



Celebrating Our Memories

As the mother of three children - two in heaven and one living son, who is now a married man - I have realized the importance of making memories and how cherished those memories are later in life. When I was pregnant with my two boys, I did not grasp how wonderful every day was when they were alive in my womb. Instead, I focused on my due dates and imagined what our lives would be like when they were babies, small children, adults, etc.

After our Jonathan was stillborn at 29 1/2 weeks due to a cord accident, I frantically began reliving all the beautiful weeks he was alive inside of me. I was desperate for memories. My mind first raced back to the call I received from the sweet nurse at my ob/gyn's office revealing the pregnancy test results. When I answered the phone that December morning, she said, "Do you want a happy Christmas, or a sad Christmas?" Later that day, one of my nieces had a birthday party at an ice skating rink, which is where I told my family we were expecting another baby. Oddly, I can even remember exactly what I had on from head to toe. Then, that night my husband, Byron, and I called his parents who lived in Kansas City to tell them they had another grandchild on the way.

As my pregnancy with Jonathan progressed, I recall the sweet little flutters I began to feel somewhere around 14 weeks. How precious those sensations are! I prayed for his developing body every single day. Curiously, I regularly placed my hand on my growing abdomen and prayed, "Thank you, Lord, for this little life. Let this baby glorify You, and may countless people come to You through his life." Little did I know how the Lord would answer that prayer—not the way I thought or wanted it to be answered, but it was answered in God's sovereign way. I also remember images of an infant's funeral flash through my mind on a few occasions. It never upset me, nor did I think it very ominous; they were just flashes of a scene.

Our living son was 3 1/2 at the time, and, oh, how excited he was at the idea of having a little brother!

Often he touched my bulging stomach and loved to blow on it to make an explosive sound with his mouth. He was so sure Jon-Jon responded with a kick every time.

When Jonathan's lifeless, 2 pound, 12 ounce body was delivered, I knew I wanted to see and hold him, but not until I was in recovery and after someone brought me my contacts or glasses so I could see him really well. I'll never forget waiting with Byron for a few minutes alone in a private room. Suddenly the door opened, and my nurse tiptoed in, carrying our stillborn baby in her arms. She slowly walked to my side, bent down and gently placed him in my arms without saying a word. His tiny face was the spitting image of his big brother's—not what Byron, Jr. looked like as a newborn, but what he looked like right then. Unlike Byron, Jr.'s newborn black, straight hair, Jonathan had light, wavy hair. I immediately exclaimed, "Oh, he looks just like Little B!" Jonathan's miniature face was perfect. He already had long eyelashes and faint eyebrows. His skin was without



blemish. His little body was quintessentially formed. He smelled fresh and whole, not decayed or stale. He was perfect, but dead.

We kept Jonathan with us (except overnight) in our room for two days. It seemed natural and right, not weird or morbid. I have very special memories of Byron's and my families coming together and deeply grieving the death of our son. Everyone tried to make spiritual sense of what just happened and what to do from there. Funeral and burial arrangements were made.

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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 14.

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.

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“Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory”

-Dr. Seuss

Dear readers,

As we travel down the road in our grief journey, sometimes we become overwhelmed by the sorrow, especially during these upcoming holidays of Mother's Day and Father's Day.

While you allow yourself to grieve, also allow yourself to think back on the memories, of those wonderful moments you shared with your baby on earth, and celebrate those. These precious moments in time are something to be treasured as you remember your baby.

Our topic for this newsletter is “Celebrate the Memories,” so please enjoy the special moments with their babies the leadership of M.E.N.D. shared. My own special moments were the times I craved chocolate milk while pregnant with Serenity. Every time I drink a glass, it brings a smile to my face as I think of my first little girl I carried for a short time.

♥ Jennifer Harrison

Mommy to Serenity

M.E.N.D. Newsletter Editor

Shortly before my PPROM at 27 weeks and 5 days in 2003, I recall driving to Dallas from Missouri by myself. That's a long trip if you don't have company, and I remember taking that time to tell my unborn son, Caleb Scott, all about his family. I started just talking out loud to him while he wiggled around in my belly. I told him all about his daddy and me—where we grew up, how we met and how long we had dreamed and prayed for him. Then I moved on to tell him about his grandparents who were anxiously awaiting his arrival, and aunts and uncles ready to spoil him. I told him about cousins, great-grandparents, distant relatives, friends who we love like family, and those who had already gone on to heaven. It was such a precious time “introducing” Caleb to each person and personality. I pondered with him whether he'd have his daddy's family's pale skin or the darker complexion of my side of the tree. I told him he could have my determination, but he had to have his daddy's sense of humor. I spent the long 7-hour drive just “chatting” with my baby. Even though we lost him a few weeks later, I can look back over these last 12 years and still treasure that drive with my son.

♥ Heather Fann,

Mommy to Caleb Scott and Baby August

M.E.N.D.—SW Missouri

We were overjoyed and filled with hope when we found out we were pregnant. I had been diagnosed with cervical cancer a year and a half before and didn't think we could conceive again. Finally making it past the first trimester with her gave us the hope we needed after two previous miscarriages and a failed adoption, in the year after being cancer free.

♥ Stacy McGee

Mommy to Sophia Rose

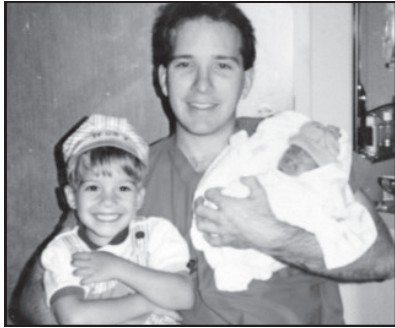
M.E.N.D.—NW Washington



international
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“Celebrating the Memories” continued from page 1.

I remember trying to figure out how Byron and I were going to tell Byron, Jr. that Jonathan went to heaven. How do you explain cord accident, death and he's-not-coming-home-after-all, to a three year old? These are hard memories, memories I don't like to recall very often. We put Jonathan in the isolette when we knew Little B was about to come in the room. Someone opened the door and let him walk in by himself. The plan was for Byron to tell him, but when our adorable blonde boy innocently came in the room, he couldn't do it. I began the



difficult explanation by telling our son Jon-Jon “popped out” last night. Immediately Little B inhaled and erupted in a squeal with his trademark ear-to-ear grin. As quickly as that smile came, it faded. Instinctively, he knew something was very wrong with Mommy and Daddy; we were not happy. I continued to tell him Jonathan went to heaven; he was with Jesus and not coming home with us. I pointed to the isolette and showed him the baby. His daddy

picked up Jonathan, bent down and showed Little B his long-awaited little brother. Little B opted out of holding him but did touch him, and gratefully we have pictures to help us remember.

The second hardest memory I have is two days later when the chaplain came to my room and told me the funeral home was downstairs waiting to take Jonathan. I remember handing him over to her, wailing. I'm sure my cries were heard up and down the hallway.

All this happened twenty years ago. Crazy. Where have the years gone? Twenty years ago in May, I was on bedrest, staying with my parents so I would have help with my pre-schooler while Byron was at work. Never in a million years did I think Mother's Day in 1995 was my first and last Mother's Day with my two boys. So, memories are all I have. Though some of my memories are painful and hard, most of them are beautiful, and I can think of my son in heaven with a smile on my face. The Lord has been immeasurably good to us. True, He didn't answer this Mom's prayers the way I wanted them answered, but I trust in His ways, and He has turned my ashes into something incredibly beautiful with M.E.N.D. He has turned my sorrow into joy, and my crying into laughter. On this Mother's Day, I may have a few minutes of private tears, but this day will bring immense gratefulness for the life of my living son and his wife, Anna, who is now my daughter. I will remember my precious Jonathan, as well as the little baby I miscarried six years later. And I say to all three of them, “Thanks for making me a mom!”

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

Some of my most precious memories of our time with Samuel was doing all the things we love most to do as a family: going on family vacations to Grandma and Grandpa's lake house, taking family walks, and snuggling on the couch watching movies and feeling Samuel move inside of me. Every moment with Samuel was precious and is treasured still six years later. What a precious gift Samuel's life was and still is to our family!

♥ *Sara Hintz,*
Mommy to Samuel
M.E.N.D.—Chicagoland

July/August Topic

Parental Rights

(legislative issues surrounding infant loss, taxes, time limit after stillbirth, etc.)

Deadline: May 31, 2015

September/October Topic

Raising/Parenting Subsequents

Deadline: July 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.

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

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

Heavenly Birthday

<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 20th Birthday, Jonathan!

My sweet little Jonathan, how is it you would be 20 years old? I still refer to you as my baby, but actually you would be a young man in college now. I have felt your absence this past year more than usual. Likely, you would have graduated from high school last May, a few days after Little B graduated from college. The day of TCA's 2014 graduation, I was very aware you should have been walking across that stage, too. Then in August, you weren't at your brother's wedding. And, later that month I was sad we weren't taking you to college to begin a new adventure.

Though you are in heaven, your legacy is very much alive! I am confident your life, through your death, has touched more people than if you had lived 100 years. I don't pretend to like this plan God made for us, but I'm incredibly grateful for what the Lord has done through your dad's and my sorrow.

I love you, my Precious Gift from God. Until we meet again...

Jonathan Daniel Mitchell

Stillborn June 24, 1995

Cord accident

Baby Mitchell

Miscarried December 2001

Parents: Byron and Rebekah Mitchell

Brother: Byron Jr.



Happy 6th Birthday, Emma!

Happy birthday, Emma! Our sweet Emma, we constantly think about you, and now your little sister is more aware about you. She sees your picture and knows your name. She brings you flowers and a toy every time we go to the cemetery.

We miss you so very much, and we love you more every day. Your little sister is going to make you very proud.

Happy birthday in heaven, while we celebrate your short life here on earth.

Love,

Mommy, Daddy and your little sister Isabella

Emma Krymkiewiez

May 5, 2009

Neonatal hemocromatosis

Also remembering

Baby Girl Krymkiewiez

Miscarried June 13, 2008

Parents: Hernan and Ana Krymkiewiez

Little sister: Isabella



Happy 44th Birthday, Brian!

You Remain My Precious Dream

I dreamed a little dream,

Once upon a time.

I dreamed we'd be together one day,

Sweet little baby of mine.

Sadly that dream was not meant to be,

And it's very difficult to know,

That now you won't be coming to me.

You weren't strong enough to thrive and grow,

But I know that you're in heaven now

And that's a very good place to be.

And I know that when I get there,

I'll recognize you, and you'll know me.

We'll get to share the love we would

Have shared here on this earth.

And then we'll know without a doubt

What all this waiting was worth.

Brian Keith Ingle

June 3, 1971

Underdeveloped lungs/baby taken too early

Mommy: Marilyn Ingle

Siblings: Tracy, Tom and Jason



Happy 1st Birthday, Bryson!

Happy 1st heavenly birthday, Bryson! It's hard to believe a year has gone by. Not a day goes by we don't think about you. We constantly wonder what would you be doing, who would you look like, and if you and your big brother would be little partners in crime. Even though these are things we will never know, it brings us great peace to know you are in heaven with God and so many loved ones. Have a happy birthday and give everyone a big kiss for us! We love and miss you so much!

Love,

Mommy, Daddy, Mackenzie and Brayden

Bryson Glenn Middleton

Stillborn June 19, 2014

Placental abruption

Also remembering:

Baby Middleton

Miscarried April 2007

Parents: Brandon and Jennie Middleton

Siblings: Mackenzie and Brayden



Happy 25th Birthday, Baby Polley 1!

Happy birthday to our little sweet baby, our first baby, many years ago. Not knowing if you were a boy or girl has upset your mommy at times, but that is not what's important. What is important is that your life mattered. Your tiny life mattered because every life is precious. We will hold you in heaven, sweet one. We love you.

Baby Polley 1

Miscarried May 1990, at 10 weeks

Unknown cause

Also remembering

Allison Nicole Polley

Stillborn August 5, 1991, at 24 weeks

Unknown cause

Baby Polley 2

Miscarried October 1991, at 8 weeks

Unknown cause

Parents: Mike and Gina Polley

Siblings: Alyssa, Bradley, Joshua and Zachary



Happy 25th Birthday, Corey!

Happy birthday, my little angel. I think of you often. You will always be close to my heart. I love you always. Until I am reunited with you, take comfort in your Heavenly Father.

Love you,
Mommy

Corey Obediah Jones

June 20, 1990

Premature labor/Potter's syndrome

Parents: Ben and Llorra Jones

Sisters: Heather and Hannah



Happy 4th Birthday, Connor!

Happy birthday, baby boy. We all miss you very much. I think about you every day.

Connor James McDaniel

May 20-21, 2011

Complications due to CMV infection

Parents: Sam and Kimberly McDaniel

Sister: Katie



Happy 1st Birthday, Baby Hammer!

You were planned. I love you with every day that passes. Someday I will hear the sweet sound of your laughter. Until then, Momma loves you and will carry you in my heart.

Baby Hammer

Miscarried June 11, 2014

Mommy: Dawna Clark

Siblings: Arthur Jr, Lila Mae and Makenzie Rose



Happy 1st Birthday, Ryder!

Our little angel left us before we could know him, but not before we could love him. We will see you again.

Ryder Cash Corley

June 4, 2014

Unknown cause

Parents: Caylor and Megan Corley



Happy 3rd Birthday, Ryder!

Happy 3rd heavenly birthday to our sweet baby boy, the most beautiful boy we'd ever laid eyes on! Each year proves to not be any easier. Your big sis asks about you all the time, just wants to know if you are ok and if they have clothes for you. We all miss you very much and hope you are living an amazing life with all the others up there we miss! Happy 3rd birthday, Ryder Alan Beene!

Ryder Alan Beene

Stillborn February 18, 2012, at 27 weeks

Unknown cause

Parents: Jason and Courtney Beene

Sisters: Raegan and Blakely



Happy 5th Birthday, Cale!

Love you always, sweet baby Cale. Praying this birthday in heaven is your best one yet, and your wonderful family feels surrounded with just as much love as they feel for you every day.

Cale Harrison Hidalgo

Stillborn June 28, 2010, at 38 weeks

Parents: Miles and Caroline Hidalgo

Little siblings: Finley and Mary



Happy 1st Birthday, Paul!

We love you and miss you every day, and we will be celebrating your birthday every year. When your older siblings graduate on your birthday, we will release balloons on your birthday. We will always include you no matter what, and we will always be thinking of you. Your brother and sisters love how you visit them at school, whether it is dragonflies or butterflies, or heart-shaped clouds—we love all the signs you give us to know you are with us always.

We love you, Paul Bradley Brady. Happy 1st birthday to you. We love you and miss you. You are with us always and forever.

Love and hugs,
Mom, Dad, brothers and sisters

Paul Bradley Brady

May 29, 2014

Parents: James and Jessica Brady

Siblings: Matthew, Melissa, Kristen, Ruby and Isabella



Happy 1st Birthday, Stella!

Our precious baby girl was too beautiful for this earth and now she sings with the angels. She was only here for a brief time but will live in our hearts forever.

Stella Leigh Palmarez
Miscarried June 13, 2014
Parents: April and John Palmarez
Brothers: John, Paul and Nathan



Happy 1st Birthday, Avery!

Avery Marie, you are the best thing that has ever happened to us. We love you and miss you more than words can express, gorgeous girl. "How silently you entered our world. Almost silently. Only a moment you stayed, but what an imprint your footprints have left on all our hearts." Keep us strong, sweet angel.

Love,

Mommy, Daddy, Shyla, Gram, Gramps, Pop, Nanny,
 Nana, Pappy, Pop-Pop, Grammy,
 and all of the rest of your family and friends

Avery Dixon
April 30—May 1, 2014
Acute fatty liver of pregnancy
Parents: Ryan and Laura Dixon



Happy 11th Birthday, Thomas!

I love and miss you so much. Your brother talks about you all the time. Wish you were here. Your little brother needs you and so do your sisters, but I know you're helping as much as you can from up above. We all love and miss you. Tell Nannie, Pawpaw, Jerome and everyone else your playing with "hey" for us down here.

Thomas Alexander
May 26—June 3, 2004
Premature
Also remembering:
Stevie Cook
Miscarried February 15, 2010
Mommy: Heather Cook
Siblings: Chelsea, Wade and Jaymee



Happy 1st Birthday, Emma!

We were honored to hold you for 15 hours, my sweet princess. Now, you are watching over us from heaven. All the angels are going to celebrate your "one year" with them. We love you and miss you so much.

Emma Victoria Schlapkohl
June 30-July 1, 2014
Trisomy 18
Parents: Brent and Lourdes Schlapkohl
Siblings: Derek and Johan



Happy 2nd Birthday, Celeste!

Happy birthday to the princess who never received her crown but instead received wings. You are dearly missed every single day of our lives. The cut in my heart feels fresh every day, but the comfort of your presence inside my heart and mind controls the pain. Words can't describe to you how much I miss you and how much Dad misses you. I know you're in a better place...you are where you belong. Always know I love you so much, and not one day has gone by where I don't think of you and the strength you gave to me. I love you, Celeste, and you will always mean the world to me.

Celeste Alayna Ramirez
Stillborn May 25, 2013
Birth defects
Parents: Elda Regalado and Favian Ramirez



Happy 8th Birthday, AJ!

Time passes so quickly and another year is done ... another year without you. We miss you with each holiday, each change of the season, each dawn of each new day. Thank you for all you've taught us. We will hold you in heaven. Our love for you is endless.

We love you more!

Adrian Joseph Zuckerman
March 30, 2007
True knot cord accident
Parents: Al and Amber Zuckerman
Brothers: Eli and Alexander



Happy 1st Birthday, Abigail!

Our sweet Abigail, we can't believe it's already been a year since you left us. We were so excited to find out you were coming. You would have been born right around your sister's birthday and could have worn all her old clothes. Julianne would have been so happy to have you for a little sister. We will never forget the day we found out something was wrong, or the day we found out you were gone or the day we held you. You were tiny but wonderfully made. We love and miss you, Abby girl.

Abigail Mercy Wheeler
Miscarried June 3, 2014, at 14 weeks
Cystic hygroma
Also remembering
Baby Wheeler
Miscarried March 2009, at 8 weeks
Michael Noah Wheeler
Stillborn January 27, 2010, at 24 weeks
Unknown cause
Everly Hope Wheeler
Miscarried January 2015, at 6 weeks
Parents: Jim and Larissa Wheeler
Sister: Julianne



Happy 25th Birthday, Janelle!

Happy 25th birthday to my precious baby girl, Janelle Ann Wilson! I still think about you every day. God took you from us when you were just 17 days old. I cherish those 17 days! I know you will be having a wonderful birthday celebration in heaven with all our family and friends who have passed. Just wish you could be here! I can't believe it's been 25 years since you were born! Time moves on, but the pain still remains. Mommy loves you, sweet girl, and misses you terribly! I know we will meet again some day and will know why God took you from us. Rest in Paradise, my angel. Love you!

Janelle Ann Wilson

March 7-24, 1990

SIDS

Parents: Kirk Wilson and Jana Jones

Siblings: Janese, Karlee and Drew

**Happy 2nd Birthday, AJ!**

"Your little face so beautiful.
We loved you from the start.
Every tiny part of you.
Engraved upon our hearts"
I cannot believe it's been two years.
We will miss you always, AJ.

Love,

Mummy, Daddy, Ava, Nora, January and Nicolas

Andrew Junior Mwirigi

May 13, 2013

Parvovirus

Also remembering

January Mwirigi

January 25, 2006

Unknown cause

Parents: Andrew Mureti and Nicola Mwirigi

Siblings: Ava, Nora and Nicolas

**Happy 2nd Birthday, Baby Boy!**

Happy Angelversary, Baby Boy! We can't believe it's been two years since we said goodbye. The pain doesn't change, but our love for you and your brothers continues to grow. Hope you and Anderson are celebrating in heaven. Watch down on us, Baby Boy, until we join you. Xoxo
Love for eternity

Baby Boy Waeger

June 18, 2013

Ruptured omphalacele

Also remembering

Anderson Fisher Waeger

August 30, 2014

Placental insufficiency

Parents: Andrew and Kimberly Waeger

Brother: Aiden

**Happy 1st Birthday, Jason!**

Sweet baby boy, it's hard to believe it has been a year since we last held you in our arms. We could not wait to meet you but never dreamed it would be so soon. We were not ready to say "hello" and "goodbye" in the same day. As much as it hurt for us to give you back, we are so thankful God chose us to be your parents. Happy 1st birthday, son. Sending you hugs and kisses until we see you again.

Love,

Mommy, Daddy and Hailey

Jason Hunter Thomas

June 30, 2014

PPROM

Parents: Steven and Melissa Thomas

Sibling: Hailey

**Happy 2nd Birthday, Jax!**

I remember the moment they put you into my lap after you were born. My heart broke because I knew you were gone, but my heart also filled with joy knowing you were mine! We are so proud to be your parents. We think about you daily and wonder what our sweet 2 year old would look like. We love you, sweet baby! Happy 2nd heavenly birthday! XOXO

Jax Yerg

Stillborn June 28, 2013, at 24 weeks

Unknown cause

Parents: Bryan and Stephanie Yerg

**Happy 12th Birthday, Matthew!**

We can hardly believe it's been 12 years since we held you in our arms. It seems like yesterday! We remember that day so dearly! You are growing up, my son. Though I know you are in heaven with Jesus, yet still my mother's heart aches for you. You are our precious, precious son - a special gift from God. We miss you SO much and greatly look forward to our reunion in heaven. What a glorious time that will be! We love you forever, Matthew!

Happy, happy birthday, sweetheart.

Love,

Mom and Dad

Matthew Mifflin

June 6, 2003

True knot in the 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 4th Birthday, Gideon!

You have been with Jesus for four years now. We love you and are thankful for you! I find myself thinking about the poem your daddy read to you the day of your funeral. The words he wrote are still so true today.

Thank you Gideon

Thank you for showing us how deep a love can go

Thank you for touching the core of our souls

*Thank you for showing your personality
through your kicks inside Mommy*

Thank you for bringing such beauty in the world

*Thank you for changing our lives
and the way we see everything*

*Thank you for being the miracle
that we desperately needed*

Thank you for being you



*Gideon Zeller Mitchell
Stillborn May 17, 2011
Membranous cord insertion*

Happy 7th Birthday, Avery!

We know you're experiencing perfect joy every day in the presence of Jesus with your little brother Gideon and your newest baby sister. We love all of you so very much. We can't wait to hold you in our arms!

*Avery Mitchell
Miscarried May 2008
Unknown cause*

Also remembering

Baby A Mitchell

December 2014

Vanishing Twin

Parents: Todd and Stormy Mitchell

Siblings: Silas and Justus



Happy 3rd Birthday, Sophie Jane!

You would be 3 years old this year, sweet girl. Not quite a baby, but not quite a big kid, either. That wonderful combination of cuddly yet independent. We miss you so very much and can't help but wonder what all you would be doing here with us at 3 years old. Would you love the water and want to take swim lessons like your big brother? Would you want to don a tutu and be a ballerina like your mama? We still grieve your death and the thousands of memories we never got the chance to make. We love and miss you!

Love,

Mommy, Daddy, Luke and Piper

*Sophie Jane Darnell
Stillborn May 28, 2012, at 40 weeks
Unknown cause
Parents: Tommy and Brea Darnell
Siblings: Luke and Piper*



Happy 3rd Birthday, Emilyynn!

We can't believe it has already been three years. We miss you and think about you every day! We will always have a little piece of our hearts in heaven with you. We can't wait until we get to hold you in our arms again. Have a wonderful birthday, our beautiful baby girl. We love you forever and always!

Love,

Mom, Dad, Nolan, and Mary Britton

*Emilyynn Larren Schrader
June 19, 2012*

Cord accident

Parents: Daniel and Kellie Schrader

Siblings: Nolan and Mary Britton



Happy 5th Birthday, Josiah!

People only get to dream of angels; we got to hold one in our arms. We love and miss our sweet baby boy. He will always be in our hearts. We love you, sweet Angel.

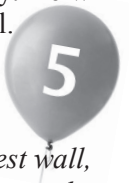
Josiah Angel Flores

June 24, 2010

*Dandy-Walker syndrome, bright bowels, small chest wall,
single vein umbilical cord, 4 weeks behind in growth*

Parents: Hector and Karen Flores

Siblings: Christian, Anthony, Samuel and Victoria



Happy 14th Birthday, Griffin!

Oh, Griffin, the places you'll go ... and birthday wishes to help you grow! To our sweet boy who is turning 14 years old, we wish you the very best in heaven this year!

Love you lots,

Dad, Mom, Mya and Aidan

Griffin Caleb McIntosh

Stillborn June 6, 2001

Parents: Matthew and Naomi McIntosh

Siblings: Mya and Aidan



Happy 1st Birthday, Morde!

Happy birthday to my bumble bee, Mordecai, We love and miss you to the moon and back. You are my beautiful baby boy, and I love you every second, minute and moment of the day. It's hard to believe it's been a year since I sang to you while you were in my womb. I love you from your first heartbeat to the last, and I will love you forever. I hope your day is filled with lots of laughter and hugs in heaven as we celebrate your special day on earth.

"For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb; I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made." (Psalm 139: 13-16)

Mordecai Kingston Thomas

Miscarried May 6, 2014

Mommy: Christina Thomas



Happy 2nd Birthday, Scarlett!

Once Upon A Time
There lived a Beautiful Princess
The fairest one of all
And she lived
Happily Ever After

Happy birthday, my princess! I can't believe you are turning 2 today ... 2! One year closer until the day I get to hold you in my arms again. I miss you so much, and there is not a day goes by I do not have you on my mind. My sweet girl, thank you for always watching over our family and for being with me everywhere I go. I carry you in my heart always and forever. Happy birthday, my love! I will be blowing so many kisses to heaven on this royal day.

Mommy loves you!

Scarlette Faith Hite

June 14, 2013

Premature death

Also remembering

Destiny Hope Hite

Miscarried February 26, 2013

Mommy: Caroline Perez

**Happy 2nd Birthday, Gabriel!**

Happy 2nd heavenly birthday, Gabriel! Wow, it's hard to believe it's been two years since we held you in our arms! We miss you and think of you each and every day. Your big sister is so proud to tell others about her little brother, Gabriel "lion" in heaven! We pray you have such an awesome celebration and enjoy your day. We rejoice one year closer to holding you again. God has blessed us with a son and brother who has touched so many. We love you so much, our brave little soul! Until we meet again in heaven!

We love you,
Mommy, Daddy and Kendall

Gabriel Lee Butler

June 14-15, 2013

Anencephaly

Parents: Brandon and Angie Butler

Big sister: Kendall

**Happy 3rd Birthday, Adalyne!**

Our dearest Adalyne Grace, we think about you often and miss you more than anything. Thank you for being a guardian angel to your mommy and baby brother Asher. We love you.

Adalyne Grace Insley

May 24, 2012

Blood clots

Parents: Adam and Shana Insley

Siblings: Hayley, Carson and Asher

**Happy 3rd Birthday, Emily Elizabeth!**

Darling Emily, not a day goes by we don't think of you with love. Are you talkative like Tito and Zoey or quiet like Daddy? What is your favorite color? Do you dance with your angel friends or play hide and seek? In my heart you are the most beautiful angel with a kind and loving heart. I think you are quiet at times but love to giggle and talk, too. I see you dancing gleefully to the music of the angels. If I could find a window to heaven, I would climb through it to say hello and give you the biggest kiss and hugs, but I know once I saw and held you, I would never be able to let you go.

Emily Elizabeth Valladares

Miscarried May 7, 2012

Parents: Justin and Gabriela Valladares

Siblings: Tito and Zoey Marie

**Happy 4th Birthday, Elena!**

"Sometimes the smallest things
take up the most room in your heart."

-Winnie the Pooh (A.A. Milne)

Our dearest Elena, you are a big sister again. We so wish you were here to meet your baby brother and to play with your first little brother. Your big brother misses you and talks of you often. Mommy and Daddy love and miss you, too, and can't wait to hold you again. You are always in our hearts. Until we meet again, Sweet Princess...

Mommy, Daddy, Liam, Asher, and Gavin

Elena Marie Rusert

May 23, 2011

Premature

Parents: Michael and Tina Rusert

Brothers: Liam, Asher and Gavin

**Happy 4th Birthday, Jordan!**

How often have I wondered what 4 year olds would look like? How long would your hair be now? How many growth notches on your bedroom door? Daddy says you would be the tallest/smartest. Would you love to sing and dance? Would you love LSU or Texas Tech? What stuffed animal is your favorite? Would you love to shop with Aunt Jessica? I know you would love to cuddle with NaNa. We miss you, we LOVE you, we cannot wait to hold you again. We know heaven is where you are!

Love always,
Mommy and Daddy

Jordan Anne Haney

May 23, 2011

Incompetent cervix

Parents: Joe and Julie Haney



Continued on page 11...

In Loving Memory**Andrew Robert Bateman**

Stillborn October 7, 2014
Unknown cause
Parents: Tim and Laura Bateman
Sisters: Leah and Hannah
Given by Jan and Karen Dittmar

Shiloh Crain

October 29, 2014
Parents: John and Lauren Crain
Gifts given by
Dr. Joanna Pridgen Woodard
Dr. Rusty Woodard

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
Uncle Kollin and Aunt Jennifer Green
Ed and Sandy Rybicki

Riley and Parker Davis

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

Dharma Lucille Drude

March 31—April 1, 2008
Anencephaly

Stella Darling Drude

January 23, 2014
Anencephaly and exencephaly

Liza Belle Drude

February 23, 2015
Unknown cause
Parents: Jason and Jennie Drude
Siblings: Max and Molli
Given by grandmother Marilyn Branson

Caleb Scott Fann

December 1, 2003
PROM

Baby August Fann

Miscarried August 13, 2004
Parents: Jonathan and Heather Fann
Little sister: Madison
Gifts given by
Frank Rust
Dave and Sheila Waln
Luke and Mikaela Hatfield
Uncle Michael and Aunt Jaime Fann
Jessica Hickok
Ron and Debbie Dent
Dorothy Fann
Peter and Katherine Smith

Logan Wayne Fish

September 17, 2002
Skeletal Dysplasia
Parents: Brittney and David Fish
Brothers: Landry and Hudson
Given by Sterling Sales & Solutions

Paislee Ann Frette

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

C.J. Gold

Miscarried August 12, 2008
Marina Gold
Miscarried July 14, 2009
Given by
General Council of the Assemblies of God

Samuel Mark Hintz

Stillborn October 29, 2008
Cord accident

Joel David Hintz

Stillborn July 3, 2009

Baby Hintz

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

Elizabeth Abigail Jackson

Miscarried April 29, 2002
Trisomy 16

Isaac David Jackson

Stillborn June 24, 2013
Trisomy 13
Parents: Jeromye and Angi Jackson
Sister: Emily
Given by Daniel and Kim Johnson

Christopher Slade Mohon

Stillborn January 17, 2015
Parents: Chad and Laura Mohon
Given by: Roy and Susan Skipworth

Baby January Mwirigi

January 25, 2006
Unknown cause

A.J. (Andrew, Jr.) Mwirigi

May 13, 2013
Parvovirus
Given by parents Andrew Mureti
and Nicola Mwirigi and siblings Ava,
Nora and Nicolas

B3 Nelson

Miscarried January 1, 2013

July Baby Nelson

Miscarried July 21, 2013
Given by parents Chris and Chelley Nelson
and siblings Brianna, Brenson,
Brooke and Brecklyn

Alexis Leigh and Nicole Leigh Rudeen

Stillborn March 11, 2002
Unknown cause
Given by parents Randy and Sherri Rudeen
and siblings Julia, Sara,
Jordyn Leigh and Sydney Leigh

Alexander Seely

April 30, 2010
Cord accident
Given by parents Ron and Raquel Seely
and siblings Abraham and Leah

Adley Taylor Sells

December 30, 2010
Parents: Chad and Ashley Sells
Given by grandparents
Mr. and Mrs. Harry E Patterson, Jr.

Hannah Grace Sherman

Stillborn August 12, 2005
Cystic hygroma
Given by parents Randy and Toni Sherman
and sister Kaitlin

Gabriel Silvester

Stillborn February 6, 2014
Unknown cause
Given by parents James and Rachel Silvester

Tommy Clinton Skipworth

November 1982
Placenta previa
Given by parents Roy and Susan Skipworth

Mindy and Maggie Smith

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

Arie Witt

November 5, 2013
Unknown cause
Parents: Mike and Candice Witt
Given by Timothy and Brenda Kenny

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
IBM Employee Charitable Campaign
West Conroe Baptist Church, Conroe, TX
Derrick Kinney & Associates
Ameriprise Financial
Curtis Clay
iFratelli Corporation
Westside Improvement Club Inc., Bremerton, WA

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!

"Birthday Tributes" continued...

**Happy 15th Birthday, Sydney!
Happy 14th Birthday, Ashley!**

We love and miss you both every day.

Happy heavenly birthdays,
"Until we meet again"
Mom, Dad and Sam



Sydney Lynne Brown

May 18, 2000

Unknown cause

Ashley Mackenzie Brown

May 18, 2001

Premature due to Antiphospholipid Antibody Syndrome

Parents: Brian and Marilyn Brown

Brother: Samuel Brown

Happy 3rd Birthday, Leah!

Wishing you were here to celebrate this day with us, but we know you are watching over us on this special day. We all love and miss you dearly, Leah Sue.

Love always,
Momma, Daddy and Ashley



Leah Sue Jernigan

May 7, 2012

Unknown cause

Parents: Ronnie and Whitney Jernigan

Sister: Ashley Jernigan Jones

Happy 2nd Birthday, Payton!

Happy 2nd birthday and angelversary, Payton Elise! Our precious angel girl is now a terrible 2 year old, and how we wish she was here on earth with us to watch. There is not one single day you are not thought about or spoken about, sweet girl. We only held you so briefly, and we now hold you in our hearts for eternity, where all of our real treasures live. No amount of time will ever erase the love we all have for you. God's promise of eternity gives us comfort. We love you to heaven and back, forever and always! Happy birthday, angel girl!

Payton Elise Carter

Stillborn June 21, 2013

Parents: Cody Carter and Elizabeth Paige Young

Brothers: Cameron and Easton



Happy 3rd Birthday, Lucy!

We look forward to joining you with our heavenly Father.

Lucille Paige Swearingen

May 1, 2012

Cord accident

Parents: Ross and Tia Swearingen

Sister: Sadie



A Change in Leadership

With mixed emotions I am announcing my resignation as the chapter director of M.E.N.D.—Southwest Missouri. Serving M.E.N.D. over the past eight years in roles such as the newsletter editor and the founding director of our Missouri chapter has been a blessing to my life. As we know, the Lord brings seasons in and out of our lives, and the time for my season is coming to an end.

It has been an honor and a source of pride to see Caleb and Baby August's legacy fulfilled in ministering to hundreds of bereaved parents in the Ozarks. I think it goes without saying that M.E.N.D. will always hold a very dear place in mine and Jonathan's hearts. We walked alongside so many of you through your losses, sometimes several of them, and also experienced the anxiety and elation of subsequent births. We loved getting to know you and your babies, both here on earth and in heaven. I truly believe God's grace led us to the Dallas chapter 11 years ago. So much of our grief was guided through the experiences we shared with Rebekah Mitchell, the president of M.E.N.D., and others in the Dallas chapter. We are eternally grateful for each of them and the mission of M.E.N.D.

♥ *Heather Fann,*

Mommy to Caleb Scott and Baby August

M.E.N.D.—SW Missouri

While I hate to see Heather go, I am excited to serve as the new chapter director. I have served as an assistant in the M.E.N.D.—SW Missouri chapter since its inception in September 2009. It has been a safe place to share my grief experience and provided me an opportunity to reach out to others experiencing the heartache of losing a baby. Fifteen months after our daughter Emily was born we found out we were expecting. At our first appointment the ultrasound showed the baby's heartbeat was low. On August 12, 2008, CJ was miscarried at six weeks. Eight months later we were once again expecting. Everything was fine at eight weeks, but on July 14, 2009, at our ten week appointment, we found out there was no heartbeat. I pray God will continue to use me and my grief experience to bring comfort to others in the SW Missouri area who are hurting after the loss of a child.

♥ *Kathryn Gold,*

Mommy to CJ and Marina

M.E.N.D.—SW Missouri

"I got to be a mom.

*It was only for a moment,
but it was a beautiful moment."*

-Jasmine Holmes

<http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/my-baby-s-heart-stopped-beating>

Reframing Your Memories

The other day I was talking on the phone to my dear friend Wendy. She and I were already good friends but became even closer last year when her son Moses died during pregnancy. I knew that pain well. Four years ago, my daughter, Lily, also died during pregnancy. As we were talking, Wendy told me she attended a festival all about horses this time last year. Her husband had given her the “day off” from homeschooling responsibilities, so she had gone by herself and enjoyed taking her time looking around. She remembers feeling a little funny but pushed ahead, choosing to continue walking instead of taking the courtesy cart. The festival was full of senior citizens, and after all, she was pregnant. It was just going to get harder. She chastised herself for acting so wimpy. A little over a week later, her precious Moses was gone, and her life was changed forever. She looks back at that day with tremendous regret. She doesn’t believe it would have changed the outcome, but she regrets not listening to her body. She wishes she would have taken it easy when she needed and not worried what other people would think of her riding in the cart. Her voice quivered as she said she didn’t think she could go back this year. I told her I understood. After talking a little more we ended our conversation.

The next day I was still thinking about our call when I heard that festival had started. At that moment, God reminded of something my son said to me soon after my daughter’s death. Isaac was 4 then and our only child at the time. He and I often shared a big bowl of cereal in the afternoon as a snack. We were doing just that when I told him one of the things I would miss about Lily not being here was not being able to share a bowl of cereal with both of them. Without a moment’s hesitation, he looked at me and said, “But you did, when she was in your womb.” Everything stopped, and I began to cry. He was right. When I was pregnant, we all had shared a bowl of cereal many times. His words gave me a completely new perspective. As I thought back over my pregnancy, there were many things we did with Lily, even if they were not done in the way I had imagined. We threw rocks in the creek, sledged down snowy hills, shared bowls of ice cream, had family pizza night, and danced to the Lawrence Welk Show on Saturday evenings (yes, the same 4 year old who had womb in his vocabulary also loved Lawrence Welk. He’s one of a kind!). I had been thinking of all the things we WOULD do together, I wasn’t seeing all the things we WERE doing together. I thought I was waiting nine months to start making memories and didn’t realize I was making them already. Although she was not aware of these things at the time, we were aware of her there with us. Ecclesiastes 4:4 says, “There is a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance.” Before the weeping, before the mourning, we had laughed, and we had danced.

I sat down and emailed this story to Wendy. I also told her I was praying that in the future, when her grief was not so overwhelming, she would be able to look back at that day and see it differently. Maybe she would be able to see it as a very special time for her to share her love of horses with Moses,

just the two of them. The next day she called to tell me how much Isaac’s words had meant to her. “It was a complete 180,” she said. She was outside weeding her flower beds, and instead of it causing her sadness to think she had been pregnant when she did it last year, she was thanking God she had gotten to do it with Moses. God had used Isaac’s simple words in a profound way to touch my grieving heart and four years later to touch another. It’s amazing what a new perspective can do.

Our memories are a lot like framed art. The frame, or perspective, we put around them can dramatically affect how we feel about them. A frame can make a huge difference in the overall feeling of a picture. It may appear gloomier or brighter, more serious or more light hearted depending on the frame. The right frame draws attention to a painting, but the wrong frame pulls attention away from the painting. However, there are some paintings that are bad no matter what frame you put around them. There are bad paintings, just as there are bad memories. That day in the ultrasound room when you were told there was no heartbeat? No frame can make that better. The silence in the delivery room? A painfully dark picture no matter what frame you choose. Going back to work without pictures of a new baby, boxing up an empty nursery, picking out a headstone—those memories will always be painful. But what about the others, the ones before ... before the ultrasound, before the silence, before the empty arms, empty nursery and empty body? What about the ones that were once happy memories, until grief came in and put dark frames around all of them? Grief not only likes to steal our anticipated joy of the future; it also likes to steal our remembered joy of the past. Maybe all those “before” memories aren’t sad memories, just memories with the wrong frames.

Maybe there is a place or an item that seems particularly painful to you, because you remember going there when you were pregnant or buying it the day you found out you were expecting. What might happen if you reframed them? Maybe that restaurant you ate at because it was the only thing that sounded remotely good when you were nauseated all day might stop being the place to avoid and instead became the place to go to celebrate your baby’s LIFE, instead of mourning her death. Maybe that shirt you were wearing when you found out you were pregnant, the one you later hid at the bottom of your drawer because you couldn’t stand to see it but couldn’t bear to get rid of it, would become a treasure to love instead of a something you hide. Maybe the picture of you and your husband dancing at your friend’s wedding, the one where you are smiling at each other because only the two of you know you’re pregnant, would become a precious photo of your ENTIRE family, all three of you, instead of a reminder of who is missing. What if we took back our memories, removed the dark frames of grief and said, “THAT is not a bad memory; THAT was a time for joy.”

♥ *Kathleen Moore,*
Mommy to Lily,

M.E.N.D.—SW Missouri

Share the Memories

I share my memories of Kelinda every chance I get. I created an entire scrapbook of memories when I came home from the hospital. I had started on it a few weeks before because I didn't want to forget a moment of my pregnancy, and it was my dream to share it with her one day so she would know how special she was from the very beginning. I chronicled everything from the moment I found out I was pregnant until the terrible day her heart stopped beating, and I lost a lifetime in a matter of minutes.

My first trimester was full of excitement and fear. Excitement because I was having my first child, and I'd done all the 'required' things: gone to college, graduated, started a career, etc. I was ready. I was mature, I was settled, just happy with life overall. I was scared because I didn't know what motherhood held. I'd heard of the joys of being a new mother. By time I got pregnant, my friends were talking about the downside to motherhood and telling me to enjoy my moments with my child before they became a walking, talking terror. I did just that. I signed up for every newsletter, email and even read the "bible" of *What to Expect When You're Expecting*. I was often amused by the weekly email that tells you what size your baby is and what they are starting to do at that point. My first trimester cravings were anything green apple. I ate green apples by the bag, had to have a Sonic green apple slush every day, and I was a huge fan of McDonald's cheeseburgers.

My second trimester was a lot more relaxed. I had gotten used to the idea of being pregnant, and I was in preparation mode. We learned we were having a girl, and the thoughts of all the things I wanted to do with and for her kept me up many nights. I was trying to map out how returning to work would be, what daycare she would go to and other logistics. I went to the library once a week and picked seven books. Each night I would read a different story. I read a lot of *Chicken Soup for the Soul Kids* stories to her because I liked the message. I also read nursery rhymes. Her favorite was "Hickory Dickory Dock." Every time I read that one she would move like crazy. I'm convinced she just liked the rhythm of it because she didn't react much to the others. She loved music. Stevie Wonder seemed to be her favorite. That could be in my head because he's mine. My biggest craving this trimester was butter pecan ice cream. It was so bad my carton was off limits to everyone else. I'm amazed I didn't gain more weight than I did.

Kelinda passed away at 29 weeks gestation. I had barely entered my third trimester. About a week and a half before she passed I'd taken my pregnancy pictures. I ordered way more than I'd planned to, but I was so pleased with how they turned out I couldn't resist. Just when I'd put a few in the mail and made the final decision on the ones I'd use for my baby shower invitations, she was gone. Just like that ... everything I'd hoped and prayed for was gone. I tried to keep my thoughts and memories to myself for a while, but I quickly learned it did more damage than good. From the pain I could no longer hold in I established Kelinda's Heart. I created a blog where I give my unfiltered truth. I participate in M.E.N.D. activities and keep in touch with the nurse who was with me the day I delivered Kelinda. All of these things help keep Kelinda's memory and our time together a part of my life. I recently read a quote by Lois Lowry that sums it up for me "The worst part of holding the memories is not the pain. It's the loneliness of it. Memories need to be shared."



I encourage everyone to keep sharing.

♥ Kera Robinson,
Mommy to Kelinda,
M.E.N.D.—Dallas



My husband and I would always go to the Asian restaurant across the street from the hospital after our doctor appointments. It was always so good and so fun! Also, I remember our older daughter, Sarah, who was 3 when Brooke was born, would always look under her shirt to see her belly when she wanted to check on her baby sister. She had such fun with that!

Here is a fond memory from Daddy while I was pregnant with our precious Brooke: seeing Mommy climbing the Grand Teton mountains while she was pregnant with Baby Brooke in her belly.

♥ Lisa Daily,
Mommy to Brooke,
M.E.N.D.—Tulsa

Un Día de la Madre/Día del Padre, Recuerdos Especiales

Como madre de tres hijos - dos en el cielo y un hijo vivo, que ahora es un hombre casado, me he dado cuenta la importancia de hacer recuerdos y como esos recuerdos son más apreciados mas adelante en la vida. Cuando estaba embarazada de mis dos hijos, No capté lo maravilloso que eran todos los días cuando estaban vivos en mi vientre. En cambio, me concentre en mis fechas de cuando se suponía que iba dar luz imagine lo que sería nuestras vida como cuando eran bebés, niños pequeños, adultos, etc.

Después de que nuestro Jonathan nació sin vida, a las 29 1/2 semanas debido a un accidente del cordón umbilical, comencé desesperadamente revivir todas las semanas hermosas que estaba vivo dentro de mí. Estaba desesperada por recuerdos. Mi mente primero record la llamada que recibí de la dulce enfermera en la oficina de mi obstetra/ginecólogo revelando los resultados de la prueba de embarazo. Cuando contesté el teléfono esa mañana de diciembre, dijo, “¿quieres una feliz Navidad, o una triste Navidad?” Más tarde ese día, una de mis sobrinas celebro su cumpleaños con una fiesta en una pista de patinaje sobre hielo, que es donde les avise a mi familia que estamos esperando otro bebé. Curiosamente, puedo recordar exactamente lo que tenía puesto de la cabeza a los pies. Después esa noche mi esposo Byron y yo llamamos a sus padres que vivían en Kansas City para decirles que tenían otro nieto en el camino.

A medida que avanzaba el embarazo con Jonathan, recuerdo los dulces aleteos que comencé a sentir alrededor de 14 semanas – que preciosas son esas sensaciones! Recé por el desarrollo de su cuerpo todos los días. Curiosamente, regularmente puse mi mano sobre mi abdomen creciente y oraba, “Gracias señor por esta vida. Deja que este bebé te glorifique, y que innumerables personas lleguen a conocerte a través de su vida”. Poco sabía yo cómo respondería el señor esa oración. No fue en la manera que yo pensaba o que yo quería que se contestara, pero fue respondida de manera soberana de Dios. También recuerdo imágenes de un funeral de un infante a través de mi mente en varias ocasiones. Nunca me molestó, ni lo pensé muy siniestro - eran sólo destellos de una escena.

Nuestro hijo vivo tenía tres años y medio de edad en ese tiempo y lo emocionado que estaba en la idea de tener un hermanito. Frecuentemente él tocaba mi estómago abultado, y amaba hacer un sonido explosivo con la boca - estaba tan seguro de que Jon Jon respondía con un tiro cada vez.

Cuando nació Jonathan sin vida, pesando dos libras 12 oz, sabía que quería ver y retenerlo, pero no hasta que estaba en recuperación y después de obtener mis contactos o lentes para poder verlo bien. Nunca olvidaré Byron y yo esperando unos minutos solos en una habitación privada. De repente la puerta se abrió y mi enfermera, caminando de puntillas, cargando nuestro bebé sin vida en sus brazos. Caminaba lentamente a mi lado, se agachó y lo colocó suavemente en mis brazos sin decir una palabra. Su pequeño rostro era la viva imagen de su hermano. No como pequeño Byron parecía cuando recién nacido, pero como se parecía en ese momento. Recién nacido pequeño Byron tenía cabello negro y lacio en cambio Jonathan tenía pelo ondulado. Inmediatamente exclamé, “oh, se parece igualito a pequeño B!” La miniature cara de Jonathan fue perfecto. Ya tenía largas pestañas y cejas débiles. Su piel sin mancha. Su cuerpecito fue quintaesencia formado. Él olía fresco y entero; no deteriorado u obsoleto. El fue perfecto, pero muerto.

Mantuvimos a Jonathan con nosotros (excepto durante la noche) en nuestra sala durante dos días. Parecía ser lo natural y correcto, no raro o mórbido. Tengo recuerdos muy especiales de nuestras familias juntándose y sufriendo profundamente la muerte de nuestro hijo. Todo el mundo tratando de hacer sentido espiritual de lo que pasó y qué había que hacer. Se hicieron planes para el funeral y entierro.

Recuerdo Byron y yo tratando de averiguar cómo le íbamos decir a Byron, Jr. que Jonathan se fue al cielo. ¿Cómo se le explica un accidente umbilical, muerte, que no vendrá después de todo, a un niño de tres años. Estos son recuerdos duros; recuerdos que no me gustan recordar. Pucimos a Jonathan en la incubadora cuando sabíamos que pequeño B estaba a punto de entrar a la sala. Alguien abrió la puerta y lo dejaron entrar solito. El plan era que Byron le iba decir, pero cuando nuestro chico rubio adorable inocentemente entró en la sala, no pudo hacerlo. Comencé la explicación difícil explicándole a nuestro hijo que Jon-Jon “salió” ayer por la noche. Inmediatamente pequeño B inhalado y estalló con un chillido con su sonrisa de oreja a oreja. Tan pronto como llegó esa sonrisa, se desvaneció. Instintivamente, sabía que algo malo pasaba con mamá y papá, que no éramos felices. Continué en decirle que Jonathan fue al cielo; estaba con Jesús y no iba venir con nosotros. Le señale la incubadora y le mostre al bebé. Su padre recogido Jonathan, se doblo un poco hacia abajo y le mostró a pequeño B su esperado hermanito. Pequeño B opto no retenerlo, pero si lo tocó, y con gratitud tenemos fotos que nos ayuda recordar esos momentos.

La segunda peor memoria que tengo dos paso días más tarde cuando el capellán vino a mi habitación y me dijo que la funeraria estaba abajo esperando Jonathan. Recuerdo que le entregue Jonathan, gimiendo. Estoy segura de que mis gritos fueron escuchados por todo el pasillo.

Todo esto sucedió hace veinte años. Que locura. ¿Dónde se fueron los años? Hace veinte años en mayo, estaba en reposo en cama, viviendo con mis padres así tendría ayuda con mi hijo preescolar mientras Byron estaba trabajando. Nunca en un millón de años pensé que el día de la madre en 1995 fuera mi primer y último día de la madre con mis dos

Forever Loving Levi

I was almost 17 weeks pregnant with Levi, my firstborn son, when we found out he was sick. It was during my first ultrasound we discovered he had a cleft lip and possibly a cleft palate. By 22 weeks we had been given the news our son had Trisomy 13 and would most likely not live long after he was born, if he even lived at all. We were told he could die in my womb at any day. More details about our diagnosis and carrying to term were shared in the last issue called “Loving Levi.”

After a few weeks of fear and devastation, we decided we wanted to make memories with Levi during the time we had been given, even if that meant we could only make these memories while he was still inside my belly. Since they say that babies can hear inside the womb, we chose to read to Levi. A book series my husband has fond memories of his mother reading to him is *The Chronicles of Narnia*. We began with the first book, *The Magician’s Nephew*, and read a little most every night. We were able to complete all of *The Magician’s Nephew*, *The Lion*, *The Witch and The Wardrobe*, and most of *The Horse and His Boy*. It was bittersweet. Many tears were shed as we spoke the words to our sweet boy, knowing those were some of the only memories we would make with him. Both of our moms also read to Levi. One of our now favorite books, *Harry the Dirty Dog*, was read by Joan, my mother-in-law, several times before Levi was born. In fact, Joan even read *Harry the Dirty Dog* at Levi’s memorial service because it holds such significance for us. These books hold a special place in our hearts and will always make us think of Levi and the priceless gift of sweet memories we were given.



A few others things we did with Levi before he was born included taking maternity pictures, eating at a few of our favorite restaurants, buying him a few special outfits and making a playlist of songs for him. I researched so much information during the remaining three months I carried Levi. I wanted to make sure I was well prepared for the day he would be born. I wanted to make sure I did everything I could do for him, as my son – as his mommy, to be ready for the little time we would share together on this earth.

At 35 weeks and 6 days, with a case of preeclampsia, I delivered Levi via C-section on April 19, 2013. My time had been cut short. I wasn’t ready to say goodbye. However, I am so thankful for the time I was given and the memories we were able to make with him that day. Many of our family members were able to meet Levi and hold him. My husband, my mother, my mother-in-law, and I all bathed Levi with special care. A precious photographer, Teresa Steed from Now I Lay Me Down To Sleep, captured beautiful pictures of our son and our family that day. These pictures are some of my most treasured possessions. We held him. We kissed him. We loved him. We took pictures and recorded video. We listened to his music. We wrapped him in a quilt my aunts made for him that was covered in personal messages to him from my family. He lived for two and a half blessed hours. All he ever knew was love. His time on this earth was memorable. His life was meaningful. He taught me more about the sanctity of life in the few moments he was here than I’ve known in all my 31 years of living. I will always miss him and wish he were here. I’ll always long for just one more minute to hold him in my arms. Until we are united once again I will be forever grateful for the time I was given with him and the memories I’ll always hold in my heart.



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

hijos. Así, todo lo que tengo son recuerdos. Aunque algunos de mis recuerdos son dolorosas y difíciles, la mayoría de ellos son hermosos y puedo pensar en mi hijo en el cielo con una sonrisa. El Señor ha sido inmensamente bueno con nosotros. Cierto, no respondió a las oraciones de esta madre como ella quería pero respondió y confío en sus maneras y ha convertido mis cenizas en algo increíblemente hermoso con M.E.N.D. Se volvió mi tristeza en alegría y mi llanto en risa. En este día de la madre, sí puede que tenga unos minutos de lagrimas privadas, pero este día traerá inmenso agradecimiento por la vida de mi hijo vivo y su esposa, Anna, quien ahora es mi hija, y recordaré mi Jonathan precioso, así como el bebé que perdi en aborto involuntario 6 años más tarde. Y le digo a los tres de ellos: “Gracias por hacerme una madre!”

♥ Rebekah Mitchell,
Presidenta y Fundadora
Mamá de Jonathan Daniel y Mitchell bebé Mitchell

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

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

M.E.N.D.—Amarillo

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

Caprock Home Health System

1619 S Kentuck, Ste F640

Amarillo, Texas 79102

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

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

While we know grief will certainly be present, we would still like to wish you all Happy Mother's Day and Father's Day to all who have babies here on earth and babies in heaven. May God surround you with peace, comfort and healing.

Lisa Daily

Houston

Thanks to all of our families who participated in our Pampered Chef fundraiser and Mandy Billings for hosting. Keep an eye out for a very FUN fundraiser this month! We are excited to see the opportunities and doors the Lord is opening to allow us reach more families who are walking through the loss of a baby. We are also excited to have wonderful volunteers who make it possible for us to continue to reach out to our families in the Houston area.

Stormy Mitchell

SW Missouri

M.E.N.D.—SW Missouri is preparing for fundraising activities for our chapter. We are hosting a fundraiser with the Social Easel on June 16 from 6:30-9:00. Please join us for a fun night of painting at Classic Rock Cafe. No experience needed! The cost is \$40 per person with \$15 going to M.E.N.D. Please visit our Facebook page for the link to register online. We will also be having a garage sale on May 22 to benefit M.E.N.D. If you would like to donate items, please bring them to our meeting on May 7 or contact me at Kathryn@mend.org or (417) 770-0600.

Kathryn Gold

NW Washington

M.E.N.D.—NW Washington is excited to be a sponsor at the Tears Foundation's Rock and Walk in Tacoma this year.

We remember and pray for all our moms and dads who have to live through Mother's Day and Father's Day without their babies here with them.

Stacy McGhee

Chicagoland

M.E.N.D.—Chicagoland continues to walk alongside hurting moms and dads in the Chicagoland area as they grieve the loss of their babies. We are grateful for all of the hard work that went into the leadership conference in helping to train us better to be able to minister and serve those who are hurting in our surrounding area due to the loss of their little ones.

Sara Hintz

Wichita Falls

M.E.N.D.—Wichita Falls is having our very first "A Life to Remember" ceremony May 9. We are excited to hold a remembrance ceremony for all of our babies. We hope this will be a comfort for the families in our chapter and especially the mothers as we approach Mother's Day. For more information please contact the me at sarahf@mend.org.

Sarah Fukasawa

Amarillo

Caprock Home Health System (CHHS) has been so kind to allow us to hold our monthly support group meetings at their office. Thank you CHHS! The new location is 1619 S. Kentucky St. Suite F640, Amarillo, TX 79102. If you have any questions please call us at (806) 570-4344.

Becky Anderson

Bryan/College Station

M.E.N.D.—Bryan/College Station has been working hard to spread the word about M.E.N.D. and the resources we offer for the families of Brazos County. God has been opening many doors for our chapter. I want to thank Texas Avenue Baptist Church for allowing us to meet in their fellowship hall! Please check us out on our Facebook page for updates on future fundraisers and event dates.

Jennie Drude

Texarkana

M.E.N.D.—Texarkana continues to provide comfort for families in our community who have suffered losses through our support groups and Facebook. I would also like to thank everyone who supported our recent fundraiser with Origami Owl and independent designer, Stephanie Desjarlais, for organizing the fundraiser. Our Life to Remember event will be held on May 9. Please contact me at monica@mend.org or (903) 490-1210 for more details.

Monica Davis



Thank you to all who liked, commented and shared on a Facebook post by Derrick Kinney and Associates for a charity donation. It paid off!

M.E.N.D. received a donation of \$1,000!

Thank you to all who participated in this contest.

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****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.

The Counselor's Corner

Written by Susan A. Adams, PhD, LPC-S, NCC

Happy Mother's Day.... Happy Father's Day.... Well for some it might be, but for others, it is a day colored by sadness, regret, and pain. Everywhere you go, it seems that you are faced with reminders of the holiday and the painful emptiness you feel inside.

Whether you have living children or not, no matter what kind of loss you have experienced, you have earned the right to identify yourself as a mother or a father – it is your choice. However, remember for some women and men, the title may be uncomfortable, and that is okay as well. Remember each individual is in his or her own spot along the grief journey. Be kind to others.

Questions often flood my clients' heads about celebrating the day or just ignoring it. Those that love you may want to "fix" your pain, which of course they cannot do. Many don't know what to say or do; therefore, they don't say or do anything. Their comments, or absence of acknowledgement, may trigger a variety of emotions including sadness, frustration, anger, and/or guilt. Each of you has a story of your baby's death. For some, there may have been multiple losses, and these losses are certainly filled with emotion.

Recognize that you are entitled to your emotions, just as you are entitled to your story, but don't emotionally react to your perception of others' insensitivity. For example, not all will be open to hearing your story. If you need to talk about your loss, find someone who is capable of listening, but help them to know what you need from them. Don't just assume that they will know. If you don't want to talk about the loss, then spend the day with someone that you can share whatever other interests you have. Sometimes we just need to step outside of our grief – even if for a brief time.

So how do you spend the day? That is for you to decide, but recognize the day will come – whether you want it to or not. So make plans for the day! Then you will empower yourself to meet your needs, whatever they are. If you have living children, recognize they are important and incorporate some time focusing on them. Perhaps you want to visit with your mom, your grandmother, or some special woman in your life. Consider asking them to be part of whatever you might decide to do to remember your baby or babies.

Some people find it helpful to indulge in a special day of pampering such as getting a massage or manicure or eating a special meal. (Note: Be prepared to wait lengthy periods of time if you are going out to eat, and recognize that you will be surrounded by happy families that often are taking their mothers out to eat. Think through this experience to avoid increasing any emotional discomfort.)

For some attending a worship service is helpful; however, it is helpful to think about any recognition of mothers and fathers on these special days. Will that be painful for you? I have had several clients who refused to go to church those days because it hurt too much. Instead they chose to do something else of a spiritual nature. It is important to grant yourself and others the freedom to choose to engage in some type of remembrance or not.

Life doesn't come with scripts, nor does it contain magic pills that ensure some a lifetime of happiness. Recognize that you make your own happiness. You decide how you will celebrate the day! You can empower yourself to choose a way to incorporate your child's (or children's) loss into the tapestry of your life's story.

One of the sweetest memories of Kyleigh happened in the middle of the night after her birth. I woke up wanting to hold my baby girl. As I held her on my chest she lifted her little head and looked directly into my eyes. I felt like a mom for the first time.

♥ *Kristen Rabe*
Mommy to Kyleigh Elaine
 M.E.N.D.—Bryan/College Station

One day I was lying down when Nobel came down to my tummy and started talking to our little one. I told him it was silly for him to do that because I wasn't even 12 weeks along. How could the baby hear him yet? Of course, now it is a cherished memory of the short time we had with our little one.

♥ *Paula Shear*
Mommy to Morgan
 M.E.N.D.—Dallas

My favorite memory of Kaiya is holding her as she passed away. She was so tiny we could see her heart beating through her chest. We wanted everyone to get a chance to hold her while she was alive. We didn't know when her heart would beat for the last time. The fact that she was in my arms is a special moment I will cherish forever

♥ *LaRhesa Johnson*
Mommy to Kaiya Dawn
 M.E.N.D.—Bryan/College Station

Our son Isaac was stillborn on June 24, 2013. We were given an early, fatal diagnosis of Trisomy 13. I began to cherish each ultrasound we had as our time together. We saw life, activity and what seemed like normalcy. We have many good memories of those every two to three week "dates with Isaac."

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



Subsequent Births

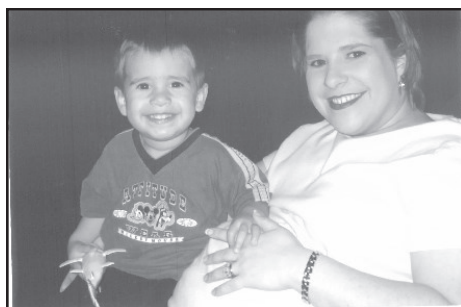
Michael and Tina Rusert
of Plano, Texas,
along with big brothers
Liam and Asher,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Gavin Patrick,
born March 17, 2015,
measuring 7 lb., 15 oz.,
and 19.5 inches long.
The family lovingly remembers
Elena Marie,
May 23, 2011,
premature

Andrew Mureti and Nicola Mwirigi
of Springfield, Missouri,
along with siblings Ava and Nora,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Nicolas,
born March 20, 2015,
measuring 8 lb., 6 oz.,
and 21.5 inches long.
The family lovingly remembers
Andrew Junior (AJ) Mwirigi,
May 13, 2013,
parvovirus,
and January Mwirigi,
January 25, 2006,
unknown cause

Zach and Rori Callaway
of Dallas, Texas,
along with big brother Miles,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Aurelia Lula,
born March 13, 2015,
measuring 7 lb., 12 oz.,
and 19 3/4 inches long.
The family lovingly remembers
twins Liam and Sebastian,
August 5, 2011,
unknown cause

Jeff and April Jenkins
of Amarillo, Texas,
along with siblings Clara
and Chandler,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Colt Lane,
born February 10, 2015,
measuring 7lb., 14 oz.,
and 21 inches long.
The family lovingly remembers
Cambri Jade,
September 8, 2010,
and Baby Jenkins,
July 8, 2013

This photo is my absolute favorite photo of big brother Eli and little brother AJ. Taken just a few weeks before AJ was stillborn, we were so happy spending the day as a family of three readying ourselves to be a family of four. Eli was so excited to be a big brother, and his smile shows the great pride he had for his little brother AJ.



For so long, I never thought we'd be happy again. I looked at this photo and longed to regain the innocence and bliss of a happy pregnancy. Not a day goes by we don't wonder who AJ would be, what he'd look like, what his voice would sound like. But every day we are one day closer to being reunited with him.

This photo sits on my desk at work to remind me daily of the "me" who existed before our lives were forever changed. On one side sits a picture of AJ which reminds me of God's perfection and of His promises. And on the other side sits a photo of Eli with little brother Alexander who reminds us daily to live with passion, hope, and faithfulness.

♥ Amber Zuckerman
Mommy to AJ
M.E.N.D.—Dallas

When I was pregnant with Alivia, I didn't know the sex. I remember going to the Carter Outlet in Allen, Texas, and buying a circus themed blanket and onesies that matched, which could be for a boy or girl. After I lost Livi, that was something I was able to keep for my subsequent children and they have been able to use them. We have been able to pass on the onesies and have kept the blanket.

♥ Liz Walker,
Mommy to Alivia Elizabeth-Grace
M.E.N.D.—Dallas

My favorite memory of my time with Dharma was after she got her first feeding with the feeding tube when she was about 6 hours old, I insistingly picked her up to burp her and she belched this wonderful loud man burp! We all laughed with joy, remembering that the doctors and books told us she would be a vegetable. That was one of my favorite mommy moments with her!

My favorite time with Stella was sharing my pregnancy with my living children and them doing Doc McStuffins "check ups" on her! We all loved to listen to her heartbeat all the time as a family!

My favorite memory with Liza also involved our M.E.N.D.—Houston chapter director, Stormy. She went with me to my 8-week ultrasound. We learned Liza did NOT have anencephaly like her sisters, and she also waived "hi" to us! We also saw what we thought were BOY parts! I thought she was a boy my whole pregnancy, so we just called Liza by our boy name we picked. Stormy and I shared such a sweet moment in that small, dark ultrasound room. So thankful for my sweet Liza and my 3rd princess to go to Heaven.

♥ Jennie Drude
Mommy to Dharma, Stella and Liza
M.E.N.D.—Bryan College Station

With CJ, I remember my daughter kept telling everyone I was having a puppy. I remember the fun of wearing my new maternity clothes and craving lemonade from Chic Fil-A with Marina.

♥ Kathryn Gold,
Mommy to CJ and Marina
M.E.N.D.—SW Missouri

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

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.



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