



M.E.N.D.

Mommies Enduring Neonatal Death

Giving Back During the Holidays

When I was a little girl, I remember vividly my trips to Cooper’s Toy Store. As a child, part of the excitement of receiving a birthday party invitation was knowing my mom would take my twin sister and me to Cooper’s to buy a gift to take to the party. I can still see the small store in my mind and smell the popcorn wafting from the drug store next door. Cooper’s wrapped each gift in red and white striped paper and always tied each package with colorful ribbon they curled with scissors. I think those wonderful trips to that toy store are what started my love for purchasing things (I often laughingly say I have a buying sickness). The family-owned toy store closed when I was in high school, likely due to the mega stores, like Toys”R”Us, that began popping up everywhere. I didn’t enjoy Toys”R”Us like I did Cooper’s, but I still found it fun to shop in a store that carried such a variety of children’s play things.

Because I love to buy things, when our first son was born I couldn’t wait to go to Toys”R”Us to “Santa Claus shop.” We had four Christmases of joyfully and carefully picking out what we thought our little son would want (or what we would enjoy for and with him). We made a date night out of it – we’d get a babysitter, and Byron and I, like kids ourselves, would spend hours in the giant store picking out what would show up big and exciting to display under the Christmas tree on Christmas morning.

That all changed the Christmas after our second son, Jonathan, was stillborn. Six months had passed, and I did not know how in the world we were going to go to that massive store and happily buy Santa gifts, knowing we should be buying for two. I hated it. It was a horrible experience. I remember my chest squeezing, and it took all I had to not crumple in a heap on the store’s floor and wait for the child I’d never get to shop for.

Each year it became a little easier, but honestly, Christmas toy shopping was never quite the same for me, especially since I lost another baby during the holidays

several years later. A few years after Jonathan died, someone gave me the idea to adopt a needy child his age for Christmas. As a family, we began the tradition of visiting to the big Christmas tree in the mall to find a paper angel that represented a boy who was the same age as Jonathan would have been. The first year it was really difficult. I pretended to cheerfully feel charitable, but in my heart, it was killing me that I wasn’t buying for Jonathan - I was buying for someone else’s child - someone who got to keep their child. But like most things, over the years it became easier, and I truly was happy to provide gifts for a boy who otherwise may not have received anything for Christmas. Eventually Jonathan aged out of the Christmas Angel kids, so now we contribute in other ways in his memory. Certainly, every time we donate to M.E.N.D., it’s in his and our little miscarried baby’s memory. And throughout the year when our church hosts some sort of charitable project like back to school backpacks, we always sponsor three kids - the number of kids we should have.

Creating good out of bad is never easy at first, but the pain and difficulty of making yourself do it definitely pays off later. As hard as it was at first buying toys for a stranger instead of my own child, I later reaped a sense of satisfaction and a knowing that we did something right and good. Doing something was far better than doing nothing and wallowing in my sorrow. And over time, Byron and I reached a place where we found joy again in Santa buying, even though we were just buying for one child instead of three. There may always be somewhat of an emptiness in my heart during the holidays, but I have found over the years if I keep my babies honored and remembered during this special time of year, it helps soothe that ache because giving to others always results in good.

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

Nota Española: 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 23.

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 website at www.mend.org.

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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).

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

First Candle/SIDS Alliance
International Stillbirth Alliance



The Unopened Gift

by Todd and Stormy Mitchell

You may think that all of the Christmas presents get opened by the afternoon of the 25th.

You may assume that in the flurry of bows and wrapping paper that all of the gifts have been accounted for.

For those of you like me, you are aware of the gifts that others do not see.

It isn't a bike or a sweater.

Instead, it is the gift of the child that you lost.

Some of us got to shake the gift and listen to it.

Others of us were able to peel back a couple of corners of the present before it was taken away...

But all of us had to return the gift to the store.

It was not a fruitcake or a lump of coal, or some other trinket that we would gladly give up.

This was a gift that was infinitely more precious.

This was a gift that contained our love, our hopes, our dreams, our futures.

However, there is good news.

We are able to find peace in God, the giver of gifts.

He provides us with the promise that on one Christmas in the future, we will finally be allowed to open the unopened gift.

Through Christ, we know that this Silent Night will one day yield Joy to the World.

Notes from our Readers

“Rebekah, I thank you and all contributors for the M.E.N.D. newsletter. It is educating me and guiding me in how to treat those grieving the loss of their babies. I devour it upon arrival.

Sadly, our daughter lost her baby due to miscarriage last August. We were all joyous and anticipating. Her grief at losing her baby was heart wrenching. It was one of the saddest phone conversations of my life. It all felt startling and traumatic.

Our daughter found M.E.N.D. and told me of the Bryan/College Station meeting. The support has been so needed and so practical.

So often, the newsletter articles offer me insight into the grieving mothers' feelings and, thus, ideas of how to reach out to my daughter. Or articles that speak of meeting the lost child in heaven and hearing “Mommy” from her child. I shared the thought with my daughter. The Mother's Day articles encouraged me to step through my fear and hesitation, and ask how my daughter wanted the day to be acknowledged.

♥ Anonymous M.E.N.D. Grandmother

Book Review



The Butterfly Catcher

Written by Courtney Cox Smith
Available through swallowtailbooks.com

This is a sweet story about a little boy who goes in search of his baby brother amongst butterflies. The book is nicely illustrated and written in verses, which makes for an easy and enjoyable read. *The Butterfly Catcher* is not Christian-based or aligned with Scripture, yet it is a nice story to read to little kids who have lost a baby brother or sister.

Avery's Garden, Adult Coloring Book

Written by Tara Denz
Contact Tara at averysgarden16@gmail.com to order

The popularity of adult coloring books has reached grieving mommies through this beautifully unique resource. "Avery's Garden," illustrated by mom, Tara Denz, in memory of her son, Avery, who was stillborn on June 17, 2016. Each page has a drawing to be colored, in memory of other sweet babies who died too soon.

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

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.

Fundraising Opportunity for Federal Employees, State of Texas Employees and City of Dallas Employees

M.E.N.D. proudly participates each year in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) and in the State of Texas, the State Employee Charitable Campaign (SECC) and the City of Dallas Charitable Campaign (DCCC). If you, a family member or friend work for one of these government organizations, you can donate to M.E.N.D. through one of these campaigns this fall. For the CFC, the designation code is 97896, and the designation code for the SECC is 283524. Check with your employer or campaign organizer to inquire about the process to donate.



January/February Topic

Face-to-Face v. Social Media
Deadline: November 30, 2017

March/April Topic

SIDS: Healthy Baby to Empty Arms
Deadline: January 31, 2018

Stories, poems, thoughts, and/or feelings regarding these topics are welcome. 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	Deadline
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 2nd Birthday, Ashton!

We can't believe it's been two years since you grew your wings. We imagine if you were here you would be walking and playing with your sisters and experiencing all your first moments. We can't wait to see you again one day. There will be tears and hugs and never letting go. Mommy and Daddy love and miss you every day!

Ashton Robert Oetting
November 30, 2015
Unknown cause
Daddy: Jason Oetting
Sisters: Chloe and Gracie



Happy 4th Birthday, Enoch!

Happy 4th birthday to our firstborn son, Enoch Miracle Cobberti. We will always remember you. You may be gone, but not forgotten. I can't believe you'll be 4 this year. It's too bad we can't celebrate your birthday. Life has never been the same without you. We miss you, Enoch!

Enoch Miracle Cobberti
December 3, 2013
Uterine Fibroids and Stage 2 Chorioamnionitis
Also remembering
Baby B Cobberti
Miscarried November 20, 2016
Parents: Mark and Shakira Cobberti



Happy 5th Birthday, Rylan!

Five years old in heaven! Our sweet little boy, we love you so much. I miss you more than words can say. There's a little piece of empty in our hearts. How I wish your little sisters had their big brother here. Until we meet again.

Rylan Doucette
November 27, 2012
Ectopic pregnancy
Parents: Aaron and Kristian Doucette
Little sisters: Kinley and Alexyn



Happy 3rd Birthday, Luisito Micah!

Our baby in heaven,
 I feel you are with me in everything I do.
 So I'll celebrate your birthday,
 But I'll spend it missing you.
 Descansa mi campeón
 Te amo

Luisito Micah Gonzalez
Stillborn November 18, 2014
Parents: Luis and Eloisa Gonzalez
Siblings: Sam, Angie, Priscila, Andrew, Daisy,
Monica, Mia and Galilea



Happy 39th Birthday, Elizabeth!

This year you would have turned 39. Some days I wonder what you would be doing or which one of your sisters you look like. Is your Daddy taking good care of you and Arianna, now that he lives there, too? I hope you have a big party for your special day. I love you and miss you bunches.

Mom

Happy birthday, Aunt Elizabeth. We love you!
 Alexis, Isaac, Samuel, Leah and Xavier

Elizabeth Nicole Garcia
Miscarried October 18, 1978
Parents: Paul and Jeannie Garcia
Siblings: Monica, Sylvia, Christina and Stephanie



Happy 4th Birthday, Airrington!

Our dearest daughter Airrington, happy 4th birthday, precious girl. You are loved even more this year than past years and are missed even more. We have welcomed your littlest brother into our home. You all look so much alike it warms our hearts. How we wish we could all be together to celebrate you and your little life. We wish you the happiest of a heavenly birthday, sweet girl. One day closer to you. We love you. Save us a seat with Jesus.

Hugs and kisses,
 Love always and never not,
 Daddy, Mommy, Gable and Maverick

Airrington Hope Fumagalli
Stillborn December 22, 2013
Also remembering
Jakoebi Michael Fumagalli
November 21, 2011
Ectopic pregnancy
Parents: Michael and Kirsten Fumagalli
Brothers: Gable and Maverick

Happy 3rd Birthday, Baby!

Happy 3rd birthday, my sweet angel. There is not a day goes by Mommy doesn't think of you. Yet, she knows how lucky you are to be in heaven with all the other angels and with your great-grandma. We can't wait to meet you one day. Until then continue to pray for us and for your new brother who should arrive February 2018! We love you so much and hope you have a great birthday celebration.

Loving you always and forever,
 Mommy, Daddy and Olivia

Baby Gamboa
Miscarried November 21, 2014
Parents: Anthony F. Gamboa and Denise Devora
Siblings: Olivia and Baby Brother due February 2018



Happy 2nd Birthday, Nevaeh!

Mommy, Grandma, and all your siblings miss and love you so much, baby girl! Happy 2nd birthday in heaven! We will see you soon to blow out candles and have some cake! Forever my little angel and tiniest princess!

Love,
Mommy!



Nevaeh Rose Hernandez

Stillborn October 4, 2015

Mommy: Stephanie Cuevas

*Siblings: Destiny, Isabella, Armando IV
and Angel Hernandez*

Happy 2nd Birthday, Ryder!

Do angels have birthdays
in Heaven above?
Is the day they were born
treated special with love?

Do they get to have parties
with presents and cake...
Are there toys and balloons
and fun memories to make?

Do the candles increase
as the years come and go...
Do our angels get big
Does the time let them grow?

Only God knows the answers
And angels above...

Happy birthday, Ryder Mijo,
You will always be loved.

Happy 2nd "Angel"versary, papa.

Love Always,
Mommy Te Extraño Mijo



Ryder Dean

October 8—December 2, 2015

*Severe loss of oxygen to the brain
due to complicated delivery*

Mommy: Lynette Harding

Siblings: Xzavier and Hartly-Mae

Happy 1st Birthday, Bentley!

We love you, Bentley, our little Prince. We know you are having a spectacular 1st birthday in heaven! Not a day goes by we don't talk or think about you.

Love,
Mommy, Daddy and big sister

Bentley Earl Dance

December 23, 2016

Unknown cause

Parents: Mark and Christina Dance

Big sister: Diamond



Happy 3rd Birthday, Baby Delmar!

Happy heavenly birthday, sweet Baby! We think of you often and miss you always. We didn't get to spend much time with you here, but we know you're with your big brother, Everett. Someday we will all be reunited! We love you SO much. Sending hugs and kisses from Mommy, Daddy, Christian and Clara

Baby Delmar

Miscarried December 20, 2014, at 9 weeks

Unknown cause

Also remembering

Everett Christopher Delmar

Stillborn April 18, 2012

Unknown cause

Parents: Christopher and Miranda Delmar

Siblings: Christian Matthew and Clara Evelyn



Happy 1st Birthday, Charlotte!

Charlotte, our sunshine, our perfect princess, oh how we wish we were celebrating with you, but, on your birthday and every day, we will always celebrate you. We love you more than words and cannot wait for the day we see you in heaven again. You are our sunshine and the best thing ever to happen to us. We miss you, baby girl.

Love you always,
Mom and Dad

Charlotte Leighann Price

October 25—November 6, 2016

Transposition of the Great Arteries and Renal Failure

Parents: Joseph and Stephanie Price

Happy 1st Birthday, Jaxson Kolt!

Jaxson, it has been one year. We miss you like crazy every day. I hope you watch over us every second of our lives. Jaxson, you are forever in our hearts. I want you to enjoy your time with Harley. We love you to the moon. You are the coolest boy ever.

Jaxson Kolt Scifres

Stillborn November 27, 2016

Cord accident and inverted placenta

Parents: Justin and Melissa Scifres



Happy 6th Birthday, Charlotte!

Our sweet Charlotte, there are not enough words to express how much we love and miss you! I can't believe it has been six years since you arrived in our lives and changed our world forever. You have made us stronger in so many ways. As I hold your brother and sister, I can't help but think about you. We look forward to the day when we can hold you in our arms again. We love you, Charlotte! Happy 6th birthday!

Charlotte Grace Harrison

December 28, 2011—January 4, 2012

Unknown cause

Parents: Luke and Amanda Harrison

Siblings: Evan and Audrey



Happy 2nd Birthday, Gabe!

We are honored to remember you and continue to see your positive impact on our lives. We are sad to not hold you in our arms, but we hold your memory in our hearts each day. We love you very much and look forward to all meeting together in heaven someday.

Love,
Mom and Dad

*Gabriel Michael Armstrong
November 12, 2015
PPROM*

*Also remembering
Emma Armstrong
Miscarried May 2015
Silas Armstrong
November 2016*

*Ectopic pregnancy
Parents: John and Michelle Armstrong
Sibling: Baby Armstrong due February 2018*



Happy 14th Birthday, Caleb Scott Fann!

Happy 14th heavenly birthday, Caleb! High school. I wonder if we'd have a son playing freshman football and going to dances with friends. I wonder if you'd be taller than me by now as you'd probably have your Daddy's height like your little sister Madison. I wonder what kind of a relationship you'd have with each of us. I wonder if you would enjoy the woods as much as Daddy, or love to read as much as Maddie, or would you still let me hold your hand in public even though you're nearly a man? I wonder every day. I wonder.

Love and miss you,
Mommy, Daddy and Maddie

*Caleb Scott Fann
December 1, 2003, at 32 weeks
PPROM*

*Also remembering
Baby August Fann
Miscarried August 13, 2004, at 8 weeks
Parents: Jonathan and Heather Fann
Little sister: Madison Grace*



Happy 2nd Birthday, Baby Clyde!

Happy terrible twos! We should have a crazy, screaming, walking and trying to talk toddler. We would give everything to be able to experience another year with you. Baby Clyde, you are so loved and missed. Life would have been so much better with you by our side. Happy birthday, mi hijito lindo. Today, Mommy and Daddy will eat chicken nuggets in your memory and probably throw up later because they are nasty. When Mommy was pregnant with you, she craved them so much. Thank you for bringing us together again. Our love for you will always bring us together. Happy 2nd birthday, Big Boy!

*Clyde Edwin Miller V
December 11, 2015
Sudden placental abruption
Parents: Paola Calderon and Clyde E. Miller V*



Happy 10th Birthday, Kenneth!

Happy 10th heavenly birthday, my sweet angel! Wow my baby is big boy now! I am so thankful to God for blessing me with you and for allowing me to hold you in my arms and to kiss your beautiful face. It was the most profound moment in my life. There is nothing in life that has brought me so much love and pain all at the same time. How is that possible? I was blessed with the love of my life, and then God called you home, and I was left without you. There isn't a day in the past 10 years you were not on my mind or in my heart. NEVER FORGOTTEN! Mommy loves you to the heavens and beyond!

*Kenneth Bernard Weddington
November 7, 2007
Unknown cause
Mommy: Louisa Garza*



Happy 3rd Birthday, Joy!

Happy birthday in heaven, our Joy. I imagine what it would be like for you to be here with your twin brother. I imagine you with straight hair, while his is curly. His blue eyes, and I think yours would be green. You two holding hands and giggling, playing together. Best friends. But today and every day, you are with Jesus. Holding His hands. Giggling and laughing with Him. I can't wait to get to be there with you, your big brother Gideon, and your other sibling. One day Daddy and I will get to hold all of our babies in our arms when we are with you in Eternity. We love you all.

*Joy Mitchell
December 2014
Vanishing Twin Syndrome
Also remembering
Gideon Zeller Mitchell
Stillborn May 17, 2011
Membranous cord insertion
Avery Mitchell
Miscarried May 2008
Unknown cause
Parents: Todd and Stormy Mitchell
Brothers: Silas and Justus*



Happy 21st Birthday, Joshua and Jeromy!

Twenty-one...it's been 21 years since I held you, smelled you, felt your skin...heard your hearts beat. Some days it feels like a lifetime ago, and some days it feels like yesterday. No matter how many years pass, I still miss you the same. You will forever be my firstborn. You will forever be my boys. We will forever be the Barsanti 8. You live on forever in my heart!

Love,
Mom

*Joshua and Jeromy Barsanti
November 21, 1996
Anencephaly
Parents: Randy and DaLana Barsanti
Brothers: Taylor Wesley, Collin, Harrison and Riley*



Happy 4th Birthday, Arie!

Arie, happy 4th birthday, little man! Wow, I can't believe you would be turning 4. There is not a day goes by that me, your dad or your sister don't think about you. We have missed out on so much the past four years, and I will continue to wonder about you. Wonder what you would look like, wonder what kind of things you would be into, wonder what kind of personality you would have... I wish things were different, and we were celebrating with you, but I hope you have the best 4th birthday! We miss you so much, and we love you to the moon and back, sweet boy!

Love,
Mommy, Daddy, Sissy and Ryker

*Arie Ronald Witt
November 5, 2013
Unknown cause*

*Parents: Mike and Candi Witt
Siblings: Brinley and Ryker Witt*



Happy 8th Birthday, Madilynn!

It has been eight years since we held you and looked at your beautiful face. Eight years ago you changed our lives forever. How can it be? We still miss you and love you as much as ever, our angel baby. Your little sister has started asking about her big sissy and likes looking at your pictures. Enjoy your birthday in heaven. Your cousin, Tyler, recently joined you, so I am sure you are having a blast with him and chasing him around! We will love you for always until we meet again.

*Madilynn Isabell Kelley
December 3, 2009
Amniotic band syndrome/Cord accident
Parents: Jeremiah and Cherish Kelley
Little sister: Alyson Hope*



Happy 12th Birthday, Hope!

I can hardly believe it was 12 years ago I held you, my little pink bundle, for the first time. You were so rosy and precious. What a gift it was to hold you in my arms. Nothing had ever sounded as beautiful to my ears than when I heard your sweet cry. We remember you with love throughout the whole year. On your birthday we will celebrate the life you lived with us, and rejoice that we will hold you in our arms in heaven.

Lots of love and kisses,
Mama and Daddy

Happy Birthday, Hope! I can't believe it was 12 years ago our first grandbaby was born! We'll be celebrating your birthday on earth as you are with MeeMaw and Pop Pop in heaven. We love and miss you!

Grammy, Teepa, Mimi, Uncle Ryan,
Aunt Kasey and Uncle Jake

*Hope Kirkpatrick
November 5-8, 2005
Amniotic band syndrome
Parents: Kirk and Aly Kirkpatrick
Siblings: Ian and Jane*



Happy 8th Birthday, Serenity!

Oh, Serenity. Words seem to escape me as I write this. I just hope you can feel my love for you in heaven, just as I feel the love of Jesus wrap around me every time I think of you and long for you.

I was recently asked by someone I had only met the week before, "Are you Serenity's mom?" What joy sang from my heart to hear those words. I love your siblings and being their mom, but it was just so special hearing something I rarely hear, "Serenity's Mom."

*Serenity Harrison
Miscarried December 3, 2009
Parents: Curtis and Jennifer Harrison
Siblings: Leviticus Aaron, Zivala Rose and Evalina Pearl*



Happy 2nd Birthday, Baby Baron!

Dear sweet Baron, we love you so much! We miss you more than words can describe. Your "angelversary" is coming up, and we are unsure how to deal with this date. We just celebrated your beautiful "2nd" birthday with balloons, cake, flowers, bubbles and blanket drive. We ache for you. Please know we want to make you so proud. We are so proud of you and how you've brought so much knowledge, love and compassion into our life. Forever in our hearts until we join you in heaven.

Love,
Mommy, Daddy, Emma and Stella

*Baron Conrad Neelley III
September 9—November 14, 2015
Undetermined-SIDS
Parents: Bo and Allison Neelley
Sister: Emma and Stella Faith*



Happy 1st Birthday, Blakeleigh!

Happy 1st heavenly birthday, our sweet angel! We miss and think about you every single day. We are truly blessed to have such an amazing angel daughter looking over us in heaven. Please send our love to your Gammy as well. Thank you for helping God with giving us our rainbow baby. She or he will know all about their big sister. We are so blessed and proud to be your parents!

We love you to heaven and back,
Mommy, Daddy, Rainbow Baby and Fur Brother Chelokee

*Blakeleigh Delamere Rougeau
November 19, 2016
Asphyxiation due to sacrococcygeal teratoma
Parents: Brandon and Brook Rougeau
Siblings: Rainbow Baby due April 30, 2018*



Happy 1st Birthday, Alexander!

Wishing you a happy 1st heavenly birthday, Alex angel! Mommy, Daddy and all the family miss you so much and are looking forward to the day we can be with you again. Hugs and kisses!

*Alexander Wallace Van Buren
Miscarried November 7, 2016
Parents: Steven and Lauren Van Buren*



In Loving Memory

M.E.N.D. gratefully acknowledges these gifts of love given in memory of a baby, relative, friend, or given by someone just wanting to help. These donations help us to continue M.E.N.D.'s mission by providing this newsletter and other services to bereaved parents free of charge. 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!

Lauren Isabelle Autry

June 17—July 2, 2011
Campomelic Dysplasia
Given by parents Brandon and Melissa Autry
and sister Halley

Henry Back

Miscarried July 26, 2013
Given by parents Jacob and Jennifer Back
and sisters Emily and Natalie

Gabriel Jose Barraza

Stillborn, January 27, 2011
Thinning and hyper-coiled cord
Mommy: Isabel Barraza
Big Sister: Hailee
Given by Danny Dishong

Andrew Robert Bateman

Stillborn October 7, 2014
Unknown cause
Parents: Tim and Laura Bateman
Siblings: Leah, Hannah and Noah
Given by customers of Laura Bateman,
Independent Mary Kay Consultant

Jayden Angel Belman

November 7, 2014
Given by Johanna Alvear

Levi Samuel Bowmer

April 19, 2013
Trisomy 13 & Tetralogy of fallow
with absent pulmonary valve
Given by parents Sam and Jenae Bowmer
and little sisters Evelin and Valerie
Grandmother Jaime Wilkins

Jordan Alexander Booker

Stillborn January 11, 2007
Cord accident
Given by mommy Norma Jordan

Harper Von Brady

Miscarried November 23, 2013

Declan Abraham Brady

Stillborn August 26, 2014
Incompetent cervix
Given by parents Kevin and Stephanie Brady

Noah and Nathan Brito

October 29, 2016
Given by parents Jose and Yesenia Brito

Andre Gabriel Broussard

Stillborn May 29, 2016
Trisomy 18
Given by
Parents Ross and Ana Maria Broussard
and brother Bennett

Elias Browder Campbell

March 24—April 6, 2015
Given by mommy Justina Campbell

Desirae Nicole Cavazos

October 21, 2003—November 29, 2006
Given by Veronica Carrera

Baby C

Miscarried May 4, 2006
Given by mommy Cyndi Chlup

Jaylen Clark

December 11, 2013
Baby Clark
Miscarried November 7, 2015
Given by mommy Tiffany Clark

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

Sophie Jane Darnell

Stillborn May 28, 2013
Unknown cause
Gifts given by parents Tommy and Brea Darnell
and siblings Luke and Piper
Grandmother Tammy Darnell
Grandparents Helen and Danny Lynch
Uncle Bryan and Aunt Lesa Lynch
Michelle Skrasek

Riley and Parker Davis

November 14, 2006
Premature
Given by parents Rob and Cheryl Davis
and little sister Annalise
Steve and Becky Carter

Roman Lorenzo Delria

September 4-5, 2017
Given by Sarai Delira

Baby Dill

Miscarried May 2002

Cooper Dill

May 26, 2003
Twin to Twin Transfusion Syndrome/Cord
accident
Given by parents Jim and Brandee Dill
and siblings Avery, Tate
and Paxton (Cooper's twin)

Logan Wayne Fish

September 17, 2002
Skeletal Dysplasia
Given by parents David and Brittney Fish
and brothers Landry and Hudson

Paislee Ann Frette

April 4-5, 2012
Wolf-Hirschhorn Syndrome
Parents: Brent and Courtney Frette
Little sister: Colbie
Given by Grandparents James and LuAnn Junkin

Airrington Hope Fumagalli

Stillborn December 22, 2013
Unknown cause

Jakoebi Michael Fumagalli

November 21, 2011
Ectopic pregnancy
Given by parents Michael and Kirsten Fumagalli
and brothers Gable and Maverick

Ella Lynne Gonyea

Stillborn August 24, 2015
Preeclampsia, IUGR and no amniotic fluid
Given by parents David and Sable Gonyea
and little sister Laurel

Etta Gonzalez

Parents Brian and Laura Gonzalez
Given by
Mike Rose
Jacob Perry
Megan Cleveland

Serenity Harrison

Miscarried December 3, 2009
Parents: Curtis and Jennifer Harrison
Siblings: Leviticus, Zivala and Evalina
Given by Skip and Margie Locke

Amanda Harvey

May 20, 2005
Mommy Catherine Harvey
Given by Catherine Harvey

Caleb Anthony Haynes

Stillborn May 5, 2015
Cord accident
Given by parents Anthony and Robyn Haynes
and siblings Cody and Camryn

Ian Michael Henderson

January 17, 2014
Given by mommy Jerra Henderson

Baby Angel Horton

October 23, 2006
Given by Kourtney Horton

Abigail Kennedy Johnston

April 8, 1962 – January 25, 1965
Cystic Fibrosis
Given by sister Susan Bennett

Aster Anita Kadonsky

June 11, 2017
Given by Heather Kadonsky

Lyrik Marie Kouevi

Stillborn March 9, 2017
Placental abruption
Given by mommy Taquita Holt

Kaley Brooke Lansdell

Stillborn January 18, 2010
Cord accident
Given by parents Tony and Kristie Lansdell
and siblings Bryleigh, Kynlee
and Hayden

Jordan Marshall

Miscarried March 3, 2014

Everleigh Grace and**Annabelle Rose Marshall**

Stillborn April 22, 2016
Momo twins
Given by parents Andrew and Tiffany Marshall
and brother Anderson James

Baby McGhee I

Miscarried July 2002

Baby McGhee II

Miscarried January 2009

Baby McGhee III

Miscarried April 2009

Sophia Rose

Stillborn March 29, 2010
Unknown cause
Given by parents Matt and Stacy McGhee
and siblings Micha and Scarlett

Ema Alice Morales

January 10, 2017
Given by Wilfredo Morales

Jonathan Daniel Mitchell

Stillborn June 24, 1995
Cord accident
Baby Mitchell
Miscarried December 2001
Given by parents Byron and Rebekah Mitchell

Henry Michael Morgret

May 20-June 6, 2017
Placental abruption
Parents: Michael and Joanna Morgret
Gifts given through
Henry Michael Morgret Golf Outing

Rebekah Tikvah Nymeyer

July 16, 2015
Premature
Give by parents Jonathan and Terri Nymeyer
and siblings Isaac, Abby,
Esther and Tirzah

Jacob Theodore Oxendine

April 29, 2001
PROM
Given by parents Chip and Christine Oxendine
and siblings Emily and Eric

Amar Padakandla

June 29, 2001
Given by mommy Menaca Padakandla

Margot Lily Perry

Stillborn June 10, 2013
Cord accident
Gifts given by parents Brandon and Marisa Perry
and siblings Adeline, Bennett and Noelle
Grandmother Marie Perry

