

FORGET-ME-NOT NEWSLETTER

Emily's Entry

BY EMILY DORING,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As 2024 came to a close, Western New York Perinatal Bereavement Network, Inc. underwent several transitions. We said farewell to our Family Support Coordinator, Kristen Smith, who has been a dedicated part of our team. We want to extend our deepest gratitude to Kristen for her hard work and compassion in supporting our families, and we wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

We also saw changes to our Board of Directors. After many years of invaluable service and leadership, we said goodbye to Dr. William Zorn, Michael Anderson, Terri and Kevin Ryan, and Dr. Lynn Aronica. Their contributions to our organization have made a lasting impact, and we are deeply grateful for their dedication to supporting our mission and the families we serve.

Looking ahead to 2025, we are excited to share that we have welcomed three new

members to our Board of Directors: Jennifer Meegan (Feedmore WNY), Nancy Campbell (Parent Network WNY), and Dr. Munmun Rawat (Neonatologist with Oishei & Millard Filmore Hospitals). Each of them brings a unique perspective, fresh energy, and a strong commitment to our cause. We are eager to work alongside them as they share their personal experiences and professional strengths with our organization, and we are confident they will make a significant impact on our future initiatives.

As we have shared previously, we were selected as the beneficiaries of Glory Be to Kids 2024 fundraising efforts. Over the course of the past year, this incredible organization hosted a variety of events, and we had the privilege of getting to know the passionate individuals behind it. Thanks to their hard work and generosity, we were presented with a check for \$33,770. This donation will go a long way in helping us expand our programs and continue supporting families in our community. If you haven't already, we encourage you to learn more

about Glory Be to Kids and the amazing work they do locally, by visiting their website at www.glorybetokids.com.

Looking ahead, we are excited to announce that we have big plans for our families in 2025. We are committed to continuing to expand our services and create new opportunities for support, and we can't wait to share more details with you soon. Be sure to stay tuned to our Facebook page and website for updates on upcoming opportunities, events, and initiatives!

Finally, we are currently looking to fill our part-time Family Support Coordinator position. If you or someone you know may be interested in this role, we would love to hear from you. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly at Emily@wnypbn.org or (716) 626-6363 for more information. We look forward to finding someone who is passionate about supporting families and helping us further our mission.

Love Lives Forever!

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FORGET-YOU-NOTS

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

Baby Cerasani

April 19, 2024

Our little surprise baby! You caught us off guard but immediately we were excited to have another little bundle of joy in our lives. We thought about you, your arrival and how things would be with your big sister so close in age. We made plans for a wonderful Christmas season with a new little baby in the house. But God had other plans and we will have to wait to meet you in Heaven one day. Thank you for the joy you brought to us in that short time. We will always remember you. Love, Mommy, Daddy and Luisa
Parents: Evan and Rachel Cerasani

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

Baby Casey

May 18, 2022

Our sweet Casey, we love and miss you so very much. We should be celebrating your first birthday, but we know you are safe in Heaven. You are always in our hearts and on our minds. Love always, Big Brother Elias, Little Brother Owen, Mommy, and Daddy.
Parents: Ashley and Steven Gruhalla

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 Padraig
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

Nora Ann Holmes

November 27, 2023

My sweet girl, we miss you more than words can say. I know you're with great gramma and grandpa watching over us all. Your brother gave my life purpose, but you saved it. I love you so much. Love mama and George
Parent: Rebecca Martin

FORGET-YOU-NOTS

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, Kreesee, 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

Baby Angel Matam I

October 12, 2021

Baby Angel Matam II

January 23, 2022

Chiara Snehama Matam

Nov. 21, 2022 - Dec. 16, 2022

To our two beloved babies that we never met and held - we can't wait to meet you and hold you in Heaven. To our beloved Chiara - you are the strongest and most beautiful person we have ever known, and we are so honored to be your mommy and daddy. We think of all three of you every day and miss you every moment. We love you beyond words. Until we can hold you again, we know Jesus is holding you.

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

Aubrey Marie Stuber

May 7, 2023

Aubrey Marie "lil' bean" - God needed you for reasons we may never understand but we are thankful to have you watching over us. We love you forever, our beautiful guardian angel.

Parents: Larry & Sarah Stuber

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

Hannah Faith Wise

November 18, 2024

We love you sweet girl. We know that you are walking with Jesus and dancing in heaven. You are your siblings' guardian angel now. We can't wait to hug and kiss you when we meet you in heaven.

We will always love you, Mom, Dad, Nora, & Jacob

Parents: Dan and Ali Wise

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

Interested in submitting a memorial or announcing your Rainbow Baby? Please email your baby's "Forget-You-Not" or "Safe Arrival" to Newsletter@wnypbn.org. Submissions are due by the 15th of the month prior to the issue month. Family and friends are encouraged to provide a submission.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

BY JOANNA WELD

In the past few months, I have been reminded of the ways in which being Nicholas's mother has changed my life. I imagine many bereaved families define their lives in the before and after of losing their child, as I do. Before Nicholas, I was a high school English teacher, a job that I loved and never thought about leaving. After, I wasn't sure I would be able to endure working with high school students all day, dealing with the (wonderful) chaos that comes with teenagers, and discussing books filled with tragedy and death. I was fortunate enough to be able to take a leave of absence. Because I would miss all of the first-year milestones with Nicholas, I was very grateful to have the precious time with his twin, Johnny.

