth, Anthony and Elliot*



Happy 2nd Birthday, Rajun!

Rajun, I saw you sleeping in my womb
And felt as if I was walking on the moon.

The day you arrived and I heard you cry,

I didn't know motherhood but I was going to try.

But God stepped in and said He needed you before me,
My life felt like it had drifted out into the endless sea.

As your birthday arrives and you turn the terrible two,

Happy birthday from earth to heaven
and Mommy LOVES you.

*Rajun Armel Giles
March 5-14, 2013
Extreme prematurity
Mommy: Runda Giles*



Happy 3rd Birthday, Everett!

Our dearest Everett, we wish you the happiest of heavenly birthdays! We can only imagine the joy and beauty there and the wonderful 3rd birthday party you're having! Someday we will all be together again, and we'll see you blow out your birthday candles. Until then, know you are always in our hearts and on our minds. You are missed and loved so very much!

All our love,
Mommy, Daddy and Christian

Everett Christopher Delmar
Stillborn April 18, 2012, at 28 weeks
Unknown cause
Parents: Chris and Miranda Delmar
Little brother: Christian



Happy 2nd Birthday, Max!

Happy birthday, sweet Max. You touched our lives, have shown us what true love is and continue to be present with us as we carry you with us on this journey. All you ever knew was love, and we now live to share that love with the world. Words will always fall short of expressing our abiding love for you. We are so proud to be your Mommy, Daddy and Little Sister. March 12 will always be a celebration of all you are and all you will forever be to us.

Happy birthday!
Love,
Mommy, Daddy and Maezey

Anderson Maxwell Graham
March 12, 2013
Placental abruption
Parents: Aaron Graham and DeAndrea Dare
Little sister: Maezey



Happy 3rd Birthday, Joseph Parker!

My dearest Joseph, happy 3rd birthday my son! We all miss you so much! You are talked about, remembered and very much a part of our family. Your family continues to change, grow and become better because of your little life. This concept amazes me every day. God is able to use your life mightily. You will soon become an uncle. Joseph means "God will increase," which continues to be true. God is increasing our family, and your legacy continues to increase. We are celebrating that and you this 3rd birthday, my son!

Love always,
Mom and Dad

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



Happy 2nd Birthday, Eleanor Jolene!

Happy 11th Birthday, Grace!

Happy 12th Birthday, Caleb!

Happy birthday to our children in heaven. Caleb, you and your baby sister share the same birthday, and we know it is for a special reason. We love you all so much and miss you each and every day. I know you are all together with your other Angel siblings.

Caleb Reed
August 1, 2003
Late miscarriage
Grace Reed
Stillborn March 5, 2004
Eleanor Jolene Reed
August 1, 2013
Premature/died shortly after birth
Also remembering
8 Angel Reed babies to be named when we meet again
Parents: William and Chasty Reed
Siblings: Julie, Jonah and Chloe



Happy 13th Birthday, Zane!

Wow ... 13! We cannot believe how fast the time has gone since you went into heaven's presence. You are now a teenager. There is not a day goes by we don't think about you and miss you. We would love to be celebrating this milestone birthday with you here on earth, but we know God has a great big party for you up there with Him. We celebrate you, Zane Jeremiah ... for all you are, all you will be and all you represent. Happy birthday, Zane; you are missed and loved SO very much!

Mommy, Dad, Hunter, Chenoa and Kai
"Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift"
2 Corinthians 9:1

Zane Jeremiah Takoda
March 19, 2002
PPROM
Parents: John and Kris Moses
Siblings: Hunter, Chenoa and Kai



Happy 7th Birthday, Butterfly!

Mommy and Daddy will always love you, babies.

Butterfly Dawn Magner
March 14, 2008
Skull fracture
Also remembering
Delaney Marie Magner
August 28, 2013
Chemical pregnancy
Liam Curtis Magner
November 23, 2014
Chemical pregnancy
Parents: Terry and Jerrica Magner



Happy 5th Birthday, Madison! Happy 6th Birthday, Michael!

Happy birthday, sweethearts! I can't believe another year has passed. I miss you both greatly and think of you guys often. Even though I can't be there for your 5th and 6th heavenly birthdays, Mommy and Daddy hope you have a great day. We love you both!

Madison Nicole Parris
March 5, 2010

Prevotella Bivia (infection)

Michael Stephen Parris
April 9, 2009

Clostridium inoculum/infection
Also remembering

Baby Twin Parris (Madison's twin)
January 2010

Unknown Cause

Parents: Sam and Stacey Parris

Brothers: Lucas and Seth



Happy 3rd Birthday, Paislee!

There is still not a day goes by we don't think of you, even three years later. There will always be a place in our hearts for you that will not be the same until we are with you again. We love how God sends us reminders of you as He continues to use your little life to make a big impact on this world. It amazes us how He does that even when you are not physically here with us. You are so loved and missed, sweet girl. Until we meet again, we will continue to fix our gaze on God and help keep your legacy alive.

Love always,
Mommy and Daddy

Paislee Ann Frette
April 4-5, 2012

Wolf-Hirschhorn Syndrome

Parents: Brent and Courtney Frette



Happy 5th Birthday, Baby Brooke!

Your precious life in the womb has inspired us to continue God's work by ministering to grieving families. We know God's purpose for your precious being, and while our hearts are sad, our days have more meaning because of you. That being said, we wish you were here so we could work on getting you ready for kindergarten. Please continue to watch over us, especially your sisters, Sarah and Savvy. We love you!

Love,
Mamma, Daddy, Sarah and Savannah

Brooke Sophia Daily
March 11, 2010

Vasa Previa

Parents: Jeremy and Lisa Daily

Sisters: Sarah and Savannah



Happy 13th Birthday, Anastasia!

My darling first baby, I barely knew you for a moment, yet you're so important to me! One day, I'll see you face to face, hug your neck and learn all about you! Your oldest sisters talk about you sometimes; they're sad you're not here. One day? I love you, my sweet.

Anastasia Langley

Miscarried April 26, 2002



Happy 3rd Birthday, Jensen!

