

Forget-Me-Not Newsletter

 **Western New York Perinatal Bereavement Network, Inc.**

A Letter from the Editor

By: Erika Zambotti, MSW, Family Support Coordinator and Event Assistant

As a point person for parent and family support, people may thank me if I assist them. My response to that might be, no, thank you for calling!

Here at the WNYPBN, we want people to utilize our services and programs, and we want people to attend our events. We wish that there wasn't a need for the kind of support we provide, but sadly, we know that there is. So, we are more than happy to answer calls, respond to your emails, and address your questions.

Reach out to us, even if it's from out of the blue. People are contacting us at all stages of their healing journey— whether it be right after a loss, or years down the line, when they are ready to

volunteer with us as a way of supporting those who are in a situation they were in not long ago. It is amazing to see our bereaved community come full-circle to assist other parents and families in a way only other bereaved families can. Ask us what events we have coming up or what volunteering positions you might be able to fill!

As always, we plan to hold our Tiniest Angels Support Group monthly. If you have ever considered attending, know that no matter where you are with your loss, you are welcome. I hope people continue to attend support group long after I am gone from my position at the Network, because this can be one of the most healing activities in which be-

reaved parents can participate. Thank you to all who have attended and shared with us, and we hope to have you return in the coming holiday months. You're the reason I will continue to participate in Network Events, volunteer for this cause, and stand with those experiencing perinatal loss even after my time here comes to an end.

So, reach out. Take control of your own personal growth after your loss, and let us help. Attend an event, utilize our programs, refer a friend. We will be glad you did, and thankful that we are able to assist more of the bereaved community!

Volume 16, Issue 4

November 2019-
January 2020

Save the Dates:

- **March 12th, 2020**— *Enhancing Patient Care: Creating Community and Resiliency after Perinatal Loss; conference hosted by the WNYPBN at 225 Como Park Blvd, Cheektowaga 14227*
- **March 21st, 2020**— *An Evening to Remember Basket Raffle at Pvt. Leonard Post Jr. #6251, 2450 Walden Ave, Cheektowaga 14225*
- **May 8th, 2020**— *9th Annual Elegant Evening to Remember Gala at Salvatore's Italian Gardens*
- **May 9th, 2020**— *Wings of Love Parents' Day Breakfast*

Christine's Corner

By: Christine Scott, WNYPBN Executive Director

"Alone we can do so little; Together we can do so much."
~Helen Keller

Throughout this past month, Pregnancy & Infant Loss Awareness Month, I have paid witness to the strength, love, togetherness, and courage of our bereaved parents, bereaved families & community, as we honored our beloved children, raised awareness, stood with others, and offered a voice so that nobody has to continue to suffer in silence.

Our community has shown such an outpouring of compassion, support, and love to one another,

which allows bereaved parents to feel validated & comforted throughout their journey of grief, mourning & healing. This togetherness allows our programs to continue to grow, as our Network continues to help families and honor lives.



Together we have healed hearts, provided hope, created a safe

space for families to share, reflect, and create a wave of light to raise awareness and break the silence of perinatal loss. I am beyond grateful to our community for your generosity! I can't thank you enough. Know that together, we can make a difference!!!!

As we transition from fall to winter and the holidays approach, please give yourself permission to take on the season at your own pace, be kind and gentle with yourself. I wish you all Hope & Peace.

Sincerely,
Christine

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Forget-YOU-Nots

Michael Anthony Anderson April 5, 2005
Always, Always in our Hearts!
Love Nana & Papa xxxooo
We love you always! Love, Mommy, Daddy & Mia
Parents: Michael & Kelly Anderson

Lilya Raine Arena September 26, 2009
Hugs to the sky, baby! Mommy, Daddy and little sister Willow love and miss you.
Parents: Kelly & Michael Arena

Jackson Roy Barber July 25, 2011
Gone too soon, but never forgotten ♥
Parents: Jennifer and Jim Barber