Teddy Perry

Given by Katherine Baldwin

Blakeleigh Delamere Rougeau

November 19, 2016
Asphyxiation due to sacrococcygeal teratoma
Given by parents Brandon and Brook Rougeau
and Rainbow Baby due April 30, 2018

Elena Marie Rusert

May 23, 2011
Premature
Given by parents Michael and Tina Rusert
and siblings Liam, Asher and Gavin

Baby Sabata

Miscarried August 17, 2017
Given by parents
Andrew Sabata and Margaretanne Huffman

Jaxson Kolt Scifres

Stillborn November 27, 2016
Cord accident and inverted placenta
Gifts given by
Parents Justin and Melissa Scifres
Grandfather Randy Vickers
Grandmother Regina Dusterhoft

Mindy and Maggie Smith

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

Caleb Soto

June 14, 2012
Given by mommy Indira Valdez

Chrissie Steen

Miscarried May 3, 2000
Ectopic pregnancy
Given by parents Lynn and Mary Steen
and brothers John, William and Michael

TJ Usery

April 2—July 28, 2014
Given by Sheri Halverson

Kaden Utah and Kinley Jo Whiteley

October 18 and October 19, 2016
Premature due to PPROM
Given by parents Rick and Alicia Whiteley

Jax Edward Yerg

Stillborn June 28, 2013
Unknown cause
Given by parents Bryan and Stephanie Yerg

Adrian Joseph "AJ" Zuckerman

Stillborn March 30, 2007
Cord accident
Gifts given by
Parents Al and Amber Zuckerman
and brothers Eli and Alex

Gifts of Support

Second Baptist Church, Springfield, MO
Christ Church Assembly of God, Fort Worth, TX
Janis Kidder
Pam Cousins
Felicia Johnson
Julie Flick

Golf Tournament Raises \$10,000 for M.E.N.D.—Houston!

The Breda, Stapp, and Arce families hosted the Butterflies and Birdies Charity Golf Tournament on October 2, 2017 in memory of Jordan Marie Stapp (February 29—September 2, 2016) and Ava Rae Arce (January 11, 2017). Butterflies and Birdies raised funds to help grieving families all over the greater Houston area by supporting M.E.N.D.—Houston.

God has used the lives of these 2 precious baby girls to help the hearts of grieving mommies and daddies. M.E.N.D. is extremely grateful for this golf tournament. We remember Jordan and Ava Arce families always. Their lives will continue to impact this world.



M.E.N.D.—SW Missouri Events

Our chapter had a busy September and October! Hillside Baptist Church held a car show raising more than \$200 for M.E.N.D. In October, we held our annual balloon release and participated in the Springfield Wave of Light.



M.E.N.D.—Tulsa Balloon Release

M.E.N.D.—Tulsa held its 7th Annual Balloon Release to commemorate our babies in heaven. It was a beautiful time of remembrance. Thank you to our generous sponsors Absolutely Balloons and Sam's Club.



Is it Possible for My Pain to Have a Purpose?

Numbness. Sudden numbness. Taking over my mind after hearing the doctor say my sweet and so much loved twin boys would have to be delivered at 21 weeks. Later, a very different type of heartache, followed by confusion, impotence and guilt as I could do nothing to save my babies. Then grief after realizing we would go home without them, not knowing what to do with all the crashed dreams. And so many more feelings overpowering my body, mind, and soul during my almost week-long stay in the Memorial Hermann hospital.

The whole ordeal started on Friday June 21, 2013, after a routine checkup with the high risk pregnancy doctor. The Twin-To-Twin Transfusion Syndrome my babies had developed was not improving, and my doctor knew my case would have to be handled by another specialist. The appointment was scheduled for Tuesday morning.

Unfortunately, I started bleeding that same Friday night. I went to the ER, and the on-call doctor told me everything was fine, and I could go home. Monday night came, and the contractions started. I went to Memorial Hermann Katy with four centimeters of dilatation. I was airlifted to Memorial Hermann Medical Center. On Tuesday morning the specialist arrived and told us what the reports were showing. My water had already broken, and my twins were struggling as the syndrome worsened. As per the specialist, labor had to continue its course as the three of us were in danger. My sweet boys were born asleep on Wednesday, June 26, 2013.

After four years, I still remember quite a few things about those days, from the words I said to the paramedics in the helicopter that Monday night, to the words I said when the last nurse who cared for me removed the IV on my last day in the hospital. But what I will always carry in my mind and heart is the love and patience I received from the nurses. All of them were amazing at their jobs. It was like they

_____ knew how to handle cases like mine. I was very naïve, and even though I had heard about mommies losing their babies, I never thought it was that common for the nurses to know how to react, what to do, what to say and the procedures to follow. They were respectful, careful, and compassionate. They prepared and gave me a box with my twins' hands and foot prints and some other little mementos for me to take home.

As I was leaving the hospital, I knew I had to look for help to 1) understand what was going on and 2) learn how to deal with the pain and life without my beloved sons.

As far as understanding goes, honestly, no one could help, except God and what has become my favorite and go-to scripture from the Bible ever since, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding" (Proverbs 3:5). Clinging more and more to God, seeking and accepting His plan for my life, knowing that He loves my twins, He loves me and His promises never change, has made this path endurable and even enjoyable again, as I grow up in faith and focus on the fact that I will

see my babies again in heaven.

Then, I joined M.E.N.D. and the sweet moms of the group helped me deal with the next steps in the grieving process. Sharing my story and listening to the stories of all the mommies in the group opened my eyes to this oh so common reality. I have learned each of us handle grief in different ways, and it is perfectly normal.

From their experiences, I learned the most difficult dates to anticipate, like birthdays, due dates, holidays, back-to-school dates. When my babies' 1st anniversary in heaven was approaching, I decided to go to church and pray for them, and take cupcakes to the nurses. The cupcakes were accompanied by a letter where I thanked them for their awesome care and told them I would be praying for them to be guided by the Holy Spirit to continue the hard work. This has been my tribute to my sons, my way to remember them on their anniversary.

This year, on their 4th anniversary in heaven, I did as I had done on the previous years by bringing cupcakes and a note to the nurses. This time, the note read something like this: "Please enjoy these cupcakes in remembrance of my twin boys born asleep on June 26, 2013, and please pray for me as these days are very difficult for me. Don't get me wrong; I am happy they are in heaven with our Lord Jesus Christ, but I just miss them so much. I will be praying for you to be filled with God's wisdom and patience as you care for mommies like me". I went on to say that even though I had forgotten some of their names, I would never forget their kindness.

A couple of days later, I received a call from a number I did not recognize. I never answer those calls, but something made me answer that one. It was one of the nurses who had read my note. She thanked me for the gesture and asked me how I was doing. I told her what had happened, and she prayed for me. She even gave me the names of the nurses who cared for me. Then, she said my card was ministering to them, as many nurses are non-believers.

I could not believe this small, simple gesture full of love and gratitude would be more than a way to remember my twins and say thank you. But it became oh so much more. More than an _____

expression of my appreciation to the nurses' hard work and compassion, more than a tribute to my sons, more than a tradition to remember them on their anniversary in heaven. All this is furthering the kingdom of

God! It is helping others hear about Jesus, my healer and comforter. God's plan for the short life of my twins had a purpose. God's plan for my life has a purpose. So yes, it is indeed possible for my pain to have a purpose!

♥ Emyllin Wong,
Mommy to Ariel and Angel Wong-Eguiarte
M.E.N.D.—Houston

Dallas/Fort Worth Walk to Remember

We had a beautiful day of remembrance at the 21st Annual Walk to Remember on October 7, in Irving, Texas. More than 1,300 people were in attendance, remembering 400 babies who died too soon. We were inspired by our special speaker, Sandra Crawford Williamson, who is a 9-11 survivor, and a mom to three babies in heaven. Songwriter and singer Meg Ammons blessed us by singing two of her original songs that perfectly fit the atmosphere and mood of the ceremony. We're looking forward to our Walk to Remember next year, which will be on Saturday, October 6, 2018.



Commemorative Sponsors

LuAnn and James Junkin
Remembering Paislee Ann Frette

Faith Sponsors

Stephanie and Bryan Yerg
and Family
Remembering Jax Edward Yerg

Dr Delphinium
Designs & Events
Remembering
Samuel Adan Contreras

Marie and David Crowe
Remembering
Jackson David Crowe

Byron and Rebekah Mitchell
Remembering
Jonathan Daniel Mitchell
and Baby Mitchell

Hope Sponsors

Jenae and Sam Bowmer
and Jami Wilkins
Remembering
Levi Samuel Bowmer

Tammy Darnell
Remembering
Sophie Jane Darnell

Marisa and Brandon Perry
Remembering Margot Lily Perry

Jennifer Nizzi
Remembering
Grace Selena Aguilar

Love Sponsors

Randy Vickers
Remembering
Jaxson Kolt Scifres

Amber and Al Zuckerman
Remembering
Adrian Joseph "AJ" Zuckerman

Christine and Chip Oxendine
Remembering
Jacob Theodore Oxendine

Ana Maria and Ross Broussard
Remembering
Andre' Gabriel Broussard

Tiffany and Andrew Marshall
Remembering
Jordan, Everleigh Grace and
Annabelle Rose Marshall

Sable and David Gonyea
Remembering
Ella Lynne Gonyea

Alicia and Rick Whiteley
Remembering Kaden Utah and
Kinley Jo Whiteley

Brittney and David Fish
Remembering
Logan Wayne Fish

Terri and Jonathan Nymeyer
Remembering
Rebekah Tikvah Nymeyer

Helen and Danny Lynch
Remembering
Sophie Jane Darnell

Becky and Steve Carter
Remembering Parker Logan and
Riley Carter Davis

Robyn and Anthony Haynes
Remembering
Caleb Anthony Haynes

Stephanie and Kevin Brady
Remembering Harper Von and
Declan Abraham Brady

Tina and Michael Rusert
Remembering
Elena Marie Rusert

Brea and Tommy Darnell
Remembering
Sophie Jane Darnell

Customers of Laura Bateman,
Independent Mary Kay
Consultant
Remembering
Andrew Robert Bateman

Sponsors

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Snuffer's

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Mountasia

Sprinkles Cupcakes
Dave & Busters
Precious Moments
Regina Dusterhoft
Felicia Johnson

Melissa and Justin Scifres
SeaWorld – San Antonio
Dallas Zoo
Brook Rougeau

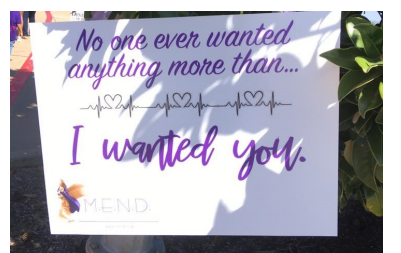
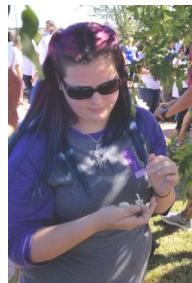
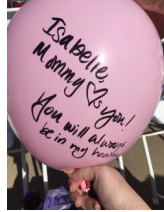
Lisa and Jeremy Daily
Menaca Padakandla
Jennifer and Jacob Back
Kristie and Tony Lansdell

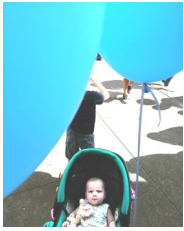
Jerra Henderson
Tiffany Clark
Kylie Lam
Market Street
Kirsten and Michael Fumagalli
In-N-Out
Julie Flick
Juana Morales

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Fort Worth Museum of Science & History
Gwen Jurisich, Independent Chloe & Isabel Vendor
Perot Museum of Nature and Science
Cyndi Chlup, Independent Plexus Vendor
Regina Pointer, Independent Mary Kay Consultant
Christine Oxendine, Independent Mary Kay Consultant
Shelli Plank, Magnolia and Vine Independent Distributor
Summyr Whale, Bella Girl Clothing Merchandiser
Marilyn Brown, Independent Sengence Distributor
Jennifer Garcia, Independent Matilda Jane Vendor

Haley Logan, Independent Jellybean Queen Custom Designs Vendor
Christine Oxendine, Independent Avon Consultant
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Dentistry of Las Colinas, Byron L. Mitchell, D.D.S.
Glamour & Guns by Ashley Bailey
Gingham & Gray by Laura Dodson

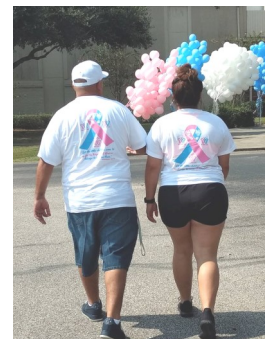
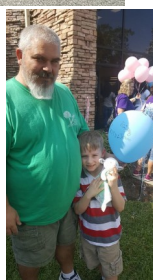
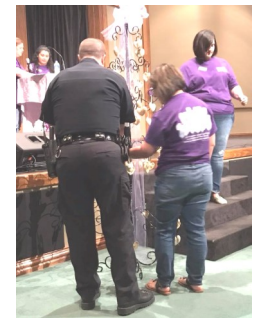
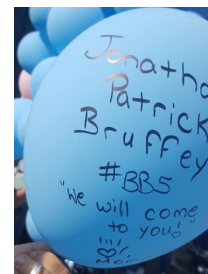
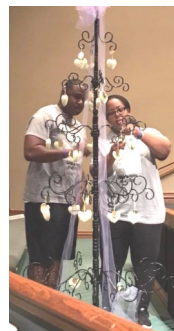
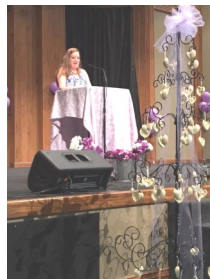
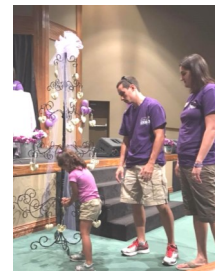
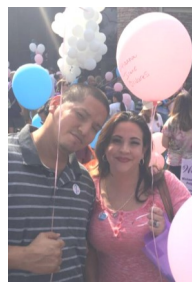
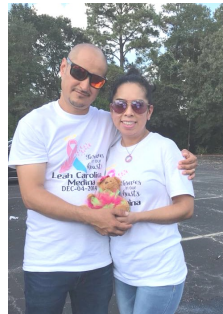
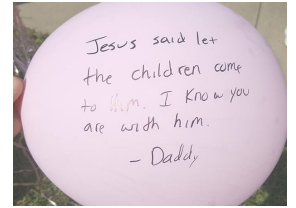
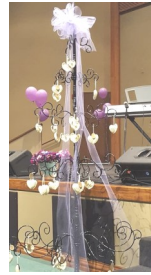
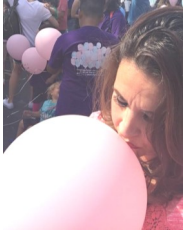
Taquita Holt
Catherine Harvey
Norma Jordan
AMC Theaters
Rack Room Shoes
Bob's Steak & Chop House
Sterling Images by Brittney Fish
Inspired Creations by CEO
SHINELife
Jena's Jems
Johanna Alvear
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FC Dallas
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Justina Campbell
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Cyndi Chlup
Lesa and Bryan Lynch
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Frances Beisert
Rachael McClelland
Paul Garcia
Christine Mendoza
Nichelle Shillingford
Jennifer Pitchford
Griesel Lugo





She will know about the little boys who came before her; the ones she can't see but that we feel with all of our hearts. She'll grow up speaking their names and saving mementos of the brothers she's never met. She will know them, but she will never understand the gift their brief lives gave her - that she is here, and that she is loved in ways we never imagined because they aren't here. She'll know, but, Lord, please never let her understand.

♥ Kessi Wilhite at Walk to Remember, Mommy to Jacob and Isaac, M.E.N.D.—Houston Assistant



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

M.E.N.D.—Houston's 12th Annual Walk to Remember was amazing. We had 940 people remembering 239 precious babies. Thank you to all the volunteers who put in their hard work and hours to make this event successful for our families. I wish our babies were all still here with us, but what a blessing God has given us in this group.

Special thanks to Jennifer Harrison for sharing her beautiful voice with us, and Jeanette Noyes McMullen for sharing her heart and perspective as an RN who cares for loss mommies. Thank you to Tracey Harms Murray who was our photographer for this event.

Faith Sponsors

Mac Haik
Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram Houston
Remembering Olivia Danielle Gutierrez,

Philip and Jennifer Chapman
Remembering Caleb Christopher Groves

Andrew and Leslie Casarez
Remembering Cora Anne Casarez

Jason and Rachel Barber
Remembering Joanna Lynn Barber

Kevin and Emily Bates
Remembering Kelsey Dawn Bates

Hope Sponsors

Faith and John Story
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Frank and Jacqueline Bush and Kim Curless
Remembering Adelaide Elizabeth Curless

Steven and Melissa Thomas
Remembering Jason Hunter Thomas

Luke and Amanda Harrison
Remembering Charlotte Grace Harrison

Jose and Yesenia Brito
Remembering Noah and Nathan Brito

Cody and Elizabeth Thomas
Remembering Case Foster Thomas

Love Sponsors

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Remembering Jason Hunter Thomas

Emyllin Wong
Remembering
Angel and Ariel Wong- Eguiarte

Paola Calderon and Clyde Miller
Remembering Baby Clyde Miller V

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Remembering Claire Isabella Estay
and Noah Landon Estay

Rod and Karen Zeller
Remembering Gideon Zeller Mitchell,
Avery Mitchell and Joy Mitchell

Kimberly Roman
Remembering Michael James Roman
and Elliana Faith Roman

Alan and Kenzie Watts
Carol Fitch
Remembering Cora Anne Watts

Isabel and Hailee Barraza
Remembering Gabriel Jose Barraza

John and April Palmarez
Remembering Stella Leigh Palmarez

Jeff and Monica Bridge
Remembering Zeldia Amirah Bridge

Marianna and Benny Horowitz
Remembering Madeline Joy Horowitz and
Morgan Reese Horowitz

Aisha Osagie
Remembering
Ace Samuel Elon Ford Osagie

Claudia Alvarez
Remembering Julian Delgado

Ashley Lovelace
Remembering Taidyn Joseph Davis

Brandon and Jennie Middleton
Remembering Bryson Glenn Middleton

ARW Offroad and Mike and Candi Witt
Remembering
Arie Ronald Witt and Baby Witt

Robbie Eustace
Remembering "Twig" Kolek

Sponsors

Sea World	Paul and Rachael Emig	RTIC	Tarsha Ennis
Dominique Booth	Danny Dishongh	Kimberly Hoffart	Pamela Killian
Houston Astros	Susan Bennett	Priscilla Ceballos	Kara Polk
Houston Zoo	Main Event	Bernadette Walls	Ana Ayon
Stormy and Todd Mitchell	Itz pizza	Angela Guillot	Jasmine Burton
Gringo's Spring	Urban Air	Amanda Hoyt	Cynthia Jones-Carter
Redneck Country Club	Golden Shears	Kayla Lewis	Jill Smock
Portraits by Dana	Erin Johnson	Yvette Miller	Jeanette McMullen
For a Moment Portraits	Shelly Andrew	Marilu Garza	Jennifer Garcia
SHINELife.com	Stefanie Batrez	Rebecca Shin	Skyzone
Sprinkles Cupcakes	Katy Guidry	Stephanie Gonzales	Inspire Rock
Troy A. McLaughlin	Paulina Carrillo	Sheri Lewman	Premier Designs
Urban Air	Lee Ann Chapman	Libby Koncaba	Candi Witt
Improv Houston	Rosa Rioss	Shane Meyer	Alley Theatre
SkyZone Houston	Amy's Ice Cream	Hayley Myrow	Dewberry Farm
Nails & Spa of Texas	Menchie's	Erin and Rob Johnson	Brandy Chase
Etched Therapy - Kristen	The Egg & I	Stefanie and Greg Miller	Renaissance Festival
Painting with a Twist - The Woodlands	My Amelia James by Richelle Perry		Roberta and John Causley
Texas Renaissance Festival	Nail and Spa of Texas		Kara and Charlie Wilkerson
Houston Museum of Natural Science	Brandon and Rachel Janous		Matthew and Tyra Rideaux
Star Cinema Grill - Vintage Park	Kristal Bean Photography		La Torretta Lake Resort and Spa
Lexie & Miguel Talavera	Brandon and Rachel Janous		

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
every other month

on the 3rd Thursday at 7:30 p.m.,

led by Stormy Mitchell (stormym@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.—NW Washington

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

Silverdale, Washington 98383

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: Kathryn Gold

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

M.E.N.D.—Bryan/College Station

Meets the 2nd Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.
Hawthorn Suites,

1010 University Dr E,

College Station, Texas 77840

Director: Jennie Drude

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

M.E.N.D. Chapter Updates***Bryan/College Station***

M.E.N.D.—Bryan/College Station just had our annual Balloon Release! We released more than 300 balloons and celebrated the short but important lives of our babies. We were so thankful to have the Texas A&M One-A-Chord choir perform for us. We want to say a big thank you to KBTX media for allowing M.E.N.D. to share on-air about our event and the significance of Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness month.

We are looking forward to our upcoming Ladies Night Out, where we will paint memory boxes for hospitals to provide for moms like us, and also our Christmas Candlelight Ceremony on December 9. For more information about any of our events and meetings, please email jennie@mend.org or join our Facebook group.

Jennie Drude

Houston

M.E.N.D.—Houston had a very successful Walk to Remember in October. We are especially thankful to all the volunteers who made this event very special to the 900 people in attendance. Without the wonderful team, this event would not be possible. We especially want to thank Jennifer Harrison and Jeanette McMullen for sharing their words and gifts. We are honored to remember the lives of so many precious babies.

We are looking forward to our Christmas Candlelight Ceremony on December 2, at Spring Baptist Church. For more information and to register for the CCC, visit www.mend.org. As always, we are praying for all of our families who are missing their babies this holiday season.

Stormy Mitchell

SW Missouri

M.E.N.D.—SW Missouri continues to reach more families through our support group meetings and Facebook group. If you would like to join our group, find us through our webpage at www.mend.org or search on Facebook for M.E.N.D. (Mommies Enduring Neonatal Death) of Southwest Missouri.

Our chapter had a special time at the Forever In Our Hearts Balloon Release and Remembrance Walk. There were 68 in attendance honoring 50 babies. Our next event is our Candlelight Christmas Ceremony to be held on Monday, December 11, at 7:00 P.M., at Second Baptist Church upstairs in the Gathering Room. To register, please go to www.mend.org, Southwest Missouri Chapter's CCC event page.

Kathryn Gold

NW Washington

M.E.N.D.—NW Washington invites you to attend our 7th Annual Christmas Candlelight Ceremony on December 8, at 7:00 P.M. Our ceremony will be held at Crossroads Neighborhood Church (7555 Old Military Rd NE, Bremerton, 98311). Please RSVP online at www.mend.org or email Stacy McGhee at stacym@mend.org for more information. We take time every Christmas to remember and honor our babies in heaven, and hope you can join us.

Stacy McGhee

Chicagoland

M.E.N.D.—Chicagoland enjoyed our first ever balloon release at our October meeting in memory of our babies and in honor of October being Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month. It was special to see each baby's name displayed on a luminaria at the end of the evening. Thank you to Alyssa Gaden for sharing your artistic talent with our chapter. We are making plans to decorate our 3rd M.E.N.D. tree at the Brookfield Zoo Lights. We are thankful for all the work God is doing in the Chicagoland area through M.E.N.D.

Sara Hintz

Tulsa

Several of our members were able to attend the Dallas Walk to Remember Ceremony. It was a beautiful day of remembrance. We also held our own balloon release. It was a special time for us to commemorate our babies.

M.E.N.D.—Tulsa is hosting our 6th Annual Christmas Candlelight Ceremony to commemorate our babies during the busy holiday season. The ceremony will be held on Tuesday, December 5, at 7:00 P.M., at Anthem Church (formerly known as Liberty Church). For additional information, please contact me at lisa@mend.org or (918) 694-4325 (HEAL).

Lisa Daily

Austin

My name is Julie Villa, and I am so thankful to be part of opening of a new chapter of M.E.N.D. in Austin, Texas, and serve as its Chapter Director. To share a little bit about my loss, my son, Leandro, was born sleeping January 22, 2014. I was 30 weeks along; he is my only child/pregnancy. I heavily rely on my faith to get through this every day. I am blessed for having had him even for a moment. I attended some M.E.N.D. support groups in Houston, but when I moved to Austin, I couldn't find a comparable group, so I began to work with M.E.N.D. to open a chapter in Austin.

We are still working on the details for a location and time for meetings, so watch for more information. We do have a Facebook group, which can be found by visiting our webpage at www.mend.org. I am looking forward to this journey and being of service to anyone going through loss. Through God, we will heal and help each other.

Julie Villa



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.—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.—Austin
Opening 2018
More details to come soon!

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.

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 off 183, 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.

How have you given back in memory of your baby?

We recently asked this question on Facebook, and loved hearing all the responses. Thank you to everyone who shared! We hope you will enjoy reading how some have given back in memory of their baby, and perhaps find a way you can continue the legacy of your baby through giving.

This will be our first holidays without our son. We plan to make a Thanksgiving goodie basket for a family in need.

Amanda R.

When [my son] had his 18th heavenly birthday, I gave 18 teenagers a \$5 gift card when they went through the line at Smoothie King! The owner was so nice and let me attach a random act of kindness card and her employee handed them out.

Tami P.

We have made a tradition of paying off a random layaway account at Babies-R-Us and/or Toys-R-Us between Thanksgiving and Christmas. The first year we did this, the year after Jacob died, God placed me in line and I paid a bill for a woman who was directly behind me, waiting to make a payment. It happened by "chance," (read: God) and the lady and I both cried when she told me thank you - that I helped her son, Jacob, and daughter, Molly, have Christmas.

Now, I look for layaways with items for kids who are the ages that Jacob and Isaac are. I wish I were buying for my boys, but this is the next best thing.

Kessi W.

After Gideon was stillborn, we knew we wanted to start doing things in memory of him, especially around the holidays. We always give to M.E.N.D., to give back to this group that has given so much to us. One year we got my entire family to sponsor a whole family. We were able to get them groceries, clothes, and Christmas presents. We have sponsored kids from our church's Angel Tree who are the same age he would be or gender as our Gideon. We have also given to World Vision to provide gifts, or animals to those in other countries who have a greater need than we. We have also given food so that families could have a special dinner at Thanksgiving. We have given toys to Toys-for-Tots, and given items for boxes for Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. All in memory of our precious son. We wish our son was still here with us, but we know that if he hadn't died, we would not be so focused on giving to others in the holiday season. He made us want to help others. God used his life and death to make us look outside ourselves. It is because of him that others have been fed, clothed, and were able to have a more special holiday. This is a beautiful way God still uses his life to touch the world.

Stormy M.

We started TeamMercy.org, and fill her stocking with notes of random acts of kindness. We also donate books to a class that she would be in if she were still with us.

Allison D.

I draw angel portraits time to time when able.

Tanya S.

Twice a year we take up collections for Ronald McDonald House. We spent a lot of time there when our son was in the hospital, so we know what a blessing they provide to families with sick babies.

Erin J.

I started a non-profit and honor my little girl every day. Her name was Mattie Zemira so my non-profit is called the Mattie Zemira Foundation

Ebony L.

I was at a loss as to even acknowledge my baby, Matthew, lost way too early on Christmas Day, 1978. Years later I learned about dressing babies for heaven and the four of us began Baby Gowns For Eternity. Using donated formal/wedding gowns, our volunteers dress babies for heaven at no cost. We've been together just a year and a half, creating gorgeous boy and girl gowns as the Lord makes us aware. Needing more volunteers who sew, we meet monthly, but sewing can be done at home. Join us as we wrap babies in love.

Lindajean G.

We donate \$19 to St Jude's every month. We don't want any other parent to feel what we're feeling and hope our donation helps find a cure for childhood cancers!

Mary Kate F.

I was on bedrest in the antepartum unit for about seven weeks with my sweet Paislee. I had lots of friends and family who would come and visit and bring me snacks, lotions, word find books...etc. However, I noticed there were lots of women there who never had anyone visit them, much less bring them gifts. After Paislee passed away, I starting making baskets full of snacks and other goodies for the women in the antepartum unit. We named them Paislee's presents, and we take them to the hospital at least twice a year. I love keeping her memory alive this way!

Courtney F.

I started donating money in memory of people who had passed. For instance if a person lost a baby, I would donate to M.E.N.D. If their loved one passed from diabetes, I'd donate to the American Diabetes Association. Then I send them a card mentioning the name of the person who passed and how they matter. That way people know their loved ones are still loved and remembered.

Ashley N.

We donate to March of Dimes in the Spring and to M.E.N.D. in the fall (during October). March of Dimes helped cover Keiran's expenses while he was in the NICU and M.E.N.D. has taken care of us since we lost him.

Kristina C.

Holidays...Happy or Sad?

“Providing Guidance Through Life’s Storms”
Written by Susan A. Adams, PhD, LPC-S, NCC
www.drSusanAdams.com

Happy holidays? Holidays may not be celebrated as a “happy occasion.” There is a missing little one that generates painful memories for parents, siblings or grandparents. The holidays can magnify a deep sense of loss and mourning. Seasonal events can emphasize the fact that some families are celebrating happy holidays; others are left to grieve an empty hole instead of building and/or continuing comforting rituals. This particular time of the year often causes a struggle between good memories and mourning a loss of joy.

Here are some tips to help get you through the holidays. Only do what feels right. Grieving is hard work, and some feel vulnerable. Some find it difficult to get through the day or week, but it is important not to think beyond this mourning period.

- ◆ **Accept your feelings.** They are your feelings and you need to get through the holidays along your own path. Families may find collective strength in their grief, but some may find their holidays bathed in tears. Reconcile the feelings of the moment. Accept your feelings - whatever they might be. Everyone takes his or her own path in grief and mourning. Some may try to avoid sad feelings; others succumb to them. Some feel bad they aren’t up for enjoying the holiday; others feel guilty because they are feeling joy. However you feel, accept the inevitable ups and downs of the moment.
- ◆ **Be honest about how you would like to do things this year.** Reach out to family and friends. If you want to talk about the missing member of your family - do so, but don’t feel like you must. Some may want to take a trip or do something completely different. Some think they should isolate while some reach out to others. You need an “escape plan” which may include a support group, faith-community events or the professional support from a therapist.
- ◆ **Realize your choices may impact your other children.** They may not realize why there are no family gatherings this year. Prepare for the holiday, but don’t forget that the anticipation is often worse than the actual holiday. Plan ahead so you have something to look forward to rather than anticipating the dreaded holiday.
- ◆ **Don’t feel guilty because you find the holiday activities overwhelming this year.** If you are struggling, scale back your decorating or don’t send cards. Avoid holiday parties and limit your activities to small gatherings. Be gentle with yourself and do whatever is safe and comfortable. You can purchase something that symbolizes your loss or make a donation in a loved one’s name. Find a way to remember the baby who died. Some suggestions include putting flowers on the graveside or in the church, share teddy bears with grieving patients in the hospital or spend family time just to remember.

Grief may be a shroud that offers comfort for some, but heartbreak for others. The holidays may not be “happy” this year, but that doesn’t mean there can’t be joy in the season. Be kind to yourself. The joy will return at some point in the future.

Continued from page 18...

Our family adopts a Salvation Army Angel each Christmas season. We always choose a little girl the same age that our daughter would be. We buy similar gifts that we would be buying for our daughter had she lived, and we bless another family in memory of Elena. It’s a huge blessing to our family as we find it to be healing for us and for our boys, who always look forward to choosing an angel for Elena.

We also give to M.E.N.D. because of the huge role M.E.N.D. has played in our healing process. We hope to help other families who are missing their babies to find the hope and comfort M.E.N.D. has offered to us.

Tina R.

I turned my wedding dress into baby gowns and took to a small town hospital.

Chandra B.

A group of angel mommies at church are hosting a public coffee and cookies baby shower for a local Embrace Grace ministry chapter. We will be sharing our testimonies and visiting. We will be collecting needed items for the ladies and babies involved in the classes including receiving blankets to be donated in memory of each of our babies.

Maria L.

I wrote about my loss, and continue to do so today. If I can help one other person feel not alone in their grief, then my baby’s short life had meaning.

Rachel L.

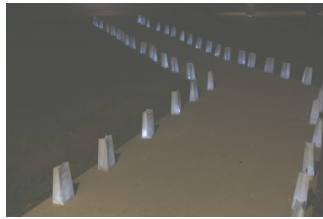
My daughter Taia’s beautiful eyes see in someone else’s life through transplant.

September W.

M.E.N.D.—Chicagoland

Chicagoland enjoyed a couple of events in memory of our babies. The dads of M.E.N.D.—Chicagoland enjoyed a beautiful day at a Golf Outing held in memory of Henry Michael Morgret. M.E.N.D.—Chicagoland started their October infant loss support group meeting in a special way with a lighted balloon release and luminaria walk remembering each M.E.N.D.—Chicagoland baby. It was a precious time to focus on each beautiful gift God gave us in our precious babies.

Balloon Release



Dads Golf Outing



The Walk

Written by Will Ledesma

His mommy hands him a balloon
It's perfect and round and pink--
His favorite color
(Three years old. He's allowed to like pink still)
"You must hold the string tightly," she says.
Already the balloon is tugging to escape his tiny grip
It makes him smile.

His mommy hands him a marker
He may draw her a picture--
This balloon is for sister
(It is hard to understand a sister that he's never seen)
"Today is a special day for remembering," she says.
He scribbles a happy face with a circle around the top.
His sister is an angel.

His mommy is quiet as they walk
So many different kinds of families--
So many balloons!
(So many grown-ups crying so quietly.
How can they look sad AND happy?)
"It's almost time to let the balloons go," she says
He hugs his perfect pink balloon tightly to his chest
He wishes he could hold on to it just a little bit longer

All the people have stopped walking
Ten balloons go first
Fifty follow them. A hundred. A thousand. More.
He's never seen anything like it.
This is not what balloons are for.

His mommy lets a pink balloon free.
She squeezes his hand lightly.
He wouldn't be able to explain, but he understands
(This one can't come home. This one is special.
It was meant only to fly)
He sniffles a bit as he lets the string
slip through his fingers
Pink, blue, white dots fill the sky
He watches it fly away

His mommy is hugging her friends goodbye.
Suddenly he isn't sad anymore
Now he is running
He can still see (her)
(She) is flying all the way to heaven!
"Good bye!" he shouts, exuberant, "Good bye!"
As he waves both hands wildly
He reaches the end of the field

Now he cannot follow (her)
Now he cannot see

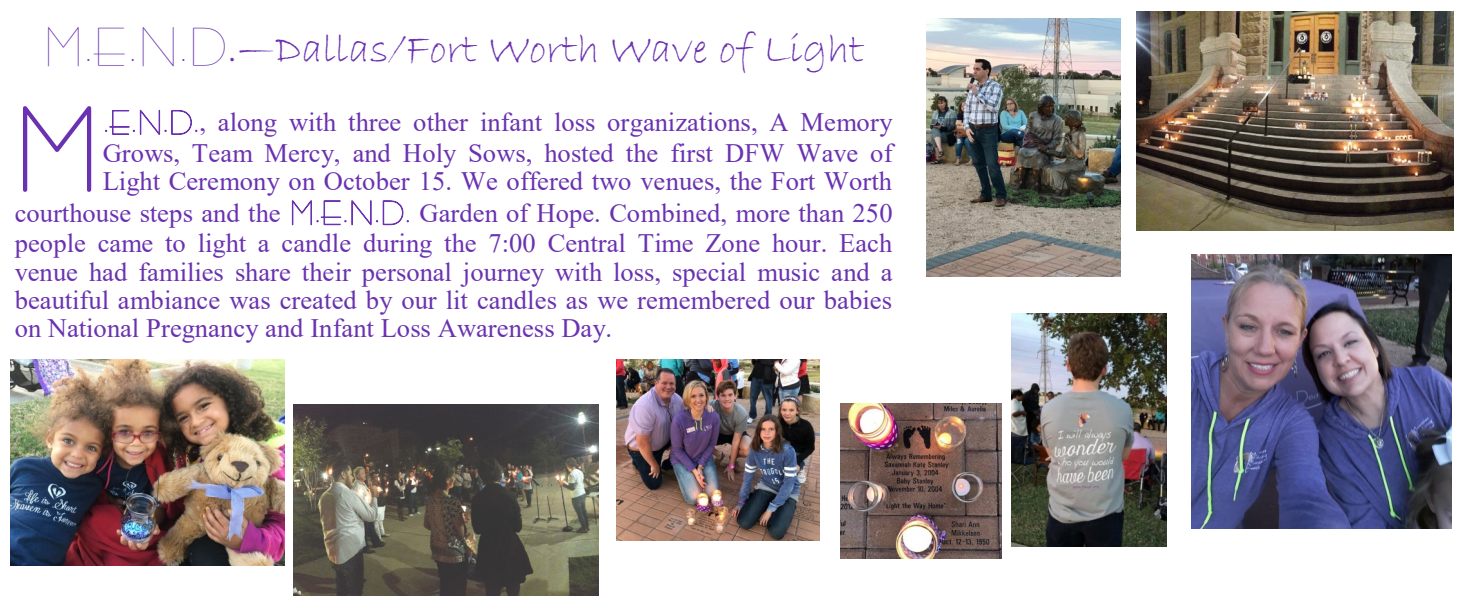
She is waving back

M.E.N.D.—Bryan/College Station Balloon Release



M.E.N.D.—Dallas/Fort Worth Wave of Light

M.E.N.D., along with three other infant loss organizations, A Memory Grows, Team Mercy, and Holy Sows, hosted the first DFW Wave of Light Ceremony on October 15. We offered two venues, the Fort Worth courthouse steps and the M.E.N.D. Garden of Hope. Combined, more than 250 people came to light a candle during the 7:00 Central Time Zone hour. Each venue had families share their personal journey with loss, special music and a beautiful ambiance was created by our lit candles as we remembered our babies on National Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day.



A Love That Knows No Limits

“Jesus said let the little children come to Him. I know you are with Him.”

Of all the pictures I have looked at of events, and sayings I have read, this is the one that brought me to tears. Written with love on a balloon by a daddy with his little love in heaven. Our love feels lost when we have empty arms with no one to hold, no one to cuddle.

Our love feels lost ...
sometimes creating
the worst feeling of
loneliness,
even in a room
filled with others.

Sometimes creating the worst feeling of loneliness, even in a room filled with others. As I sit in my chair here in Springfield, Missouri, reading your tributes, writings, poems, stories and love letters to babies, I am suddenly whisked to where you are, to your home or apartment in

Seattle, New York, Dallas, Denver, Houston, wherever you are. I sit quietly next to you, feeling your grief through the tears in your heart, the laughter in your sighs of the memories, and the anguish of the heart-wrenching sorrow consistently trying to devour you. I find myself aching to wrap my arms around you, or just sit with you in silence, desiring to let you know we are here, you are loved and you are not alone.

Occasionally, I have the opportunity to physically be there with you. In the SW Missouri chapter, I watch you lovingly write a message to your baby at the balloon releases, and hear you tearfully say your baby's name and solemnly light your candle at the Christmas Candlelight Ceremony.

Last year, I saw many of you at the Walk to Remember in Dallas/Fort Worth, walking the path we should not be on, but sadly we were there, walking and remembering together. I watched you hang ornaments on the trees, then write letters of love and let them sail through the skies.

This year I had the opportunity to be with families in Houston and surrounding areas, to try to provide comfort and ministry to you through song, and also to cry with you, as I remembered my own little one in heaven. I watched through tears as you hung your ornaments on the tree, and cried harder as I saw your children cry...when a young girl almost made it to the tree, only to immediately turn around and sob into her dad's arms, while her mom gently took the ornament and placed it on the tree for her. Or after a family finished hanging their ornament on the tree, the small boy turned to return to his seat, I saw his tears pool in his eyes causing streams to run down his cheeks, causing me to cry more for his sorrow. I cried for families embracing each other as they stood silently, watching love letters float to heaven.

I cried for the all the moms and dads the speaker spoke of, those she comforted as a nurse in labor and delivery. As I heard her share the stories, I longed to visit the hospitals to comfort those families. I wanted to love on those babies

for however long they had. I wanted to talk with moms and dads, let them tell me about their pregnancy, memories and just love for their child. I just wanted to be there for them, to love them, and let them know they are not alone.

While I would love to hug you all, I am limited...

Limited by time...while I am with you in Missouri or Houston, I can only provide comfort to a few of you in the limited time we have together.

Limited by location...I can only be in one place at one time, and to reach many of you, it would take hours or days of traveling, not even considering the funds needed to be there for you. I can reach you with what I can through my work with the newsletter, but it's still not the same as being there.

Limited by love...I love everyone, but my love can only stretch so far before it physically takes a toll. After events like these, my body cries for rest, to recover from all that I have given.

But there is One who has no limits. Jesus did say to let the little children come to Him, so we know our babies are with Him, but while we are here on earth, Jesus gave us another promise: “Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the earth.” (Matthew 28:20b)

We have such a great love for our babies, but there is an even greater love for us, and that is the love of Jesus Christ. A love so great that He shed His blood for the whole world, for you and for me. And He loves us in the good times and the bad times, in our happy times, and in our sorrow and anguish. He loves us no matter what. And He is always there, ready to comfort you, ready to love you.

While I can't physically be there to comfort you, and the many other readers, or the other families in hospitals I want to be there for, Jesus will

He is always there,
ready to comfort you,
ready to love you.

be there with you. He never sleeps; He is always watching and waiting. Waiting for you to call out to Him. To let Him love you with His unconditional love.

Ask Him to provide you comfort. Ask Him to wrap his arms around you, to hold you, to let you feel His love. To let you know you are not alone, because He is always with you.

And one day, when we are called Home, we can let Him wrap His arms around us, and reunite us with our babies. Earth is the temporary place, but heaven is the forever place. We are here on this earth temporarily, just as God sent His own Son to this earth temporarily, but through our faith in Christ, we can live forever with God and His Son, and our babies in heaven.

♥ Jennifer Harrison,
Mommy to Serenity

M.E.N.D.—Newsletter Editor

Dando de Regreso Durante la Época Navideña

Tengo recuerdos vividos de ir a la tienda de juguetes Cooper cuando era una niña. De niña, parte de la emoción de recibir una invitación a una fiesta de cumpleaños fue saber que mi mamá nos llevaba a mi hermana gemela y a mí a la tienda de juguetes Cooper para comprar un regalo para llevar a la fiesta. Todavía puedo ver el pequeño almacén en mi mente y me recuerdo del olor de las palomitas de maíz flotando desde la farmacia al lado. Cooper's siempre envolvía cada regalo en papel rayada roja enlazado con cinta de color rizado con unas tijeras. Creo que esos viajes maravillosos a esa tienda de juguetes es lo que empezó mi amor de comprar cosas (a menudo entre risas digo que tengo una enfermedad de compras). La tienda familiar de juguetes se cerró cuando estaba en la secundaria, probablemente debido a las mega tiendas como Toys R Us, que comenzaron apareciendo en todas partes. No disfrutaba de Toys R Us como la tienda de Cooper, pero todavía lo encontré divertido comprar en una tienda que tenía una gran variedad de cosas de juego de niños.

Porque me encanta comprar cosas, cuando nació nuestro primer hijo no podía esperar para ir a Toys R Us para hacer "compras de Santa Claus". Tuvimos cuatro Navidades gozosas y cuidadosamente escogiendo lo que pensamos que nuestro pequeño hijo querría (o lo que disfrutaríamos de que el tuviera). Lo hacíamos una noche de parejas fuera, conseguíamos una niñera y Byron y yo, como niños, pasábamos horas en la tienda gigante seleccionando lo que demostraría grande y emocionante para que aparezca bajo el árbol de Navidad en la mañana de Navidad.

Todo eso cambió la Navidad después de nuestro segundo hijo, Jonatán, que nació sin vida. Habían pasado seis meses y no sé cómo en el mundo íbamos a ser capaces de ir a esa tienda enorme y ser feliz mientras comprar regalos de Santa, sabiendo que debemos estar comprando para dos. Lo odiaba. Fue una experiencia horrible. Recuerdo mi pecho apretando y tomó todo lo que tenía para no desmigarme en un montón en el piso y lamentar por el niño que nunca podría comprarle cosas.

Cada año fue un poco más fácil, pero honestamente, compras de juguetes de Navidad nunca fue lo mismo para mí, sobre todo porque perdí a otro bebé durante los días Navideños varios años más tarde. Unos años después de que Jonathan murió, alguien me dio la idea de adoptar a un niño con necesidades de la misma edad para la Navidad. Comenzamos la tradición como familia de ir al gran árbol de Navidad en el centro comercial para encontrar a un ángel de papel que representaban a un muchacho que tenía la misma edad que Jonathan habría sido. El primer año fue muy difícil. Disimule sentirme alegre caritativa, pero en mi corazón, me estaba muriendo que no estaba comprando para Jonathan, -que estaba comprando para algún otro niño – alguien más que pudo mantener a su hijo. Pero como la mayoría de las cosas, sobre los años era más fácil y estaba realmente contenta de poder ofrecer regalos para un niño que de lo contrario no podría haber conseguido nada para la Navidad. Eventualmente, Jonathan paso de la edad de los niños del ángel de la Navidad, así que ahora contribuimos de otras maneras en su memoria. Ciertamente, cada vez que donamos a M.E.N.D., es en memoria de él y nuestro otro pequeño bebe que perdimos a aborto involuntario. Y durante todo el año cuando nuestra iglesia alberga algún tipo de beneficencia como mochilas para los estudiantes regresando a la escuela, siempre patrocinamos tres hijos - la cantidad de hijos que debemos tener.

Haciendo bueno de lo malo nunca es fácil al principio, pero el dolor y la dificultad de hacerlo usted mismo definitivamente es por lo mejor más adelante. Tan duro como lo fue al principio a compra juguetes para un extranjero en vez de mi propio hijo, más tarde coseché un sentido de satisfacción y un saber que hicimos algo justo y bueno. Hacer algo era mucho mejor que no hacer nada y revolcándome en mi dolor. Y con el tiempo, Byron y yo llegamos a un lugar donde encontramos alegría otra vez en las compras de Santa, a pesar de que sólo estábamos comprando para un niño en lugar de tres. Siempre puede haber algo de un vacío en mi corazón durante los días festivos, pero he encontrado sobre los años que, si sigo honrando y recordando mis bebés durante esta época especial del año, ayuda a aliviar el dolor debido a dar a los demás siempre resulta en lo bueno.

Subsequent Births



Charlie and Kara Wilkerson,
of Conroe, Texas,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Cannon Joseph,
born July 12, 2017,
measuring 6 lbs., 12 oz.,
and 20 inches long
The family loving remembers
Catherine Grace,
August 10-12, 2012, at 24 weeks 5 days,
HELLP syndrome and extreme prematurity

Greg and Sydney Seay,
of Tulsa, Oklahoma,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Cameron Lucas,
born September 10, 2017,
measuring 8 lbs., 2 oz.,
and 21 inches long.
The family lovingly remembers
Ava Rose,
neonatal loss March 10, 2016,
Potters Syndrome

Peter and Rachel Dell,
of Springfield, Missouri,
along with big brothers
Zeke, Kye and Izaiah,
joyfully announce the arrival of
Zephaniah Joseph,
born August 9, 2017,
measuring 9 lbs., 14 oz.,
and 21.5 inches long.
The family lovingly remembers
Grace Kathryn,
stillborn March 15, 2008,
and Rose,
miscarried January 3, 2014

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

M.E.N.D. Mommies Enduring Neonatal Death
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 PERMIT NO. 57

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 2015-2016 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.
- **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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www.mend.org