Jenson, through your loss, God has taught me so much about Himself. He is sustaining, comforting, loving, so very good, and He speaks to me in my pain. Your sweet sister, Caroline, came along after you left and has been a boon to me. The pain is still too fresh, and I cry at the memory of that day, but I'm grateful to the Lord for the ways I've grown since losing you. The best part is—you're not lost; I know exactly where you are, and I'll be there as soon as I can. Happy birthday, my child. Kiss all our family for me.

I love you!
Mama

Jenson Langley

Miscarried April 16, 2012

Parents: Jason and Jenni Langley

Siblings: Alissa, Rachel, Benjamin and Caroline



Happy 7th Birthday, Dharma!

Happy 7th birthday, baby girl! I can NOT believe you would be 7. God is still using your life and legacy to help others. I am so thankful to be your mom and thankful for all the things I have learned through these past seven years. I am still clothed with JOY and thankful God removed my sackcloth of mourning. I can now rejoice you are with Him and helping take care of your sisters, Stella and Liza. Enjoy your chocolate cake, and please ask Ray Charles to sing "Happy Birthday" to you! I love you!

Mommy

Dharma Lucille Drude

March 31—April 1, 2008

Anencephaly

Also remembering

Stella Darling Drude

January 23, 2014

Anencephaly and excephaly

Liza Belle Drude

February 23, 2015

Unknown cause

Parents: Jason and Jennie Drude

Siblings: Maxwell and Mollie



Continued on page 11...

In Loving Memory**Grace Irene Biglieni**

December 6-19, 2007
Hypoplastic left heart syndrome
Given by mommy Lindy Biglieni

Justice Michael Burgett

Stillborn July 31, 2013
Cord accident
Given by parents Carl and Daisy Burgett

Abigail Grace Crump

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

Brooke Sophia Daily

Stillborn March 11, 2010
Vasa Previa
Given by parents Jeremy and Lisa Daily
and sisters Sarah and Savannah
Grandparents Carol and John Eck
Greg Vandenberg

Riley and Parker Davis

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

Paislee Ann Frette

April 4-5, 2012
Wolf-Hirschhorn Syndrome
Parents: Brent and Courtney Frette
Gifts given by grandparents
James and LuAnn Junkin

Ian Wesley Giger

August 3—November 5, 2006
SIDS

Baby Giger

Miscarried February 2007
Ectopic pregnancy
Given by parents William and Noel Giger
and siblings Calvin, Jordan,
Gavin and Aaron

Daniel Joseph Goodson

Miscarried July 4, 2005

Baby Taylor Goodson

Miscarried April 6, 2010

Baby Goodson III

Miscarried July 4, 2010
Given by parents Phil and Katie Goodson
and siblings Bennett, Paxen, Isaac,
Libby and Asher

Arthur and Oliver Graves

Given by Stacy Winters

Allison Peyton Griggs

December 15, 1999
Unknown cause
Given by parents Byron and Michelle Griggs
and siblings Mark and Brett

Reese Harrington

Stillborn August 16, 2012
Auto accident
Parents: Andy and Brooke Harrington
Given by Results Baseball Services

Serenity Harrison

Miscarried December 3, 2009
Given by parents Curtis and Jennifer Harrison
and siblings Leviticus and Zivala

Henry Scott Herzog

Stillborn April 8, 2014
Insufficient placenta
Parents: Scott Herzog and Erin Gattuccio
Gift given anonymously

Baby Grace Holmes

Miscarried August 3, 2013
Given by parents Zac and Andrea Holmes

Baby Johnson I

Miscarried April 8, 2013

Baby Johnson II

Miscarried November 2, 2013

Baby Johnson III

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

Tatum Olivia Johnson

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

Reed James Ledbetter

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

Alexandria Long

Miscarried August 2009

Baby December Long

Miscarried December 2011

Baby May Long

Miscarried May 2012

Baby October Long

Miscarried October 2012

Baby Twins

Miscarried February 4, 2015
Given by parents Brian and Melody Long
and siblings Clara and Carlos

Caden Jack Robert McTernen

September 21, 2014
Parents: Patrick and Sharon McTernen
Given by Joy Trinidad

Jonathan Daniel Mitchell

Stillborn June 24, 1995
Cord accident

Baby Mitchell

Miscarried December 2001
Gifts given by
Parents Byron and Rebekah Mitchell
Grandmother Marnie Mitchell

Lily Joy Moore

Miscarried March 2, 2011
Early pregnancy loss
Parents: Jeremy and Kathleen Moore
Big brother: Isaac and Judah
Given by grandfather Ray Neely, Jr.

Samuel James Nienhuis

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

Margot Lily Perry

Stillborn June 10, 2013
Cord accident
Parents: Brandon and Marissa Perry
Siblings: Adeline and Bennett
Gift given by Kayla Lorentz

Aimee, Beth, and Claire

Given by Erin Savola

Emilynn Larren Schrader

June 19, 2012
Given by parents Daniel and Kellie Schrader
and siblings Nolan and Mary Britton

Selkowitz Girls

Given by Stacy Winters

Fredrick Bystrom Shaver

Stillborn October 7, 2013
PPROM

Sarah Shaver

Miscarried August 2, 2014
MTHFR
Given by parents Craig and Emily Shaver
and sisters Grace and Ameerah

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!

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

Alexis Raine Sonnenberg
January 24—February 3, 2009
Diaphragmatic hernia
Daddy: Alex Sonnenberg
Given by grandparents
Mark and Ruth Sonnenberg

Trinady Lynn Vance
November 7—December 12, 2008
Brain tumor
Mommy: Shannon Vance
Given by grandparents Gary and Joyce Haddick

Alivia Elizabeth-Grace Walker
July 23, 2006
Incompetent cervix
Parents: Liz and Robert Walker
Siblings: Jaxson and Lauryn
Given by Katherine Blair

Caelan Matthew Wallace
July 30—August 3, 2010
Preterm labor
Given by parents Andy and Dana Wallace
and sister Linlea

Elliot Joseph Wood
Stillborn December 21, 2011
Unknown cause

Livvy Diane Wood
1993
Given by parents Ron and Halee Wood
and brother Reese

Adrian Joseph "AJ" Zuckerman
Stillborn March 30, 2007
Cord accident
Given by parents Al and Amber Zuckerman
and brothers Eli and Alexander

Gifts of Support
Second Baptist Church, Springfield, MO
West Conroe Baptist Church, Conroe, TX
First Presbyterian Church Foundation
of Wichita Falls, TX
One Hope Foundation
Port Gamble S' Kallam Tribe, Kingston, WA
Highland Park Presbyterian Church, Dallas, TX
Kerry and Valerie Jones

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.

