

Forget - Me - Not

Western New York Perinatal Bereavement Network, Inc. Newsletter

Emily's Entry

By Emily Doring, Executive Director

The summer is winding down and last-minute vacations are being taken before the hustle and bustle of Fall begins. When my husband thinks about Fall, he can't wait for "Pumpkin Spice Everything" season to begin. When I think of fall, I think of our Walk to Remember.

Since our losses, it has become THE memorial that we never miss. It has become vitally important and a priority in our Family's life. From the 1st year after our 2nd loss, to 10 years later, we have attended. Whether it was raining, snowing, a beautiful day, or even a global pandemic, we were there. Some years looked much different than others, like the Ride to Remember of 2020 – a safe way to still have this important time amid tragedy all around us. 2021 and 2022 also looked much different than the other years. It brought a more toned-down version of our walk with many Covid protocols and park restrictions, but it was beautiful and just what we needed during those times.

This year, 2023 is the 30th Annual Walk to Remember! I have heard from a few parents that have attended since the beginning, and I am sure that they never thought it would have grown into what it is today. We are looking forward to Celebrating our 30th year, as well as honoring the memories of our babies.

Just like in the past few years, we are bringing some changes to the Walk. While we are able to bring back our Memorial Service, Walking the Angel Paths, Kids Zone and Family Picnic, we have seen the overwhelming need for another addition. The "Reflective Walk" will be the opportunity for families or individuals that would like a quiet, more introspective walk around the Angel Path. We had a lot of positive feedback on the model from the past 2 years, where the families can walk anytime, at their own pace, and have the space to treat this day as they personally need it, for their own grief journey.

I encourage you to attend this year's Walk on Sunday, October 8th. It will be a place for our community to come together, in a shared grief, to remember all our babies. Whether you need the quiet walk, the Memorial Service, or walking as a community, these options will be available, and we will be there for you.

Registration for the Walk is now open. Visit our Facebook page or website for the link. If you are able, please consider creating a Just Giving page after registration. This page can be personalized with your pictures and story and shared among your friends and family, to raise funds to help support the WNYPBN.

I am looking forward to seeing you all there. Please come and introduce yourself. I would love to meet you and hear about the baby that you are walking in honor of!

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

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

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 Jarred Báez

Benjamin Matthew Brightman March 25, 2021
 We see you everywhere we go - thank you for giving us those
 hopeful signs. Until we see you again, Benjamin. You are so
 loved! Love, Mommy, Daddy, Emma and Millie
Parents: Kurtis and Carrie Brightman

Cecelia Rose Callea December 16, 2018
 You are our shining moon and shooting star. Thank you for
 inspiring us and always watching over our family. You are so
 loved and so missed. Love, Mama, Papa, Thomas, and Matteo
Parents: Tom and Mary Callea

Rily James Croce March 8, 2010
Gabrielle Irene Croce August 3, 2010
Baby Croce December 9, 2013
Parents: Lena Kingsbury

Joy Aubrey Damberger May 11, 2023
Parents: Jenna and Andy Damberger

Kayonna Marie Darrell October 16, 2018
Kingston Antonio Darrell April 27, 2021
 We Love You Always! Not a day goes by that we don't think of
 you both! You both will forever be in our hearts!! We are sad
 that you both are not here with us, but it helps knowing that
 you have each other!! Love, Mommy, Daddy, Big Sisters Elana,
 Avianna and Savannah. Big Brother Brandon
Parents: Ashley Hunt and Wendell Darrell Jr

Baby D March 11, 2013
Selah Grace Doring October 30, 2013
 We carry you in our hearts - Forever & Always, Mommy, Daddy,
 Preston & Kendra
Parents: Emily and Todd Doring

Tyler Farris June 25, 2020
 Here on earth for a short time my darling baby boy. Never far
 from our thought and prayers.
Parents: Kayla Marvin and Carl Farris

Eli Robert Godios June 25-Sept. 13, 2022
Parent: Eric and Amanda Godios

Reid Hamilton April 18, 2021
 We miss you more and more each day. We think about you
 every minute of every day. We know you are watching over us.
 We love you so very much. Love, Daddy, Mommy, Pierce, Rory,
 Burke, Reagan, Riley, Seamus, and Pdraig
Parents: Molly and Andrew Hamilton

Baby Girl H October 15, 2019
Baby H December 28, 2022
 We know you're both in heaven with our other loved ones who
 have passed on. We know you both watch over your sister as
 her angels now. We miss you everyday and think of you often.
 We love you both!
Parents: Erin and Todd Hoeltke

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

Baby Boy Jonathan June 8, 2018
 Miss you more and more everyday!! Forever missed, never
 forgotten, loved forever and ever!! Mom, Dad, Big Sisters
 Krysten, Kaytee, Kamden, Big Brother Klyde, Nephews Kortlnd,
 Kreese, Delltoh, and Nieces Kenzley and Emileigh Blue
Parents: LaRue and Leilan Jonathan





Marina Kim August 3-4, 2005
Ella Grace Kim June 8, 2007
 We love you and think of you often. Please watch over us... now and always.
Parents: Dawn and Mark Kim

Baby Joy Love February 15, 2020
Baby Hope Love March 26, 2021
Baby Bliss Love November 8, 2021
Livenzo Sol Love March 16, 2023
 My sweet boy, my perfect son, my miraculous full term child, Livenzo Sol. I carried you in my womb, held you in my arms and love you dearly forever. I miss you so much. To each of my precious babies, you are a blessing to me, gone too soon and always in my heart. With all our love ~ Mama, Grandma and Ambrosia
Parent: Christina Love

Angelo Thomas Marchetti January 31, 2022
 Mommy, Daddy, and your brothers love you and miss you beyond words. We feel you here with us everyday. I will see you again one day my sweet baby boy.
Parents: Katelin and Mark Marchetti

Chiara Snehama Matam Nov. 21- Dec. 16, 2022
 Chiara, our beauty, we are so thankful to be your parents. We cannot wait to see you again one day.
Parents: Joshua and Lexi Matam

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 & Allison
Parents: Timothy and Beth Mott

Noah Navarrette Feb. 12- Sept. 12 2021
 Te amare para el resto de mi vida mi amor. Siempre.
Parent: Alexa Mancilla

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

Caleb Jonathan Schmeelke March 18, 2022
 My sweet boy, You made this world a brighter place and brought our big family together. Daddy and I love you more than we could ever say. We think about you every day. We are so proud to be your parents, little Cub.
Parents: Krystal Rivers and Cameron Schmeelke

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

Steven James Serrano March 16, 2006
Parent: Lisa Graziano

Nicholas Mark Weld April 25, 2019
 You are my darling, my angel, my star, and my love will find you, wherever you are. Love, Mom, Dad, Benjamin, Amelia, & Johnny
Parents: Nate and Joanna Weld

Margie Faye Willis May 22, 2019
Parents: Katie and Brandon Willis

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 and Russell Zimmer

Safe Arrival

Mark Avery Marchetti, younger brother of **Angelo Thomas Marchetti**, was born on February 16th, 2023.
Parents: Katelin and Mark Marchetti



Letter from the Editor

By Joanna Weld

The Walk to Remember has become a meaningful and cherished tradition for my family and me. This will be the fifth time we have walked in honor of Nicholas. Each year our group looks a bit different, but we feel the love and support of those who are physically with us and those who continue to hold Nicholas in their hearts. Last year my sister-in-law was in Ireland at the time of the event but she did her own walk and Facetimed with us.

What I appreciate the most about the walk is that it provides us with a designated time to celebrate Nicholas. It encourages us to set aside the distractions that consume our day and be in the moment with our feelings. It is a day filled with emotions that reminds me of the connection I will always have with my son.

This month, I am sharing this page with a fellow bereaved mother, Christina Love, who asked me to include a poem she has written in honor of her baby, Livenzo Sol Love, who was stillborn on March 16th, 2023. I hope the words will touch your heart. Submissions to the newsletter are always welcome. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me (Newsletter@wnypbn.org) if you would like to include something you have written in honor of your baby/babies.

As the calendar switches over to September and back-to-school season, it can be a painful reminder of the passage of time and the precious milestones you are missing with your baby/babies. For those of you who are buying one less set of school supplies, taking one less first day photo, and putting one less child on the bus, my heart is with you.



Photos from our first Walk to Remember in October 2019. above: our whole group below: Jonathan, Nicholas's twin, and I



Poem by Christina Love, mother of Livenzo Sol Love, stillborn on March 16th, 2023

To My Beloved Baby:
My sweet son, my perfect boy,
My precious, beautiful, miraculous child.
You are the light and love of my life,
You answered my prayers,
You are my dream come true.
We were so close to having it all.
I love you with all my heart,
I love you always and forever.
The joy and sweetness of your life
Is now the pain and devastation of your loss.
When your heart stopped beating, part of me died.
Shattered hopes and dreams of raising you,
Overwhelming grief and anguish.
The emptiness and void where you should be,
Now a living nightmare.
Another day and night pass without you here physically.
You're gone forever,
You're irreplaceable, my precious baby.

My heart is broken by your absence,
Crying and sobbing endless tears.
My empty arms long to hold you again,
To hug you, kiss you and nurture you.
I miss you so much,
I would give anything to have you alive.
All I want is you here with me,
And the joy of watching you grow and thrive.
I carry you eternally in my heart and mind,
My love for you lives forever.
May I remember the elation of having your life in my womb,
As much as the deep sorrow of your tragic death.
Please know how much I love you.
May my love reach you wherever you are,
My darling son.



Kristen's Page

By Kristen Smith,
Family Support
Coordinator

"How does a mother learn to breathe again after her baby dies? One breath in. One breath out. And then again. And again.

Suffering does not choose the weak or the strong, the faithful or the faithless. It chooses the human. When you are caught by waves that are larger than your capacity to stay above the surface, you've got to allow your heart to feel the pain all the way down to the bottom, so that when you get there you can see you're still alive. There's still hope. It's from the bottom that we can begin to heal our way back up to the surface. The human heart is fragile, yes, but it's also more resilient than we give ourselves credit for."

*-Grace like Scarlett
by Adriel Booker*

I constantly say how Support Group is my favorite part of this job, and each meeting, I am reminded again how much I love it. While it breaks my heart to continue to meet people that have lost a baby or babies, the work that is done in group, the openness and sharing that occurs, and the bonds that are formed, allow me to see some of the positives that come out of this specific form of loss and grief. I encourage everyone to attend at least once, whether in person or virtually, as I think you'll be surprised by how you feel after attending, even if you don't think a support group is for you or something you would benefit from. Please reach out should you have any questions or need the link for ZOOM!



Become a peer mentor in our Parent-to-Parent Program!

We're looking to expand our volunteer pool and hoping to host a training over the summer for those interested in becoming a mentor. If you've had a prior perinatal loss experience and are at least one-year post-loss, we'd love to have you join! Send an email to kristen@wnypbn.org for more information!

Western New York Perinatal Bereavement Network, Inc.

Tiniest Angels Support Group

1st Thursday of each month
In Person @6pm
Resurrection Life Church
2145 Old Union Rd
Cheektowaga, NY 14227

3rd Thursday of each month
Virtual via Zoom @6pm

For More Information Contact:
Kristen Smith
Family Support Coordinator
Kristen@wnypbn.org
(716) 222-2150 Cell (716) 626-6363 Office
visit www.wnypbn.org or scan the QR code

*Share your story of loss and find
support among other bereaved parents*

Acknowledgements

Thank you to Shalan and the Cieri Family as they donated 115 Stuffed animals and 43 books for our Sibling Program! Shalan decided that for her 8th birthday celebration, she was going to collect books and stuffed animals, in honor and memory of her twin sister Genevieve. Her friends, classmates, and family were happy to make her birthday wish come true! Thank you Cieri Family and Happy Birthday Shalan!



June 3rd, 2023 was a beautiful Wing's of Love Parent's Day Breakfast! Thank you to our Sponsor Angel Gowns of WNY. We had a total of 67 in attendance. Thank you to the following for their donation, time, talent, and contributions

to make this memorial beautiful:

- Amy Buckner, Sebastian Buckner,**
- Carrie Brightman, Lou Ann Bajdas,**
- Eric Lipman, Kendra Doring**
- Arthur's Light Candles - Katie Meyer*
- Kitchen Table Cookies - Dawn Fleming*
- Balloon Arch - Kristina Wienckowski*



On June 5th, the annual "The Smitty Memorial Golf Tournament" was held at Pendleton Creek Golf Course. The WNYPNB was one of the charities that was supported through the proceeds with a \$2,142.00 donation. Thank you to the Weld and Smith families for your support of the organization!



Thank you to those that donated online to the local GIVE716 fundraiser put on by the Buffalo Bills Foundation and the Buffalo Sabres Foundation! A total of \$1,132 was raised for the WNYPNB!



Fundraisers & Events



August 22nd

National Rainbow Baby Day

October 8th

30th Annual Walk to Remember - Cheektowaga, NY

October 15th

Pregnancy & Infant Loss Awareness Day

Local attractions light up in Pink & Blue

Buffalo & Niagara Falls

Wave of Light across the World- 7pm

Gavin's Light Candlelight

Memorial Service

7 pm- Wellsville, NY

October 21st

Trick or Treat Vendor Fair (supporting WNYPBN)

at Hyatt Place Buffalo Amherst- 10:30am-12:30pm

October 24th

Painting with a Purpose Paint Night!

Cheektowaga, NY- 6:30pm- 9pm

November 1st-December 17th

Christmas Raffle!

Details to be announced.

December 2nd

Hot Cocoa with Santa Sibling Event!

Tonawanda, NY

Western New York Perinatal Bereavement Network Inc.

30th Annual Walk to Remember

October 8, 2023 ~ Sunday 10am

Cheektowaga Town Park - Jim's Pavilion
Harlem Rd. Cheektowaga, NY 14225

To register: scan the QR below

For more information:
Call (716)626-6363
Email Emily@wnypbn.org
Website www.wnypbn.org



Western New York Perinatal Bereavement Network, Inc.



Join us as we gather together to create this beautiful painting and support the WNYPBN!

Ages 16+ welcome

Tuesday, October 24th
6:30-8:30 pm
Doors open at 6 pm

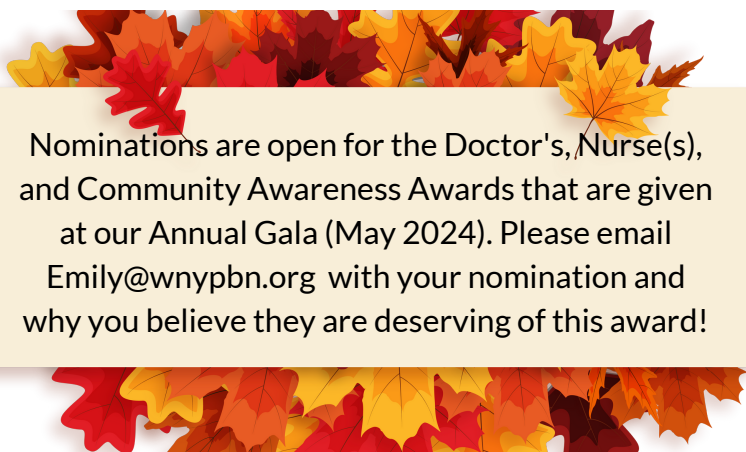
Painting with a Purpose

Painting with a Twist
Consumer Square Plaza
3735 Union Road
Cheektowaga, NY 14225

For more information or questions:
Email: Emily@wnypbn.org
Call: (716) 626-6363



Scan QR code to register
Password "Support"



Nominations are open for the Doctor's, Nurse(s), and Community Awareness Awards that are given at our Annual Gala (May 2024). Please email Emily@wnypbn.org with your nomination and why you believe they are deserving of this award!



Wilson Support Center
 150 Bennett Road
 Cheektowaga, NY 14227
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Christine Scott
*Founder of the
 Wings of Love Memorial Fund*
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Our Mission

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

Member Organizations

Angels Gowns of Western New York, Inc., Baby's Sweet Beginning's Breast Feeding and Maternity Boutique (Lancaster), Brooks Memorial Hospital, Buffalo Prenatal-Perinatal Network, Inc., Catholic Health System (Mercy Hospital, Sister's Hospital, Mount St. Mary's Hospital), Mount St. Mary's Hospital of Lewiston, Hospice & Palliative Care Buffalo, Inc- Essential Care for Children, Kaleida Health (Oishei Children's Hospital, Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital), Jones Memorial Hospital, Wilson Support System, Niagara Falls Memorial Hospital, Olean General Hospital, United Memorial Medical Center, UPMC Chatauqua, Wyoming County Community Health Center

Board of Directors

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 Amber Hultgren, *Vice President and Secretary*
 Michael Anderson, *Treasurer*

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