Jivae Andrea Báez December 28, 2012
Our beautiful baby girl we love and miss you every second of every day. Thank you for your sweet baby brother Jamari. All our love all our life. Love, Mommy and Daddy.
Parents: Evelyn and Jared Báez

Liam Casey July 6-7, 2012
Parents: Travis & Jerricka Casey

Sara AnnaRose Connors October 31, 2016-
February 24, 2017
Parents: Sean & Courtney Connors

Logan Andrew Cooper January 9, 2015-
March 25, 2015
To my Baby Bear, my "Logi Bear," we think and speak of you every day. I cherish and share your memories to keep you alive here on earth. Thank you for sending us our rainbow baby Aubrie Ana. We love you to heaven and back. Love, Mommy and Daddy.
Parents: Grace & Shawn Cooper

Riley James Croce March 8, 2010
Gabrielle Irene Croce August 3, 2010
Baby Croce December 9, 2013
Parents: Lena & Dan Croce

Kayonna Marie Darrell October 16, 2018
We Love You Always! Not a day goes by that we don't think of you! You will forever be in our hearts. Love Mommy, Daddy, Big Sisters Elana, Avianna and Savannah and Big Brother Brandon.
Parents: Ashley Hunt and Wendell Darrell Jr

Juju Dintcheva David February 27-29, 2016
Baby Dintcheva David November 17, 2018
We are deeply shocked and saddened. Words can't describe the pain we are experiencing. We love you more than you will ever know. Rest in peace and in the care of your sister Juju.
Parents: Elka Dintcheva and Jonathan David

Madison Leigh Frankowski August 7, 2010
Parents: Candace and Andy Frankowski

Baby Boy Jonathan June 8, 2018
Thank you for the beautiful butterflies & dragonflies! You are sadly missed & deeply loved

everyday. We love you forever & ever & always! Mom & Dad, Big Sisters Krysten, Kaytee & Kam, Big Brother Klyde, Nephews Kortlnd & Kreese, & Niece Kenzleigh Bates.
Parents: LaRue & Leilan Jonathan

Logan Gagliardi September 8, 2018
We love you Logan You are always on our minds, and forever in our hearts. Your presence in Asher is the most precious gift and we can't wait to meet him. Love always, Mommy, Daddy, Mikayla, Jady, Caleb, and Brynlee.
Parents: Kristen and Rob Gagliardi

Aurora Leena Gayadeen June 21–August 3, 2012
Parents: Dawn & Leon Gayadeen

Rio Piers Mateo Gonzalez March 14, 2019
Rio, We loved you before you were conceived and you were the answer to our prayers. We were so blessed and honored to be your parents, even if it was only 23 weeks. I think about you constantly and I know that Grammy is watching over you. Continue to be a sweet little boy until we see you again in heaven! Sending you all our love forever and ever!
Parents: Christa Brown and DeMario Gonzalez

Nora Jean Groves May 18, 2019-
July 2, 2019
To our baby Nora Jean, Thank you for giving us a lifelong blessing in such a short amount of time. You are always on our minds. Fly high, baby butterfly.
Parents: Shelby Wallace & Jesse Groves

John Paul Jerebko November 18, 1999
Our little angel! Love, Mom, Dad, Jakob & Jackson
Parents: Peter & Lisa Jerebko

Marrina Kim August 3-4, 2005
Ella Grace Kim June 8, 2007
We love you and think of you so very often. Please watch over us... now and always.
Love, Mama, Daddy and Trent
Parents: Dawn & Mark Kim

Autumn Marie Kostek July 25, 2014
Parents: Melissa & Erik Kostek

Bud Charles Mott September 12, 2005
Theresa Marie Mott September 12, 2005
"Blueberry" Mott January 21, 2014
Baby Mott December 23, 2014
Miss you with all of our hearts, Theresa, Bud, "Blueberry" and Baby Mott. God knows our pain and sadness. We know that someday, we will see you again. All our love ~ Daddy, Mommy & Alison
Parents: Timothy & Beth Mott

Isaac Eddie Ogden December 23, 2016
Parents: Jared & Sarah Ogden

Andrew Thomas Paolini Sept. 8-15, 2003
Baby Paolini August 2002
Baby Paolini October 2004
Parents: Becky & Charlie Paolini

Mary Parisi November 20, 2016
We are always thinking of you Mary girl. Thank you for bringing us your little brother James, and little sisters Caroline and Lucy. We carry your heart with us always. Love Mom and Dad.
Parents: Anthony and Molly Parisi

Michael James Quigley October 24, 1992
Miss you more and more! 'Til we meet again!
Love, mom
Parent: Debi Zmuda

Jacob Wesley Scott May 27, 2000
We love you and think of you every day! Butterfly kisses, buddy! Love, Mom, Dad, Thomas & Mandy
Parents: Phillip & Christine Scott

Ja'Lanie Elizabeth Servio October 28, 2016
I can't believe it's been two years since we've been able to hold you. We love you Ja'Lanie. Happy Born day to "Our never forgotten first child."
Parents: Ja'Lisa ad Henry Servio

Harper Sophia Sypniewski October 14, 2014
Parents: Aaron & Brieanne Sypniewski

Baby Taber September 30, 1991
Love and hugs. Miss you! From, mom
Parent: Rosemary Taber

Liam David Terra June 16-27, 2014
Parents: Carrie and David Terra

Astoria Lee Thurman April 7, 2019
Forever in our hearts, we miss you Stori. Love. Mama, Dada, & Gavi.
Parents: Joellen & Brandan Thurman

Piper Grace Walczak April 3, 2018
To our sweet little girl, our angel, we think of you every single day. Your due date just passed, and we're missing you more deeply than ever right now. You will forever be by our side, our beautiful butterfly. Love you always and forever, Daddy, Mommy, and big brother Leo.
Parents: James and Lauri Walczak

Nevaeh Haylynn Wheat-Green December 11, 2017

Jamison Robert-Karysen Wheat-Green November 30, 2018
Parent: Christine Wheat

Grace Lee Zimmer April 12, 2012
Until we meet again, fly sweet butterfly, fly! A moment in our arms, A lifetime in our hearts. Love, Mom, Dad, Hunter and Luke
Parents: Donna & Russell Zimmer

Safe Arrivals

Jessica and Daniel Heitzenrater welcome Rainbow Baby **Olive Louise Heitzenrater**, born on Wednesday, April 24th, at 5 lbs 7 oz and 18 1/2 inches long. The family remembers their baby boy Elliott Johnsen, born still on May 4th, 2018.

Interested in submitting a memorial or announce your rainbow baby?

*Please email your baby's Forget-YOU-Not or Safe Arrival to:
forgetmenotnewsletter@hotmail.com*

Submissions are due by the 15th of the month prior to the issue month. Family members and friends are also encouraged to submit.



Stillness

Written and Read By Joanna Weld

This morning I woke up to the sounds of your twin,
Jonathan,
(The one I got to keep)
Cooing excitedly,
Furiously kicking his legs
And flailing his arms
He wasn't looking over at me,
He was looking up at you.

It was one of those rare, quiet moments
When the rest of the house was asleep
I could feel you with us.
The silence and the stillness was ours,
Just as it was after you stopped crying
And in the three days I mothered you
After you had earned your wings.

I pick up your brother
And he settles peacefully in my arms.
I can feel his warmth,
But I still long for yours.
His sweet lips curl up into more sleepy smiles
Than I remember seeing on your siblings.
I think you two must have dreamy secrets
That the rest of us can't share.
He has a sweet, peaceful disposition
And a smile so big
It can barely be contained on his tiny face
I know it's because he sees an angel
He experiences you in a way the rest of us can't.

Sometimes I think that he is the only one
Who can relate to my sense of longing;
My desperate desire
To feel a piece of me
That is no longer there.

I want to be reassured
That you are comforted by me.
When I embrace your brother;
That you can feel my love
When I kiss his soft skin;
That you still recognize my voice
When I whisper gentle words into his ears.

Nicholas, my sweet angel boy;
Our hearts are forever linked;
Both irrevocably damaged,
Both preventing us from living a full life.

Poems

(Read by Bereaved Parents and Family Members at the Walk to Remember)

These are my Footprints

By Tamara Baker

Read By Cyndee Fahey

These are my footprints,
so perfect and so small.
These tiny footprints,
never touched the ground at all.

Not one tiny footprint,
for now I have wints.
These tiny footprints were meant
for other things.

You will hear my tiny footprints,
in the patter of the rain.
Gentle drops like angel's tears,
of joy and not from pain.

You will see my tiny footprints,
in each butterflies' lazy dance.
I'll let you know I'm with you,
if you just give me the chance.

You will see my tiny footprints,
in the rustle of the leaves.
I will whisper names into the wind,
and call each one that grieves.

Most of all, these tiny footprints,
are found on mommy's heart.
'Cause even though I'm gone now,
we'll NEVER truly part.



Whispering Winds

By Marge Tindal

Read By Joanne Ferrelli

I hear them whisper your name,
those mighty winds that blow.
I know that you are close at hand,
the winds just told me so.

The direction from whence they blew,
I am not sure I know.
For only when I hear your name,
am I sure the winds did blow,

Caressing my face with a whisper ...
calling out your name,
the winds of delight entice me.
I will never be the same.

I will follow the singing wind.
where it leads me I do not know.
For the winds that blew you from me ...
will take me where I must go.

Upward into the hills,
calmly across the sea,
Hold on my love, I'm coming ...
The wind has beckoned me.

Free to wander and search this earth,
no matter how far that may be.
Free to follow the whispering wind ...
until it blows me back to thee.

I hear your laughter on the wind.
I try with all my might,
to reach out and touch you
on this windy night.

You must be getting closer
for I feel your whispered love.
I reach out my hand to you,
please find me, my sweet dove.

You grasp my hand in yours
and softly speak my name,
out of the whispering winds
We are together again.

7 Grief Strategies for the New Year — Or For Anytime

By Brad Stetson via The Centering Corporation (Centering.org)

The old saying is true: “If there is an elephant in the room, introduce him.” No good purpose is served by denial, yet we are very good at it. And when it comes to facing the pain of our grief with both eyes open, we often turn away instead. But when we have a psychological elephant in the room of our mind, we should acknowledge him, and plan a way to shrink him down to a manageable size then get him on his way. If we’ve had a loss recently, the new year provides a good opportunity for us to be honest about the pain of our grief, and resolve in the months to come to be proactive and do the necessary grief work to begin addressing the elephant in the room.

#1. Write yourself a comforting and encouraging letter.

Imagine you had a friend who you cared deeply for, and imagine that friend had just experienced the death of someone they love very much. You would want to help them, you’d want to comfort then and encourage them. Well, now substitute yourself for that friend. You are worthy of being comforted and encouraged too, so write yourself a letter saying to yourself the same sorts of things you would say to a good friend. Then, read the letter aloud to yourself once or twice, put it away for a few days or a week, then read it again. Do this for a few months, then write yourself a second letter, and so on. This is an act of self-compassion, treating yourself as gently as you would treat someone else. Avoid thinking that you are so ‘strong’ or ‘solid’ that you don’t need help and tender compassion. That is a misunderstanding of strength and personal fortitude. Feeling intense sorrow and bereavement is not a sign of weakness, to the contrary, it is a sign of deep humanity and personal capacity to love.

#2. Buy a big calendar, and use it.

One of the main problems bereaved people face is the feeling that one day drags into the next, always the same. Grieving people also sometimes get pressured by other well-meaning people into doing activities they really don’t want to do. An ‘appointment calendar’ can solve both of those problems. Large calendars, like a desk calendar, give you room to write. So as the new year begins, grab your pen, sit down with the calendar, and start filling your days with appointments. Appointments with whom? Well, most importantly, with yourself. Without isolating yourself or

taking yourself out of social circulation, you can pen in some ‘self-time’ and thereby reserve a lot of valuable quiet time. Now this quiet time does not have to be momentous. Just by reserving time for yourself, you will give yourself time to breathe and reflect as the new year, with all of its demands and changes, unfolds. Appointments like “movie with me,” or “reading with me,” “journaling with me” or “recreation with me” make it possible for you to always be able to tell others, when asked to go somewhere or do something, “Let me check my calendar, I may have an appointment.” This way you can say “No” in a socially graceful way, and if you want to accept someone’s invitation, you can always break an appointment with yourself, no one will be upset about that.

#3. Move your body, move your mind.

As you slowly adjust to your life without the physical presence of your loved one who died, it’s vital you get outside and move your body. Notice, I didn’t say “exercise,” since for some people that may sound daunting (What do I wear? What gym do I join? What are the elements of my workout?). No need to make it a big undertaking, you’re not training for the Olympics. So pick short, achievable goals, like a very short hike, a walk around the block, a bike ride to the park, etc. Keep these jaunts short, as this will give you a sense of accomplishment, and you will derive the physical and psychological benefits of having enlisted your body in your ongoing encounter with grief. This is a great habit to form in the new year.

#4. Realize that you do not need to “understand” your grief, or fit your loss into your religious or philosophical worldview right now.

When I coached Little League, I established the One Minute Rule. It was this: If I, or any player, gets hit by a batted or thrown baseball, whatever the person hit by the ball says for the first minute after being hit, is OK. Screaming and accusations were common after being hit by the baseball, but everyone knew that you got a free pass for a minute. And they knew that after a minute the hit person had to be ready to move on. Well, bereaved people get a lot longer than a minute, or a month, or a year, to integrate their experience into the rest of their outlook on life. So don’t feel any anxiety about fully grasping what has happened to

you. Time will help clear your mind, and you will eventually be able to cognitively address your loss, the pain it has brought you, and the changes in your life that have ensued.

#5. Decide that in the new year, you will, in some new way, begin to focus a bit more on others, as a part of your loved one’s legacy. This is a valuable change you can make in your life. We all need to get out of our skin for a while, we need to get out of ourselves and just focus on other people, and their problems. Sometimes this helps us gain a fresh perspective on our own life. So plan on doing that this new year, and as you do it, you will no doubt talk with new people, and when the opportunity presents itself tell them about your loved one who has died. You don’t have to tell your loved one’s life story or anything like that, just mention them in passing, or say “My wife used to like to do this (activity).” You may feel a bit more comfortable talking about your loved one with people who didn’t know him or her, and it is very valuable to begin to talk out loud—in the past tense---about your loved one. It may be shocking for you to hear yourself speak out loud in the past tense about someone so close to you, but it will help you integrate their death into your life. Where do you go to be around other people? Start with local civic groups, like the Boys and Girls Club, the Historical Society, the Kiwanis or Elks, the Library, Big Brothers and Sisters, a Habitat for Humanity project or a Rescue Mission.

#6. Listen to the Music.

A recent study I saw asserted that sad people who listen to their favorite music that matches their mood, report feeling better. Music is therapeutic and soothing. Throughout human religious and cultural history, music has been central to the expression of human values and sentiments. Sit down with a pen and paper, and make a short list of some songs of different types that you have always liked. Then go to youtube.com and search for them and listen to them, or go to the library and listen to them, or order them online (if you are not accustomed to doing that on a computer, ask a friend to do it for you). Just get the music playing so you can listen to it. And as you do, let your mind take you where it will---daydream---and after a while I’ll bet you’ll feel relaxed and even renewed.

(continued)

When I was a teenager I spent four hours every Saturday morning, from 8:30 a. m. to 12:30 p. m., helping Mr. Leffingwell clean his expansive yard. There were what seemed like hundreds of plants and bushes, in addition to several lawns he wanted pristine. It was a big undertaking, as he was a very particular man. I remember that his wife died one year. He took one Saturday off from yard work, and he was right back at it the next week---and I was with him. The first Saturday back, he opened up the sliding door to his backyard where we were working, and he turned up his stereo. He was playing a record by John Denver, and on it was the tribute ballad Annie's Song. When that song came on, he stopped trimming bushes, and just stood there, looking at his pool, and staring around the green yard. As John Denver sang "You fill up my senses, like a night in the forest..." Mr. Leffingwell stood still. When the song was over, he went back to work, and I remember he worked hard, with vigor, until I left at 12:30 p. m. That soulful song seemed like a tonic to him, it

seemed to soothe his aching heart. Find the songs that are meaningful to you, and let them speak to you.

#7. Wishing you well.

As the new year begins, write down what your loved one would want for you in the new year. Trouble imagining what that might be? It's probably the same as what you would wish for your loved one, had you been the one that died. So sit down at the computer, or put pen to paper, and make a list of five or seven or ten states of mind or attitudes or commodities that your loved one would want for you to attain as you move forward without them physically with you. For example, my mother would want me to look toward the future, and not be paralyzed by mourning. Or, my father would want me to be optimistic about what will happen to me this year, or my sister would want me to buy those expensive boots we used to talk about. And then, armed with your list, choose one of those dispositions or possessions and pursue it. Look

back at your list after a few months, and check off the outlook or object you now have. Deliberately choose to achieve something your loved one would want you to have in this new year. By doing so, you will honor their memory.

So often, we think of grief or bereavement as something that happens to us, instead of something we do. This is unfortunate, since passivity and inaction will not help us to engage the new reality of loss in our lives. This is not to say that grief is a "problem" we can solve, or a "condition" we can hurry up and make go away, but it is to say that we can be active participants and even helpful agents in our own emotional well-being. By deliberately and purposefully facing our sorrow, and calmly, carefully thinking about what we can do to help integrate our sorrow into our larger life, we can contribute to forging our new identity. And this is a powerful choice to make as a new year and our new lives dawn.

**Holiday Memorial Events
in the Community****Footprints on the Heart Candlelight Vigil**

December 13th, 2019, at 7:00pm
Sister's Hospital Chapel, 2nd floor
Adults only please

Please RSVP to (716) 862-1678 or acreamer@chsbuffalo.org

**WNY chapter Compassionate Friends**

Candle Lighting Ceremony

December 14th, 2019, at 7:00pm
The Meeting House
5658 Main Street, Williamsville

Contact Compassionate Friends for more info, and if you would like your child's name listed in the program for the event

(716) 848-9568 | tcfofbuffalo@gmail.com

Our University of Buffalo Master of Social Work (MSW) Intern, Erika Zambotti, completed her internship in Mid-May. Following her internship, she agreed to stay with us until the end of October. With a heavy heart, I am sad to see her go! A heartfelt thank you Erika for all of your support and for the kind and gentle comfort you offered to all of our bereaved families. I wish you luck in your future career and know you will bloom wherever you are planted! Please help me welcome, Nikkia Spencer, UB-MSW intern, & Sue Bach, Family Support/Admin Asst. new to our Network Family!

Sincerely, Christine

**Nominations for the Elegant
Evening to Remember**

Every year, the WNY PBN thanks the healthcare community, small businesses and business owners, and volunteers for their compassion, caring, and commitment to the bereaved. The Elegant Evening to Remember combines a dining event with an awards ceremony which honors these amazing people and what they do!

If you know a doctor, nurse, business, volunteer, or anyone who you feel has gone above and beyond their call of duty to help a grieving family, please consider nominating them for an award at the 2020 Elegant Evening to Remember.

To nominate someone, please contact the WNY PBN offices with your suggestion by calling 716-626-6363 or contacting Christine@wnypbn.org. Please include their name, place of business, and a brief explanation on how they have helped you, your family, or other bereaved individuals.

Walk to Remember Recap

The Western New York Perinatal Bereavement Network, Inc. held its 27th annual Walk to Remember on October 13th, 2019, at Cheektowaga Town Park.

Participants enjoyed a beautiful program, a mile walk, and a family picnic. Included in the service were songs and poems from bereaved parents and Network members, a vibrant garden of pinwheels dedicated to babies, our annual Memorial Wall and banner filled with names, and a Bradford Pear Tree dedication.

Thank you to the approximately 1,000 participants who came out to make this a truly supportive and healing event for everyone touched by the loss of a child. You have truly done your part to express your remembrance and spread much-needed awareness in the community. We will see everyone next year!



We would like to extend a special thank you to those who dedicated their time and talents to make this year's walk a success:

Abby Unger and Amy Buckner, for their voices; Timothy Mott, for the sound equipment; Cyndee Fahey, Joanne Ferrelli, and Joanna Weld, for the poems we heard; Father Duke Zajac for the blessing; Hale Expo Services, Inc., for the signs to display the babies' names; Trillium's Courtyard Florist, for the carnation flowers; Crystal Swader, for the Angel Flags; Heather Nichter, for photographing the event; Justice League of WNY, for putting a smile on the kids' faces, and Joy Murphy, and Bouncing on Air LLC, for making the crafts and fun in Kid's Zone a success. Thank you to Amber Hultgren for coordinating our volunteers on the day-of, and thank you to our Executive Director Christine Scott for all the work behind the scenes.



Thank you to all who registered and fund-raised on our GiveGab page this year to support our Network families. Thanks to you, we reached and exceeded our monetary goal! We would especially like to recognize the following Top Teams:

- Team Molly and Jeremy White
- Liam's Legacy
- Evelyn's Butterflies
- A "Stori" Of Love!
- Team Nicholas Weld
- Connor's Crew
- Team Alyssa
- Memories of Madeline
- Nathan's Network
- Team Harper
- Team Lilya
- Packard's Quackers
- Ellie's Walkers
- Eric's Team
- Too Beautiful For This Earth

By: Erika Zambotti



Walk Sponsors

Remembrance Sponsor



OFFICE OF
SENATOR TIM KENNEDY

Angel Sponsors



Pinwheel Sponsors



Connor's Crew
Moderncraft Home Improvement Co.

Heart Sponsors

Angel Gowns of WNY



GEICO
KMR Heating & Cooling
Red's Hotdogs
Susan and Joseph Bach

Supporting Sponsors: BlueCross BlueShield of WNY, Frontier Catering, Pietszak Funeral Home, Sahlen's, Trillium's Courtyard Florist

Chautauqua County Executive PAIL Proclamation

October is recognized nationally as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness (PAIL) month. On October 15th, 2019, Chautauqua County Executive George Borrello, along with Assistant and Bereaved father

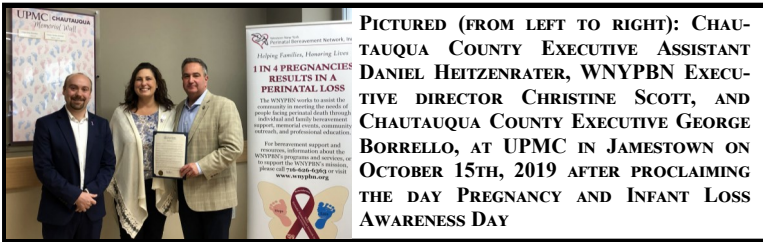
Daniel Heitzenrater, gathered with nurses, doctors, and other bereavement staff in the Labor and Delivery unit of UPMC of Chautauqua to officially proclaim October 15th PAIL day throughout the county. Officials were

joined by bereaved parents, hospital administrators, and community supporters, as well as Executive Director Christine Scott of the WNYPBN to co-host the event.

nize the lives lost in their unit, a beautiful tribute to the babies' memory and to their families.

The WNYPBN would like to thank Executive Borrello for his proclamation, Daniel Heitzenrater for bringing the idea to fruition, UPMC for hosting us and making an important event like this possible, and the families who gathered and participated.

By: Erika Zambotti



PICTURED (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT): CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT DANIEL HEITZENRATER, WNYPBN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHRISTINE SCOTT, AND CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY EXECUTIVE GEORGE BORRELLO, AT UPMC IN JAMESTOWN ON OCTOBER 15TH, 2019 AFTER PROCLAIMING THE DAY PREGNANCY AND INFANT LOSS AWARENESS DAY

The proclamation exemplified positive strides forward for our bereaved community, by recognizing the need for awareness of what families struggling with the loss of a child are going through. UPMC displays a memorial board bearing plaques to recog-

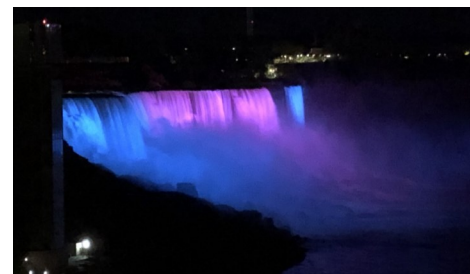
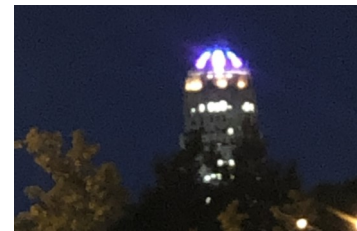
WNYPBN Collaborates with Buffalo LIT to Light the City Pink and Blue

On the night of October 15th, 2019, notable structures and landmarks in City of Buffalo lit their optics in pink and blue to recognize Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness day. The skyline was a sight to behold, and included a colorful Electric Tower, City Hall, Seneca Casino, and Key Center in brilliant pink and blue, signifying the widespread support the Buffalo area provides for their neighbors.

Niagara Falls and the Peace Bridge were also lit up in support that night.

The WNYPBN would like to thank Buffalo LIT for organizing the collaboration.

By: Erika Zambotti



Parents make heartfelt donation to MFSH Hospital

Mary and Tom Callea, bereaved parents of Cecilia Rose Callea, presented a gift to Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital's Labor and Delivery unit on September 19, 2019.

The parents expressed their gratitude to the bereavement staff of MFSH for their compassion at the time of their loss, and graciously passed on that compassion to other parents facing the devastation of a loss in the form

of a custom-built rocking chair in their daughter's memory.

The couple hopes that the gesture can provide further comfort and validation for parents and their family at the time of the loss of their child. Their gesture is an example of the strength and generosity that shines through bereaved parents in their healing journey.

By: Erika Zambotti



PARENTS MARY & TOM CALLEA PRESENT CUSTOM ROCKING CHAIR TO THE MILLARD FILLMORE SUBURBAN HOSPITAL LABOR & DELIVERY BEREAVEMENT TEAM.

PICTURED, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: DENISE HUDDEN, KAREN KWALINA, MARY & TOM CALLEA, AND WNYPBN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHRISTINE SCOTT.



Western New York
Perinatal Bereavement Network, Inc.

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*Helping Families
Honoring Lives*

Our Mission

The mission of the Western New York Perinatal Bereavement Network (WNYPBN), Inc. is to assist the community to meet the needs of people facing the pain of perinatal death. We promote standards of bereavement intervention through educational support, community programs, and referral services to bereaved parents. The WNYPBN supports an established standard of care following a perinatal death, regardless of the facility where the birth took place.

Member Organizations:

Baby's Sweet Beginnings Lactation & Wellness Center	Sisters of Charity Hospital	Wilson Support Center
Brooks Memorial Hospital	The Center For Hospice & Palliative Care ~ Essential Care for Children	Niagara Falls Memorial Hospital
Buffalo Prenatal-Perinatal Network, Inc	Eastern Niagara Hospital—Lockport Division	Olean General Hospital
Catholic Charities of Buffalo - WIC Program	Kaleida Health	United Memorial Medical Center
Catholic Health System	Oishei Children's Hospital	WCA Hospital
Mercy Hospital	Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital	Wyoming County Community Health System
Mount St. Mary's Hospital of Lewiston	Jones Memorial Hospital	

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