"Birthday Tributes" continued from page 9."

Happy 1st Birthday, Scarlet!

We miss our little chubby Scarlet baby to the moon and back. We think about you every day and look forward to the day we're together again. Feel Mommy and Daddy's love for you, little one. Always, Forever and Never-ending.

Scarlet Quinn Stark
Stillborn April 3, 2014
Parents: Michael and Laura Stark



Happy 1st Birthday, Henry!

Happy birthday, Henry! I can't believe it's been a year since I had to say "Goodbye" before I even got to say "Hello." You came into this world sleeping on my birthday. A day, that, for so many years, I did not acknowledge (it's a mommy thing). ;) I now have the most amazing reason to celebrate that day and the most incredibly sad reason to dread it. Each year will vary in my emotions toward it, but my feelings about you will always remain the same. I love you, sweetheart, and I miss you so very much. The same goes for your daddy, grandparents, aunts and uncles, we all love you!

-Mommy

Henry Scott Herzog
April 8, 2014
Inadequate placenta
Parents: Scott and Erin



Happy 1st Birthday, Quinn!

I knew you so shortly before I had to say goodbye. My fleeting rainbow, I miss you more than words can ever express. I know you are having such fun with your big sister and Grandpa Rough. One day I will join you all when it's my time. For now, I will remember the moments I spent telling you my hopes and dreams for you. So I won't say goodbye, not for real. I will see you again, my little prism.

Momma loves you.

Quinn Connor
Miscarried April 15, 2014
Also remembering:
Bethanni Connor
Miscarried October 25, 2008
Mommy: Rebekah Connor



Happy 5th Birthday, Sophia Rose!

Happy 5th birthday in heaven to our precious Sophia! We miss you every day, but you have brought so much more to our lives than we could have ever imagined. Until we meet again in heaven, sweet baby.

Sophia Rose McGhee
Stillborn March 29, 2010
Unknown cause
Parents: Matt and Stacy McGhee
Siblings: Micah and Scarlett



As thou knowest not what is the way of the spirit, nor how the bones do grow in the womb of her that is with child: even so thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all.

Ecclesiastes 11:5

Carrying to Term

Carrying to term. This is a phrase I had never really heard of, and never really understood the significance of it until seven years ago.

December 13, 2007, at 10:30 a.m., I lay on the table in a dark room waiting to find out the sex of our first child. The ultrasound technician was moving my belly and trying to get a good look at our active baby. She said she ran out of paper to print the pictures on and went to get more. She came back pretty quickly with Dr. Peet, my ob/gyn, ... and no paper. Still, at this point, I did not realize this was a huge red flag of “WARNING WARNING—something is wrong.” I thought he was just there to visit. He asked my husband to sit down and said, “Something is wrong with the baby. This baby has anencephaly, which is related to spina bifida.” I was relieved for a quick second thinking, “Oh, my baby may not walk, that is not a big deal.” But he continued with, “This baby is not going to make it.” My world then fell apart. My husband collapsed in my arms, and we held each other sobbing for what seemed like hours. Eventually a very sweet nurse helped me up, and we went to Dr. Peet’s office. He told me he was going to send me downtown to a high risk doctor to confirm the diagnosis, even though he was 90 percent sure. He also wrote “anencephaly” on the back of a card and said “DO NOT GOOGLE THIS.” Of course we went home and did just that. I could barely pronounce the word, and 12 hours later, I was an expert on it.

The next morning we arrived downtown for our 9:00 appointment. We got there early, so we had time to fill out the thousands of pages of paperwork. The doctor was a hot shot doctor with an ego about as big as Houston. He was used to seeing women carrying twins, triplets or more. The women in the waiting room were HUGE pregnant! I was only 20 weeks along and still in my regular pants. The doctor did not see us until 4:00 p.m. I lay on his table, he put the Doppler on my tummy and said, “Yep, this fetus has anencephaly.” I asked him to confirm the sex, and we found out it was a girl! He then called my doctor and left him a voicemail saying, “Mrs. Drude’s fetus 100 percent has anencephaly. We need to get her into labor and delivery now and get this problem over with.” My husband and I looked at each other in horror and ran out of the room. How dare he! Termination, abortion, murder NEVER crossed my mind. Why would I end the life of my precious baby girl I had been praying for my whole life?

My husband and I went on with our new normal. We began the plan to say hello and goodbye to our daughter, Dharma Lucille. We planned her funeral, purchased and made a custom cover for her casket out of pink prom dress material. We arranged for her to be an organ donor. We purchased her burial dress, and we arranged for “Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep” to be at my delivery.

I went to a local maternity store to buy a dress for the Life Celebration my church friends were throwing Dharma

and me. While there, the manager kept trying to sell me on getting a college savings account started for my baby. I politely said “No, thank you” a few times before becoming really irritated at her. When I was at the checkout she continued with the questions. “Want to sign up for free formula? Want to sign up for free parenting magazine?” I answered, “No, thank you.” And then she once again asked me about that stupid college savings stuff. I then went off on her: “You want to know why I don’t need this crap? My baby is going to die at some point before or after birth!!!” Her response was, “It’s a shame they are making you carry IT.” I about came unglued! I then went off on her in a more Godly way, telling her all about the blessings God has done through Dharma and how she will go on to help other babies by donating her organs. She looked shocked, and I just left.

As the years have gone on, I am still baffled when people say things like that to me. And yes, people STILL do. Dharma lived for 21 hours and 22 minutes—the BEST 21 hours and 22 minutes of my life! She cried, we bathed her, changed her, fed her, and I got to be a mommy! She made me a mommy! She was the most beautiful baby in the whole wide world, and I have NEVER regretted for one minute “carrying her to term.” I say it like that because I did not realize that by staying pregnant I was doing something so controversial. Dr. Peet is a wonderful Christian doctor and knew we are also Christians, so he knew what our decision was going to be.

I told people all the time, “I would do it again” not knowing I would have to. December 26, 2014, when at my NICE high risk doctor’s appointment for my 4th pregnancy, I found out we were carrying another sweet girl, Stella Darling, who also had anencephaly. My doctor cried with me, hugged me and said “I will do whatever you need me to do to make this better for you.” I did not think it was fair. I did not think it was real. I kept saying, “This is so stupid.” But I went through the motions. I planned for another funeral, I picked out another casket, I arranged for Stella to be an organ donor, too, and we picked out a place for my girls to be buried together. At my

16-week ultrasound, Stella no longer had a heartbeat. We had 16 weeks to prepare for Dharma’s arrival, but we had



Un Diagnóstico Precoz y Cargando el Embarazo a Término

Varias veces al año que tengo el privilegio de hablar con los proveedores de atención médicos sobre cómo cuidar a las familias cuando un bebé muere. Aunque la presentación se centra principalmente en qué hacer, qué no hacer, qué decir y qué no decir, siempre comienzo con el punto de la importancia de darles opciones a los padres; especialmente cuando un bebé se ha dado un diagnóstico fatal. Siempre les explico cuando nosotros como padres aprendimos de la muerte de nuestro bebe o la muerte inminente, inmediatamente entramos en un estado de shock. En este estado, dependíamos totalmente de la experiencia de nuestros médicos para orientar y dirigirnos a lo que el protocolo era para lo que seguía. Y lo que me dijeron lo que seguía y lo que deberíamos hacer ahora, es generalmente exactamente lo que hicimos. Sin dudas.

En los más de dieciocho años de dirigir una organización de pérdida infantil, he oído innumerables historias de padres que recibieron un diagnóstico de que su bebe era incompatible con la vida, luego dichos que debían entregar inmediatamente. Muchas madres se les dice que es "lo mejor", que interpreta en el sentido más seguro para su salud, que se traduce en "sería perjudicial e incluso peligroso para continuar el embarazo". Así, generalmente sin cuestionar o investigar opciones, deciden seguir con el entrego del bebé.

Debo aclarar que no tengo ningún tipo de antecedentes médicos, pero mis años de experiencia me ha dado opinión personal a numerosas situaciones donde de hecho, la mayoría de las veces, continuar con el embarazo de un bebé que se ha dado un diagnóstico mortal no es peligroso. He aprendido que aveces, los médicos recomiendan la entrega inmediata simplemente porque creen que sería psicológicamente mejor para los padres, en lugar de cargar un bebé que está destinado a morir.

Durante los años de escuchar los padres compartir sus historias de terminación o entrego de su bebé basado en resultados de los examenes, empecé a notar un patrón. No sólo estan sufriendo profundamente estos padres la muerte de su bebé, pero muchos de ellos también estaban plagados de culpabilidad, preguntándose: "¿Trate de ser Dios". "¿hice una decisión que no era mía?" "¿Qué si la prueba fue equivocada?" ¿Qué si, que si, qué si...

Por favor entiendan que no estoy juzgando a las familias que tuvieron que tomar esta decisión impensable, sólo estoy compartiendo mis observaciones. Además he notado que cuando el shock comienza a desaparecer y los padres escuchan las historias de otros padres que llevaron a su pequeñín al término que le fue dado el mismo diagnóstico, o comienzan a investigar más el Internet, empiezan a resentir su médico e incluso familiares que los animaron hacer esta decisión.

Al reverso de este tema, los padres que les dio la opción de llevar a su bebé a término (o hasta que murió en el útero), frecuentemente no fueron apoyadas por los que los rodean. Otros no podrían comprender cómo o por qué alguien quisiera continuar el embarazo de un bebé que iba a morir. Lo que no entienden es que, aunque la prueba tras prueba puede mostrar una anomalía fatal, los padres están esperando un milagro, o orando que las pruebas estaban equivocadas. Quieren la satisfacción de saber que hicieron todo lo que pudieron para su pequeño. Desean poder decir en definitiva, "no remordimientos".

Si usted es un padre de un bebé precioso que fue dado un diagnóstico fatal, lo siento por las decisiones insondables que es probable que se vio obligado a hacer. Algunos de ustedes tal vez desean haber sido más informados y dados más opciones, mientras que el resto están satisfechos con saber que sus médicos hicieron todo lo posible para la vida de su bebe. De cualquier manera, descansen sabiendo que hicieron lo que era lo mejor para usted y su familia en el momento. Otros no pueden entender esas decisiones, pero hicieron udstedes lo correcto para ustedes mismos. Ruego que el señor continua consolarlos y causar a los que los rodean que los apoyen con amor a udstedes sobre este camino de dolor.

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

only known about Stella for 4 weeks. We had nothing ready! I called on my very special M.E.N.D. BFFs, and they got right to work. One even made a tiny tutu for Stella. I was induced and Stella was stillborn the next day. She looked just like her sisters and brother!

I miss both my girls so terribly, but I am so thankful I made the decision to meet them, hold them, love on them, and parent them as long as the Lord allowed me.

For more information about anencephaly or to read more stories about babies being carried to term please visit <http://www.anencephalie-info.org/index.php> This website is translated in about 10 different languages, including Spanish.

♥ *Jennie Drude,*
Mommy to Dharma Lucille, Stella Darling and Liza Belle
M.E.N.D.—Bryan/Collage Station Chapter Director

We Chose Life

My husband, daughter and I were so excited, yet surprised, when we learned we were expecting. My two previous pregnancies were both aided with fertility help, one of which resulted in miscarriage. We had decided after our daughter Emily was born not to seek fertility help but just to see what happened. Years went by with no pregnancy, and I had resigned myself to having our daughter Elizabeth in heaven and Emily here with us. My husband Jeromye and Emily continued to pray for a baby.

On February 2, 2013, we learned we were expecting a little miracle. I was in shock for a few days but then embraced this miracle with much joy and expectation. Due to my being a little older and already having suffered one loss (Elizabeth Abigail, Full Trisomy 16, April 29, 2002), my appointments were scheduled for every two to three weeks, with an ultrasound each time. Things were progressing well and “Baby J,” as we called the baby, was looking good. When we were around 12 weeks along, my doctor showed a little concern that the baby appeared to measure around five days behind where everything had been on track at prior visits. We just brushed it off; after all, this was our miracle. At our 15-week appointment, our doctor wanted to see whether he could tell the baby’s gender for us. As he moved the Doppler across my tummy, he thought the baby appeared to be a boy. Since we were still pretty early in pregnancy, he decided to do an internal ultrasound. As he came across the baby’s head area, he found what appeared to be severe hydrocephalus. He stopped the ultrasound and referred us to labs for a MaterniT21 test. We were also referred to a perinatologist for a Level 2 ultrasound.

Our world went spinning. How could this be happening? This was our miracle we conceived with no help from the medical field. The two weeks we waited for our appointment with the specialist seemed like an eternity. In the meantime, we had people all over the U.S. and in other countries praying for us. When we returned to the doctor, we took a support team with us who prayed while we were in with the perinatologist. The Level 2 ultrasound was amazing. We watched our baby move, kick, look at the camera, and just live for a solid hour. The baby looked beautiful and healthy to us. The blow came after the doctor read the report and changed everything. Our baby had HPLHS (Hypo Plastic Left Heart Syndrome); there was a CDH (Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia) that allowed the baby’s stomach to push into the chest cavity which pushed the heart to the right side of the chest. The baby had two holes in the heart, the kidneys were dilated and the lungs would likely not develop due to the pressure of the heart and stomach on them. The front part of the brain never formed, and it seemed the list went on. With each abnormality, my heart crushed more. When the perinatologist finished delivering the blow, she went on to say we could set up an appointment for termination. It took a minute to sink in what was being offered. My husband immediately said, “Absolutely not.

With us, that is not an option. We have hundreds of people praying; we will not terminate.” We left that appointment in tears, hearts crushed but with the hope prayers would be answered.

Two days after that appointment, I received a call with the blood test results. Our precious miracle had Full Trisomy 13. One of the problems with Trisomy babies is not being able to tell the gender for quite a while with an ultrasound, but the blood tests do reveal gender. We were told that day we were expecting a boy. My heart was so elated and crushed. This was the son and brother we had prayed for years to join our family. Jeromye just knew when we found out we were expecting that this was going to be the son he had held out hope for. When I gave up on having another child a few years earlier, he and Emily continued to pray fervently, firmly believing for a son and brother. What father doesn’t dream of one day having a son? Jeromye’s dreams and prayers were being answered, but he would never get to bring his baby boy home to grow up and to teach him the tricks of the trade. Emily had been looking forward to having a little brother to boss around and to lock out of her bedroom. She was so disappointed and sad when she learned of his diagnosis, as we were completely open with her throughout our journey.

From that point forward, we went to every ultrasound with new perspective. We cherished those times as we knew quite possibly they would be our only time to see our son alive and active. Our doctor was so good to spend extra time with us as he, too, knew what this meant. Our appointments were moved up to at least every two weeks just to be sure what was happening. We cherished and loved each one.

On June 24, 2013, I went into labor and delivered Isaac David Jackson into the arms of Jesus at 25 weeks, 6 days gestation. In spite of all of the abnormalities, Isaac was so developed, formed, beautiful and loved by so many. While we firmly believed the many hundreds and even thousands of prayers would be answered in our favor, they weren’t. We just knew we would hear a little cry, and between the intervention of God and the doctors, he would make it. So we wrestled with the whys...Why would a 41-year-old lady be able to conceive a miracle, and then have that miracle to be swept out of our arms? Why do some full Trisomy babies make it but ours didn’t? There are many more questions we did and still do wrestle with, but I can say with assurance that we are so thankful we were chosen to be Isaac David Jackson’s parents and that we chose life.



♥ *Angi Jackson,*
Mommy to Elizabeth and Isaac,
M.E.N.D.—Tulsa

Loving Levi

On September 15, 2012, I took my very first positive pregnancy test. Pure and absolute joy overwhelmed me, and I was so excited to finally be on the way to being a mommy to my very own sweet baby. We were so ready. My husband Sam and I had been married over five and a half years at that point. I had finished nursing school and started my career. We had bought a house and felt able to bring a little one into the world. It was going to be perfect. I mean, we had done everything right, and now it was our turn to start a family and share our love, right?

December 13, 2012, we had our first ultrasound appointment. We were thrilled as we waited to find out if we would be bringing home a baby boy or girl. We started the sonogram and almost immediately learned our sweet bundle of joy was a boy! The sonographer's exact words were, "Look, there it is, beans and a weanie!" I've never seen Sam smile so big! It was a glorious moment.

Unfortunately, that moment was short lived. We soon learned our son had a cleft lip, and our obstetrician thought we should see a specialist to find out if anything else was wrong. We were devastated and scared. Our dreams of having a perfect little baby were dashed. More than a month later on January 14, 2013, we saw a perinatologist, who quickly sent us to a pediatric cardiologist. By the end of the day we were told our son had a life-threatening heart condition called Tetralogy of Fallot with absent pulmonary valve, and he could die at any day. We were advised to have an amniocentesis. One week later the news only got worse. Levi's final diagnosis was Trisomy 13, and with it came the words "incompatible with life." It was a death sentence. I couldn't believe it. How could this happen to us? Why? Our son was going to die, and there was nothing we could do about it.

Many things changed in our lives and very quickly. I couldn't face the world. It hurt too much. The smiles and friendly questions from unknowing strangers about my now obviously pregnant belly were heart breaking. We changed to a high risk OB and tried to get as much of a plan as possible together for our sweet boy. We were asked if we wanted to terminate our pregnancy. I was honestly shocked by this question, which we got more than once. At this point, I was 22 weeks pregnant, and Levi had been moving for over a month. I just couldn't end his life. I felt like he needed to have someone on his side, and as his mommy, it was going to be me. We fought and fought for Levi. We had several consultations over the next three months, but our results were futile.

So, we faced the reality that our son was going to die, and we prepared to say goodbye. We read books to him and went to places we loved. We tried to make memories with him while he was alive, even if he wasn't born yet. But it was so hard... We felt like our whole pregnancy was ruined. Everything we did just made us remember he wouldn't be with us much longer. I made a birth plan, and we decided to buy him a few things. Up until this point, we had not gotten many things for him. We knew it would be harder to take them back than to buy them if we did need them. We decided to get him an outfit to be buried in and an outfit to come home in, you know, just in case. It was so painful, but the worst was when we decided to visit the funeral home before our son was even born. I just felt like these were the only things I could do for him as his mom, so I did them. I only wanted him to have the best he could have. We chose his gravesite and his casket, and then we went home and sobbed. As my husband said, "I saw my son's grave before I even saw his face."

At 32 weeks, I developed pre-eclampsia, and our time with Levi was cut even shorter. I was admitted to the hospital with high blood pressure and excessive swelling on Tuesday, April 16, 2013, and by Friday, April 19, 2013, at 35 weeks and 6 days, we met our Levi. I knew he was sick, I knew they told me he wouldn't live, but somewhere, deep in my heart, I thought maybe, just maybe, he would get to stay with us – maybe they'd all been wrong. And then he was born, by C-section, at 8:13 a.m. As soon as I saw him, I knew he wasn't going to be with us long. He struggled to breathe from the minute he was born. His once strong heartbeat of 130s – 140s dwindled to the 30s before we even left the operating room. We held him and loved him for two and a half hours, but at 10:49 a.m., he left this world and went home to be with Jesus.

We had a beautiful graveside funeral with family and then a very special memorial service a few days later. The outpouring of love was amazing. But the fact remained that our son was not with us anymore, and it was unbearable. I struggled for a long time with being angry with God. Some days I still struggle. It's only been two years since we first found out about Levi's illness, and yet there are days when it seems like this has been our entire existence.

Despite all the pain and heartache, I have learned so much from being Levi's mommy. He has taught me life is sacred, no matter how short, and there are people out there who are hurting who need to be given an extra measure of grace and love. If it were up to me, Levi would be sitting in my lap with his little head on my chest right now. If it were my plan, I'd be chasing around an almost 2-year-old little boy. I don't claim to have all the answers or understand why this happened, but I do know Levi was given to me for a reason. I was chosen specifically by God to be his mommy. I may not agree with how God chose for him to be taken from me, but I know He knows best, and I am learning how to accept this day by day. My life would not be what it is today if Levi had not been born and died. I would change it in a heartbeat if I could. I would give

Continued on page 19...

M.E.N.D.

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

Meets the 1st Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
4500 Bissonnet, Ste 337B,
Bellaire, Texas 77401

Meets the 3rd Thursday at 7:30 p.m.
Lone Star College,

3200 College Park Dr, Room A228,
The Woodlands, Texas 77384

Director: Stormy Mitchell
stormym@mend.org, (281) 374-8528

Subsequent pregnancy group meets
on odd numbered months

on the 3rd Thursday at 7:30 p.m.,
led by Chiara Ott (chiara@mend.org).

Daddy's group meets quarterly
on the 3rd Thursday at 7:30 p.m.,
led by Greg Miller (stephaniem@mend.org)

M.E.N.D.—Texarkana

Meets the 3rd Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
CHRISTUS St. Michael Rehab Hospital
2400 St. Michael Drive
Texarkana, Texas 75503

Director: Monica Davis
monica@mend.org, (903) 490-1210

M.E.N.D.—NW Washington

Meets the 2nd Monday at 6:30 p.m.
Harrison Medical Center/Iris Room
1800 Myhre Rd.

Silverdale, Washington 98383

Gig Harbor Meeting

Meets the 4th Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

St. Anthony Hospital/Greenpoint Dining Room

11567 Canterwood Blvd NW,

Gig Harbor, Washington 98332

Director: Stacy McGhee
stacym@mend.org, (360) 662-6161

M.E.N.D.—SW Missouri

Meets the 1st Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

Project H.O.P.E.

1419 S. Enterprise

Springfield, Missouri 65804

Director: Heather Fann
heather@mend.org, (417) 818-0489

M.E.N.D.—Amarillo

Meets the 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

First United Bank of the Colonies/
Lonestar Room

One First United Bank Parkway

45th and Soncy

Amarillo, Texas 79119

Director: Becky Anderson
becky@mend.org, (806) 570-4344

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

Thank you to my assistants, Angi Jackson and Kathryn Johnson, for joining me at the M.E.N.D. Leadership Conference. Additionally thank you to our wonderful hosts, the Dallas chapter, for their hospitality. It was great to visit with the other chapters and come away with a lot of new information that will help us continue God's work through M.E.N.D.

Lisa Daily

Houston

M.E.N.D.—Houston is having a year filled with many blessings already. We have been successfully meeting in two locations since last year, which allows us to serve even more families in the Houston area. We have some great fundraisers lined up for the coming months, so keep an eye out for those. If you would like to get involved in helping M.E.N.D.—Houston with any fundraisers, please email Stormy at stormym@mend.org.

Stormy Mitchell

SW Missouri

M.E.N.D.—SW Missouri enjoyed a great day of crafting and scrapbook fun with more than 40 people attending our annual fundraiser in February. We are excited to announce we are hosting an additional fundraiser on Tuesday, June 16, at 6:30 p.m. with The Social Easel. Tickets are \$40.00 to enjoy an evening of guided painting and go home with a beautiful piece of art! Seating is limited to the first 36 people who register! For more details, contact me at heather@mend.org.

Heather Fann

NW Washington

We were excited to travel to Texas for the Leadership Conference to learn, connect, and have fellowship with all the other leaders of M.E.N.D. What a great opportunity for us to learn how to better serve our grieving community. We have already welcomed three new families into our group this year. We pray they find comfort from us on this journey. We are so thankful for a \$1,500 donation from the S'klallam tribe of Port Gamble. What a great start to our new year.

Stacy McGhee

Chicagoland

M.E.N.D.—Chicagoland continues to grow and spread the word out about our new chapter. We are so thankful for Jenn Frighetto and her public relations talents in helping us reach out to multiple local newspapers as well as Chicago magazines. What a blessing to our chapter. We are thankful God is using the loss of our precious babies to help reach out to others during their time of sorrow.

Sara Hintz

Wichita Falls

M.E.N.D.—Wichita Falls has welcomed new members every month. In December, were blessed to receive another grant from First Presbyterian Church Wichita Falls. We are so thankful for the support of our local community.

Sarah Fukasawa

Amarillo

2015 has begun, and I know it will be a great year for us at M.E.N.D.—Amarillo. Our chapter will be changing meeting locations in April, so watch for details.

Becky Anderson

Bryan/College Station

2015 has started off wonderfully for M.E.N.D.—Bryan/College Station! Larhesa, Kristen, and I had a wonderful time in Dallas at our M.E.N.D. Leadership Conference. Thank you to Rebekah for hosting this event. We enjoyed connecting with M.E.N.D. moms from all over the United States. I would also like to thank West Conroe Baptist Church for its continued support of our chapter. We are able to bless so many families of Brazos County because of your generosity. For more information on our monthly support group meetings, subsequent meetings, or Ladies Night Outs, please visit our Facebook page or email me at jennie@mend.org.

Jennie Drude

Texarkana

M.E.N.D.—Texarkana continues to minister to families through our monthly meetings, phone calls, emails and through our Facebook page. God continues to introduce new families to us, and we are so thankful He is using this ministry to heal broken hearts. We are looking forward to hosting our 2nd Annual Life to Remember in May.

Monica Davis

People constantly ask how it is that I am not angry with the Lord. My honest answer is that I have been angry, and I have been disappointed. What I have not been, and what I refuse to be, is disbelieving. [...] The Lord I have placed my trust in tells me that I will see my child again, and while He stands beside me, He weeps. He doesn't weep at the barren ground, nor does He mourn the browning branches. He cries because I can't see what He can.

Quoted in *I Will Carry You: The Sacred Dance of Grief and Joy*
By Angie Smith

M.E.N.D.—Bryan/College Station

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

M.E.N.D.—Tulsa

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

M.E.N.D.—Wichita Falls, Texas

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

M.E.N.D.—Chicagoland, Illinois

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

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

Join us for a time of sharing experiences.

M.E.N.D. main chapter meetings

are held the 2nd Thursday of every month from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Daddies group

meets the 2nd Thursday of March, June, Sept. and Dec., from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

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

Subsequent pregnancy group

meets the 4th Tuesday from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Led by Liz Walker: liz@mend.org
For families who are considering becoming pregnant or are currently pregnant after a loss.

Food and Fellowship

are held the 4th Thursday of every month at 8:00 p.m. at the Corner Bakery in Southlake Town Center

A time to relax and meet with other M.E.N.D. parents in a social setting.

Contact Brittney Fish:
brittney@mend.org

Infertility group

meets the 3rd Monday at 7:30 p.m.

Contact Cheryl Davis for meeting location and information at Cheryl@mend.org
For families experiencing infertility after a loss.

Parenting After Loss Playgroup

Meets monthly at various locations in the Dallas / Fort Worth metroplex.

Contact Magen Kaye: Magen@mend.org or call (214) 435-3870

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

Unless otherwise noted, all support group meetings are held at:

Wells Fargo Bank

800 W. Airport Freeway

Irving, TX 75062

(Located in the Crystals Pizza parking lot, between MacArthur and O'Connor)
Meetings will be in the bank board room, located on the first floor.

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

Tips for Obstetric Sonographers

When a Baby Has Been Diagnosed with a Life-Limiting Condition

Written by Deborah L. Davis, PhD

www.perinatalhospice.org

These tips were written with perinatal hospice parents in mind, but many can apply generally, whether you're performing the first prenatal screening exam, doing a higher level exam after problems have been detected, or providing an elective sonogram for parents who've already received devastating news.

Overall, parents find it therapeutic when you relate to them with acceptance, sensitivity, compassion, and collaboration.

- Greet parents warmly. Congratulate them on having this new baby in their family and express your sympathy that this baby's life may be brief. Parents appreciate affirmation of the sorrows *and* joys of their experience.
- Show genuine interest in parents as competent, multi-dimensional people, rather than viewing them simply as distraught and struggling. To build rapport, inquire about the pregnancy as well as other aspects of their lives that may come up.
- Explore with parents what they hope to gain from the session, with open-ended questions such as, "Have you thought about what you'd like to get from this experience?"
- Also inquire along the lines of, "Have you thought about how you'd like to spend this time with your baby?" This conversation affirms their ability to relate to their little one and helps them think about creating memories.
- Keep these conversations going throughout the session, as parents' wishes and ideas can evolve.
- Follow the parents' lead and stay flexible so you can tailor the time according to those evolving wishes and ideas. See yourself as their interpreter and guide.
- Acknowledge that their baby is very much alive (or was, if you happen to determine the baby has died).
- Affirm the preciousness of their baby. Ask them if they've decided yet on a name. If they provide it, use it.
- Encourage parents to ask questions about what they are seeing, and patiently respond to repeated questions. Be sure to refer them to their doctor if they have questions about their baby's medical condition.
- Point out what is "normal" and "babyish," including fingers and toes, face, overall proportions, hiccups, sucking, and other movements.
- Hold the attitude that their baby is not "deformed," but beautiful and perfect in his/her own way. Point out anomalies in a warm, sensitive, matter-of-fact way that respects this baby's individuality. Mindfully refrain from undertones such as *what a fascinating specimen* or *wow, I've never seen anything like this!*
- Invite the parents to have others accompany them, and let them know the limit (consider viewing, room size, time allotment, personal preference, etc.).
- If they have other children, let them know it's appropriate to bring them. But because children can quickly lose interest, suggest that they also bring another adult who can mind the kids.
- Set time limits for appointments and stick to them. If the parents request more time, set another appointment. This is partly self-care, and also gives parents the chance to come back refreshed, perhaps with new ideas and wishes.
- If possible, record the sonogram session and offer it to parents, as this can be a treasured keepsake. If parents decline, let them know you'll store it for them should they change their minds.
- Don't assume that the parents are religious and even if they are, don't assume they see things the way you do. Again, follow their lead and simply accept their perspectives and ways of finding meaning in their experience.
- Accept their tears and smiles as valid and special parts of their experience. Their emotions indicate that you are providing a meaningful service.
- Let their feelings flow without trying to fix or steer them. This is their journey, and your job is to reverently accompany them.

Thank you for the important work you do with these parents.



Subsequent Births

Jonathan and Sara Wendt,
of Argyle, Texas,
along with brothers Leo and Owen,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Hazel Mae,
born October 16, 2014,
measuring 7 lb., 8 oz.,
and 19.75 inches long.
The Wendts lovingly remember
Merida Rose Wendt,
June 24, 2013,
cord accident at 18 weeks gestation

Timothy and Andrea Hall,
of Grandbury, Texas,
along with siblings
Lydia, Benjamin, and Josiah,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Gabriel James,
born November 15, 2014.
The Hall family lovingly remembers
Jonathan Gabriel,
November 27—December 24, 2011,
complications from sepsis

Zac and Andrea Holmes,
of Bremerton, Washington,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Kolton Perry,
born January 30, 2015,
measuring 6 lb., 8 oz.,
and 18.5 inches long.
The Holmes family lovingly
remembers
Baby Grace,
miscarried August 3, 2013, 19 weeks,
chromosomal abnormalities

Brian and Sandy Reed,
of Bremerton, Washington,
joyfully announce the arrival of
MiaBella Grace,
born November 18, 2014,
measuring 7 lb., 8 oz.,
and 19.5 inches long.
The Reeds lovingly remember
Baby Reed 1,
miscarried April 3, 2013,
Baby Reed 2,
miscarried November 31, 2013

Brian and Kendra Slattery,
of San Diego, California,
joyfully announce the arrival of
McKenna Rae,
born February 1, 2015,
measuring 7 lb., 9 oz.,
and 19 inches long.
The Slattery family lovingly
remembers
Baby Slattery 1,
miscarried August 2, 2013,
Baby Slattery 2,
miscarried January 24, 2014

Mark Perritt and Hannah Bray,
of Thornton, Texas,
along with siblings Alice, Nathan and
Roxanne,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Ralph Anthony,
born February 11, 2015,
measuring 8 lb., 9 oz.,
and 21 inches long.
The family lovingly remembers
Everett,
miscarried March 9, 2012 at 18 weeks,
Hydros/downs

A Different Child

A Poem For
Madoka Marietta Rosalie,
from your mother,
Pandora Diane Waldron,
March 4, 1999

A different child,
People notice
There's a special glow around you,
You grow
Surrounded by love,
Never doubting you are wanted;
Only look at the pride and joy
In your mother and father's eyes.

And if sometimes
Between the smiles
There's a trace of tears,
One day
You'll understand.

You'll understand
There was once a different child
Who was in their hopes and dreams.
That child will never
outgrow the baby clothes
That child will never
keep them up at night

In fact, that child will never
be of any trouble at all
Except sometimes, in a silent moment,
When mother and father miss so much
That different child.

May hope and love wrap you warmly
And may you learn the lesson forever
How infinitely precious
How infinitely fragile
Is this life on Earth.

One day, as a young man or woman
You may see another mother's tears
Another father's silent grief
Then you, and you alone
Will understand
And offer the greatest comfort.
When all hope seems lost,
You will tell them
With great compassion,
"I know how you feel.
I am only here
Because my mother tried again."

"Loving Levi" continued from page 15.

just about anything to have both of my children here with me. But, since I cannot have this, I am choosing to live my life in a way that points to Jesus, because in the end of this life there is another. Levi is waiting for me to get there. So, today I'll strive to point my life and his to the next life that was given to us by the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection. This life is short... But Heaven is forever. I'll see you soon, Levi boy.

♥ *Jenae Bowmer,*
Mommy to Levi,
M.E.N.D.—Dallas

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

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

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

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

- **Kroger grocery stores** donate a percentage of all purchases of those shoppers in Texas and Louisiana who have their Kroger Plus Card linked to M.E.N.D. To link your card, go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com and set up an account if you do not already have one. Once you receive the email after setting up your account, click on “My Account,” then go to “Edit Kroger Community Rewards” and input your Kroger Plus card number. You’ll see a screen with your information in boxes, at the bottom right, there is a box that says Community Rewards. Click that, then enter the M.E.N.D. number, which is 80513. Once that’s entered, you’ll confirm that M.E.N.D. is your charity of choice. This link will be good until the 2013-2014 program expires. You must link your card each year to M.E.N.D.
- **Tom Thumb** also has a program in Texas that can benefit M.E.N.D. If you have a Tom Thumb Reward Card, please contact Rebekah (rebekah@mend.org) to obtain the Customer Letter. You must only present this letter one time to link your card to M.E.N.D. Reward cards can also be used at Randalls and Simon David stores.
- **GoodSearch.com** is a search engine that donates half its revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Powered by Yahoo!, it is used like any other search engine. To earn money for M.E.N.D. using Goodsearch.com, go to www.goodsearch.com and designate M.E.N.D. as your charity of choice.
- **Ebay** has a charitable giving program that can benefit M.E.N.D. If you sell items on Ebay and would like to designate a percentage of your revenue to M.E.N.D., visit www.missionfish.org to find out how.
- **Igive.com** will donate a penny a search and a portion of each purchase made through their website to M.E.N.D. Sign up today! M.E.N.D.’s cause number is 52025.



www.mend.org