I never went back to teaching high school and instead worked part-time as an adjunct in teacher education and enrolled in a PhD program, which had always been a "some day" goal in the back of my mind. Almost six years later, I started my (new) dream job in January and will complete my PhD in the upcoming months.

As the years pass, I sometimes worry about maintaining a relationship with Nicholas and wonder what my connection with him will look and feel like in another five years, and so on. Times like these help me to more clearly recognize his influence on the person I am becoming and his footprints guiding my path.

Blessing for the Brokenhearted

There is no remedy for love but to love more.
—Henry David Thoreau

Let us agree
for now
that we will not say
the breaking
makes us stronger
or that it is better
to have this pain
than to have done
without this love.
Let us promise
we will not
tell ourselves
time will heal
the wound,
when every day
our waking
opens it anew.
Perhaps for now
it can be enough
to simply marvel
at the mystery
of how a heart
so broken
can go on beating,
as if it were made

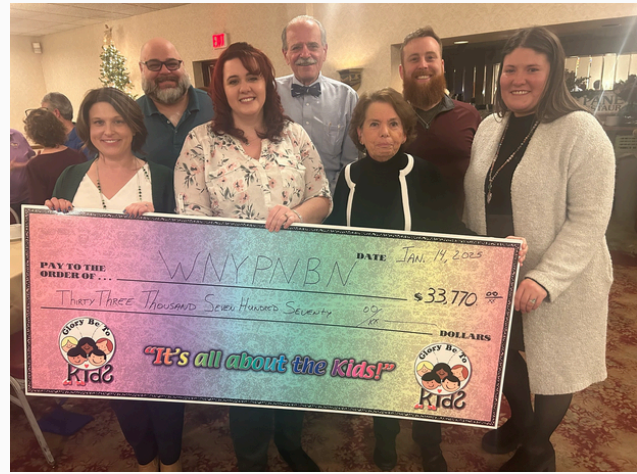
for precisely this—
as if it knows
the only cure for love
is more of it,
as if it sees
the heart's sole remedy
for breaking
is to love still,
as if it trusts
that its own
persistent pulse
is the rhythm
of a blessing
we cannot
begin to fathom
but will save us
nonetheless.

—Jan Richardson

<https://paintedprayerbook.com/2014/02/10/a-blessing-for-the-brokenhearted/>



THANK YOU FROM WNYPBN



A heartfelt thank you to Glory Be to Kids for their incredibly generous donation of \$33,770 raised through their 2024 events and fundraisers! On January 14th, we had the honor of receiving these funds, which were presented to the Western New York Perinatal Bereavement Network (WNYPBN). We are deeply grateful for this support, which will help us grow our programs and raise crucial awareness for the infant loss community.

We are also truly thankful for the dedication and hard work of Glory Be to Kids' Board of Directors and all of its members. Your unwavering commitment to supporting children in our community is both inspiring and appreciated. We had a wonderful time volunteering at the events and connecting with so many incredible people!

Special thanks to Executive Director Emily Doring and Board members Joanna Weld and Terry O'Michalek for being present at the check presentation.



WPBNY wishes to extend our gratitude to Twenty-First Century Press for their generosity in printing our quarterly newsletters.

**FAMILY SUPPORT
COORDINATOR**

PART-TIME
POSITION AVAILABLE

IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW
MAY BE INTERESTED, PLEASE
EMAIL EMILY@WNYPBN.ORG OR
CALL (716)626-6363

FUNDRAISERS & EVENTS

The WNYPBN is pleased to announce the individuals who will be honored at this year's *Elegant Evening to Remember Gala*.

If you are interested in attending or sponsoring the event, please contact Emily at Emily@wnypbn.org.



Elegant Evening to Remember Gala

Saturday, April 26th ~ 5pm

2025 Honorees

Doctors of the Year Award

Dr. Heather Link - Maternal Fetal Medicine - Oishei Children's Hospital

Dr. Sarah Wiese - Audubon Women's Medical Associates, PC

Dr. Catherine Falkner - RETIRED - OB/GYN Associates of WNY

Nurses of the Year Award

Joanna Bower, Rn - Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital

Erin Hefpner, RN - South Buffalo Mercy Hospital

Community Service & Awareness Award

Kellyn LaLiberty - Director, Essential Care for Children (Hospice & Palliative Care Buffalo)

Glory Be To Kids - Raising awareness & financial support for local charities that support children

Volunteers of the Year Award

Kevin & Terry Ryan - Retired WNYPBN Board Members

Fox Valley Club - 6161 Genesee St. Lancaster, NY

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:
Emily Doring
Emily@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



DOUGHNUTS WITH DADS

~ MEN'S SUPPORT GROUP ~

Saturday, February 22nd
9-11am

Resurrection Life Church
2145 Old Union Rd
Cheektowaga, NY 14227



Coffee & Doughnuts

A PROGRAM OF
WESTERN NEW YORK
PERINATAL BEREAVEMENT
NETWORK, INC.

WHERE HEALING STARTS WITH A SHARED STORY AND A SWEET TREAT

FUNDRAISERS & EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE:

Parents Day Brunch

Saturday, June 7th 10am-12pm

*Classics V Banquet Hall
Niagara Falls Blvd, Amherst, NY*



LOOKING TO DONATE
YOUR WEDDING GOWN,
TO BE TRANSFORMED INTO
ANGEL GOWNS?

To be added to Angel Gowns of
WNY, Inc.'s Spring 2025 donation
waiting list, please email a picture
of your wedding gown to:

ANGELGOWNSOFWNY@GMAIL.COM

We are unable to accept gowns that are:

- