

# MISSing Angels Bill Successes!

*MISS Foundation volunteers and facilitators are yielding great successes across the country, with the help of the National Stillbirth Society, following Arizona's passage of HB2416, the MISSing Angels Bill. This law requires that parents of stillborn children be offered a 'Certificate of Birth resulting in Stillbirth' in addition to or in lieu of the death certificate. Recently, Indiana and Massachusetts passed the MISSing Angels Bill into law. Pennsylvania, Mississippi, and approximately eight other states have legislation pending. Utah was the second state behind Arizona to pass their version of the bill. Below is a story submitted by our volunteer, Ginny Shutt, who spearheaded the Utah movement:*

On Saturday, June 5th, 1999 my journey began - I was doing housework, when I felt a warm gush drip down my leg. For a fraction of a second I thought that at long last my water had broke. I was 38 weeks pregnant and had been very uncomfortable in the Utah heat awaiting my third child's arrival. We knew that I was carrying a girl and had almost settled on a name. As I looked down all that I could see is bright red blood. Immediately I cried for my baby. With the help of my two young sons, I called 911 and a neighbor to my aid.

I arrived on the hospital's labor and delivery unit, where I was greeted by one nurse (this is significant to me, because I still harbor feelings of anger that the hospital was not fully staffed or prepared for my emergency). The nurse took me into my room and proceeded to check for my baby's heartbeat. We heard faint heartbeats, it sounded stranger to me than usual. By the time that the doctor got to the hospital my baby had died. A few moments after those words had left the doctor's lips, Rodney walked into the room. We embraced, and for a moment, I felt closer to him than I ever had before.

Nine hours later, at 4:05 a.m., June 6, 1999, my beautiful daughter, Allison, was born. Needless to say, the following 48 hours that I had to spend in that hospital were the loneliest moments of my life. My eyes were literally swollen shut from the tears that I had shed.

When I was finally released from the hospital, shock, anger, and deep sadness were my constant companions. I had nothing to say to anyone, and nothing that anyone said to me mattered. I was alone. I began to wonder many things...why me, why now, what could have prevented this? Why didn't I know that Allison's life was ending at the very moment that it should have been beginning? So, my journey for answers began.

I started checking out every book that I could find about stillbirth. One day while on the internet I found the MISS Foundation's website. I read every netpals entry, every excerpt from Joanne's book and then one day I discovered the message boards. As I read the postings on the message boards, my feelings of loneliness were replaced with belonging. I was comforted by many of the caring moms who posted their stories of encouragement.

For the next few months I was addicted to being

online, participating in chat groups and talking about Allison to anyone who would let me. The MISS Foundation was a great therapeutic tool for me. As I got further along in my grieving process, I was able to connect with newer moms and tried to give something back that so many others had given me. I went on to become pregnant again and gave birth to a healthy, living baby girl in August 2000. In spring of 2001, I found out about the MISSing Angels Bill.

One day I sat down and began writing to my legislators. I gave the senators a brief outline of my story. Within a few days I received an email from Senator Ron Allen. He was very receptive to the idea of issuing a birth certificate for stillborns. Senator Allen was very diligent with his support of this bill. He kept me informed of the progress of SB45 until one day I was contacted by a reporter who ended up writing a story about the bill. It took approximately 10 months, but the bill that Senator Allen sponsored was unanimously passed and signed into law by Governor Mike Leavitt on April 16, 2002.

My family stood by my side as Governor Leavitt shared with us that stillbirth had affected his family too. He shared his personal story and told us that he wished that this had been done when he had this experience. The state of Utah began issuing birth certificates to all stillborn babies on May 1, 2002. The bill is retroactive.

I am extremely thankful for the MISS Foundation. I am grateful that Allison and all other babies that are stillborn will be counted. I have always wanted people to acknowledge Allison, and I want her to count - just as much as my other children.

The issuance of the birth certificate is not only another memento for the parents of the baby but now the Utah Department of Vital Statistics will have a tool to use to count our babies. It's been 3 years since Allison died. I believe that Allison is with me and I know that she will be with me forever. In her memory..... Ginny Shutt

***Congratulations, Ginny! If you'd like to help pass the MISSing Angels Bill in your state, email us at [info@missfoundation.org](mailto:info@missfoundation.org).***



# Kids Korner



“The most honest, truth-telling in this world is done by children.” Oliver Wendall Holmes

Crying  
Heaven bound  
Always in our hearts  
Nephew  
Death can't keep us apart  
Love  
Everyday I think of you  
Reaching for you

By Jessica, Age 11  
In loving memory of my nephew,  
Chandler, who is no longer with us.



By Jessica, age 11, for my big sister, Kacie,  
in memory of Chandler

## Arts & Crafts Ideas

Below are a few ideas on helping grieving children. These crafts can be utilized to start the child talking about their grief and to involve the caregivers in that discussion:

### -Wave Goodbye Hands

Have child trace hand on piece of construction paper. Ask them to write/draw something they wish they would have been able to tell the person who died. Attach hand to wooden popsicle stick and "wave goodbye."

### -Comfort Room

Have child use popsicle sticks, crayon, markers, etc., to create a place where they feel safe on construction paper.

### -Garbage Activity

Have child write or draw what they most regret or something they are ready to let go of on a piece of paper. Explain to them the significance of throwing these things away and letting them go. Throw this thought away.

### -Memory Box

Your local craft store will have a wooden double-recipe box. With wood glue, glue four ball feet to the bottom and let dry. Child can then embellish box with paint, markers, glitter, etc. A picture of the loved one can be glued to the top or inside the box. The box can hold special memories like pictures, mementos, or even poems the child has written.

### "Keep you in my heart" keepsake box

Your local craft store will have a cardboard heart-shaped box. The box can be painted red and can store all the special pictures, memories or letters to loved one.

### -Heart Strings

Take Crayola Model Magic and shape product into several flat hearts. Poke hole in top of heart with paper clip. Thread through the holes with ribbon, stringing the hearts together. Tie a knot between each heart. Let dry overnight. Have child paint or use markers to write a message or a memory of loved one. Glitter can then be applied to hearts.

## Kindness Project Excerpts

*I read a letter to the editor in the Tucson Daily Star the other day. It was thanking a couple for buying their lunch. The letter told of a story about that they were having a bad day and were discussing their terrible day. The couple behind them must have overheard. When they asked the waitress for the bill. The waitress replied, "The couple behind you paid the bill for you, The couple said something about a kindness project." The letter to the newspaper was great. It was a nice thank you for our kindness project.*

*Karen Thomas*

*Ashleigh Rose Mommy 8/29/00 to 9/19/00*



*I always buy a bouquet of flowers at the store and give them to someone in the parking lot, along with a Kindness Card. Today as I was driving for my weekly shopping, I started crying, again, and thinking about how many little flowers Amy Jo would have probably given to Mommy by now. Tiny flowers, or weeds, that she would come running into the house with, all scrunched up in her tiny hands, and saying "Mommy, I picked these for you". I would have proudly displayed them on the dining room table until they were brown and wilted. I usually give the flowers to the elderly or someone who is handicapped, just to try to cheer them up. Well, today I saw the cutest little girl, about 3 years old, the same age Amy Jo would be. I asked her if anyone had ever given her flowers, to which she told me "no." With her mother's permission, I handed the flowers to the little girl, and the card to her Mama. As I walked away I could hear her chattering away about "her" flowers. She was tickled pink. Then I cried all the way home, thinking how I am only able to buy flowers for my little girl to be taken to the cemetery. She never got to clutch in her tiny hands "flowers from Mommy." But I did feel really good to give them to that beautiful child, she was thrilled.*

*Peace,*

*Amy Jo's Mommy, Feb 6-7, 1999*

*For Emily's second birthday this year, in February, I donated two children's books to Loma Linda University Children's Hospital (where she born/died) in her name to be given to a child in the hospital on her birthday, February 2. I also attached Kindness Cards to each storybook. Today, I received a beautiful letter from the volunteer services at the hospital thanking me for the donation. and it wasn't a form letter because they mentioned Emily's name in the letter. It broke my heart all over again, but I was so happy to see someone acknowledge her, even someone who didn't know me or her. I just wanted to share that.*

*Always in her name and memory.... Mary Beth  
Emily Irene, b/d February 2, 2000*



*With a major portion of Arizona going up in flames the past few weeks, the thought of all those people who lost their homes, and the children losing all their toys was almost too much to think about! My husband and I went to a discount store and bought \$300 worth of shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, brushes, sunscreen, baby wipes, socks, and I had to get some toys for the kids. We arrived at the Salvation Army station with all these goodies. It was relieving to see all the volunteers there; the people were so grateful. We then headed for Wal-Mart and bought \$100.00 worth of dog and cat food. We also bought them snacks and little toys. We took this load to the Humane Society and then looked at all the animals there. It broke our heart not to be able to take them all home. I feel it was something I had to do. I was able to do this because I could...*

*Katie Hodge*

*Remembering and Honoring Blake Cash*



***No trumpets sound when the important decisions  
of our life are made.  
Destiny is made known silently.***

*-Agnes De Mille, Dancer*

# Tyler's Kindness Project



The nicest thing happened to me the other day, right out of the blue. I had been getting a lot of "teddy bear" signs just recently, so I wasn't hugely surprised when this one came up. I had a small gathering of my husband's friends and former co-workers at my house. I was sitting and chatting to one of the wives when she asked me if Mark had related her teddy bear story to me. Cindi works for the City of Peoria and her office had received a big bag of bears from the local police department.

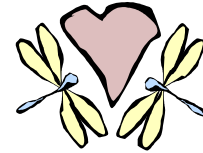
These bears are kept around in case a child is encountered who is in crisis and needs a good bear hug. She was digging around and picking out the good ones, when she happened to notice that one of the bears had a Kindness Card with Tyler David's name on it. She was very surprised and ran around yelling "I know these peo-

ple". She decided that the bear was meant to be hers so she sat it in her office.

A few months later, a small boy, about 3 years old, was in her office. He was very upset. He spied the bear and grabbed it and calmed down considerably after a good cuddle.

When it was time to leave, he gave the bear back to Cindi. She told him it was his now because this bear needed a good home and a good friend.

This story brought tears to my eyes. What a wonderful memory. **It is time again for our annual teddy bear drive in honor of our son's fourth birthday.** *If you would like to donate a new or gently used stuffed animal for the Peoria Police Department's teddy bear program, please call Margaret Abarr at 623-872-8082. Please remember to include a Kindness Card with your child's name.*



## Heart Felts

Special thank you to our Spanish translators, facilitators, and volunteers: **Carla Hoffman** and **Steve and Alicia Cunningham**. They've helped us reach out to countless Spanish speaking families who are in need of support.

Thank you to the **Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, Phoenix Fire Department, Westcor Corporation, and CoBiz Employees, Katherine Petty and Lyle Frederickson of Arizona Business Bank, Glendale Active 20/30 Club, and Andrew Sosnowitz and Young Professionals of Arizona, Inc., and St. Luke's Health Initiatives** for the generous contributions to the MISS Foundation. We need and appreciate your support!

Special thanks to local members, **Heather Boettcher** for her help at the 2002 conference, **Heather Lewis** for her participation in spearheading HB2011, a bill that requires ADHS to examine *all* unexplained infant and young child deaths, **Patrice Hedman** for her assistance in sending out our press release, **Debra Brooks** for her ongoing efforts in the African American community, **Juliegh Fullerton** for her beautiful photo album design for the MISS children. Thank you to **Ed and Robin Kennedy** for their ongoing commitment to our children's grief group and **Asena Nicolosi** for her work with the media to educate our community about drowning deaths and support.

We thank **Rusty Chepeus** for his ongoing generous contributions, **Rob Dalager** for his brain energy in helping the foundation as Treasurer and **Randy Force** for his immeasurable time as photographer, audio visual extraordinaire, and education chair. We could not accomplish our great tasks without you. Thank you.

The media has also offered the MISS Foundation a tremendous amount of support and we'd like to give a special thanks to: **Tracy Kornet** of Sonoran Living, **Scott Wasserman** of Channel 15, **Charlie Ornstein** of the Los Angeles Times, and **Patti Hartigan** of the Boston Globe.



## MISS Foundation's Sacred Hearts Logo Pendant

A beautiful gift representing the eternal love between Mother and Child. This exclusive pendant is custom made of sterling silver and hangs on your choice of 20" or 24" chain. Now available with or without a birthstone. Orders for the Sacred Hearts pendant can be placed online in our store at [www.missfoundation.org](http://www.missfoundation.org)

or use the order form on page 17 of the newsletter. Be sure to indicate your options (i.e. birthstone month, chain size)

<b>Pricing:</b>	<b>Pendant w/20" chain</b>	<b>\$60</b>
	<b>Add birthstone</b>	<b>add \$12</b>
	<b>With 24" chain</b>	<b>add \$5</b>

## New Practices for LBW Infants Identified

"We observed major changes in both obstetric and neonatal care during the 1990s . . . associated with significant decreases in [infant] mortality between 1991 and 1995. From 1995 to 1999, mortality remained relatively constant," state the authors of an article published in the July 2002 issue of Pediatrics. The authors sought to identify trends in medical practices and patient outcomes for infants with birthweights ranging from 501 to 1500 g born between 1991 and 1999.

The authors used the Vermont Oxford Network Database to perform two sets of analyses for each outcome measure. The first set of analyses was based on all 118,448 eligible infants admitted to any of the 362 neonatal intensive care units (NICUs) that participated in the database for 1 or more years during the study period. The second set was restricted to infants from the 39 NICUs that participated in the network database for all 9 years of

the study period. Separate analyses were performed for the time periods 1991 to 1995 and 1995 to 1999 to examine differences in trends between the early and late 1990s.

The authors observed significant changes in the interventions used after birth and the outcomes for study infants for both groups of institutions between 1991 and 1999 as follows:

- There was a threefold increase in the use of antenatal corticosteroid therapy;
- The proportion of infants treated with surfactant, nasal continuous positive airway pressure, and postnatal steroids increased significantly;
- The proportion of infants treated with any assisted ventilation decreased;
- Mortality decreased from 1991 to 1995 and remained relatively constant for the remainder of the study period; and

- The risks of mortality, pneumothorax, intraventricular hemorrhage (IVH; any grade), and severe IVH (grades 3 and 4) decreased.

The authors point out that the overall proportion of infants treated with antenatal steroids and postnatal surfactant increased between 1991 and 1999, and that both treatments have effects on mortality that are supported by strong evidence from multiple randomized controlled trials. They conclude, however, that "additional improvements [in mortality for very-low-birthweight infants] will require an understanding of the marked variations that still exist in practice and outcomes among different neonatal intensive care units."

*Horbar JD, Badger GJ, Carpenter JH, et al. 2002. Trends in mortality and morbidity for very low birth weight infants, 1991-1999. Pediatrics 110(1, Part 1):143-151.*

## Improvements Needed for Women's Health Issues

Women's Health in the United States: Health Coverage and Access to Care, presents key findings from a new Kaiser Family Foundation survey on women's health.

This nationally representative telephone survey, administered to 3,966 women ages 18 to 64 in the spring and summer of 2001, examined women's experiences with their health plans and providers, with an emphasis on the experiences of low-income women, racial and ethnic minorities, and women in poor health. A smaller survey of 700 men was conducted for comparison purposes. Selected crosscutting survey findings

include the following:

- Costs related to health care present significant problems for non-elderly women
- Affordability of prescription drugs is a primary concern for a sizable share of non-elderly women;
- Women in fair or poor health (who have the greatest need for health care services) often experience major problems accessing care;
- Women have significant concerns about the quality of care they receive; and
- Many women's connection to the

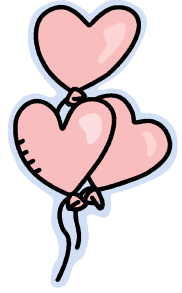
health care system is unstable.

A news release, executive summary, and webcast, as well as the full report, are available at <http://www.kff.org/content/2002/20020507a/>

*Editor's Note: Minority and low socio-economic women experience 2-3 times higher rate of infant mortality and stillbirth over the average population. Perhaps, this disparity is due, in part, to the insufficient prenatal care available to these women. We support legislation that would address these vital issues in our community.*



# Remembering Our September and October Children...



## Happy Birthday

### September

Mercedes Adame  
Mannie Adams  
Ashley Karin Marie Allen  
Jase Allen Ambrose  
Kirkland Bryce Austin  
David Lawrence Baker  
Andrew Ballantine  
Courtney Lynn Beisner  
Brian Edward Benton  
Steven Bolton, Jr.  
Ashlyn Rebekkah Brooks  
Alyssa Michelle Brown  
Veronica Burk  
Tommy Byrenes  
Blake Cash  
Bernice Celis  
Jason Michael Collins  
Jasmine Cox  
Angel Starre Crowkiller  
Azaria Daniels  
Jakob Bradley Detwiler  
Emily Amanda Dickerson  
Matthew Dodge  
Nicholas David Dorsey  
Ryan Spencer Dugan  
Autin Earick  
Alec Ellson  
Treasure Isabella Escobar  
Chadwick File  
Joseph Robert Finnell-Glover  
Kazman Gajdecki  
Malena Gallardo  
Scott Christopher Gomez  
Jacob Guerrero  
Charles "Nicky" Hall  
John Thomas Haney  
Lyle Heinonen  
Rachel Elizabeth Hilburn  
Josephine Hoffman  
Emily Caitlin Jared  
Logan Lillian Jepson  
Carmen Jimenez  
Joseph McAdoo Jones  
Jackson Paul and Andre John Kelly  
Samuel Garfield Kraft  
Erika Xioma Fajardo Ledesma  
Matthew Lester



Westin Letter

Corinna Martin

Marcos Daniel Martinez

Samuel Mendoza

Carol Michelle Mickelson

Macayla Johnne' Morris

Matthew James Mowen

Regina Marie Munoz

Emily Ann Nolan

Kierrar Nyborg

Abbey Leigh Pawelkiewicz

Kyla Jean Potter

Stephanie Rangel

Brycen Randolph

Paul William Rao

Fallon Nicol Rhodes

Emmanuel Ruiz

John Edmund Sarna, Jr.

Emily Ann Schmoyer

Damiana Sabori

Samantha Jo Shull

Morgan Shutz

Tevita Siasau

Naomi Malilah Spencer

Samuel Andrew Tajc

Ariel Jessica Tello

Edgar Vargas-Hernandez

Ian Walter

Baby Wilhelm

Baby Girl Wilhelm

Jessica Lynn Wilhelm

Adam Christopher Williamson

Cody Robert Windmiller

### October

Christina Marie Aloï

Mackenzie Marie Ball

Zoe Rayn Barrett

Lisa Lee Billington

Tristan Andrew Castellanos

Collette Chang

Julia Marie Cheney

Angelica Louise Ciddio

Brianna Clark

Gina D'Addieco

Brianna Oakleigh DeCarlo

Kaylee Honey Dry

Alexis Marie Echols

Esmeralda Espinoza



Alejandro Ferrales

Benjamin Fieselman

Grace Fieselman

Michelle Flowers

McKaden Patrick Fowler

Jose Garcia

Joshua Robert Garza

Aiden Christopher Golis

Jennifer Marie Gonzalez

Elizabeth Hall

Henry Hall

Trevor Hicks

Christine Holland

Timothy Dakota Hollon

Bethany Hookom

David Christopher Hryszko

Yapheth Ingram

Harley and Hayden Jacobson

Jennica Mariah Jespersen

Sucele Jimenez-Perez

Cardon Johansson

Jacob Johnson

Zachary Taylor Jones

Christina Elizabeth Harley Llanes

Melanie Lopez

Michael Martel

Joey Elizabeth Messine

Andrew Moss

Kailyn Ashley Noyes

Lily Rowan Ogburn

Jamie Pierce

Levonte Malik Reed

Lili Claire Resnick

Trey Brayden Roper

Julie Renee Sanchez

Lola Serephina Sanchez

Hailey Elizabeth Scranton

Kolton Siebert

Moriah Lynne Sharp

Cheyenne Autumn Smith

Jacori Cobi Staten

Rebecca Christen (Becca) Stewart

Derek Joseph Sundwall

Alyssa Maria Victoria

Susan "Susie" Lynn White

Angel Wolfe

Megan Lee Wondra

Shelby Zalanka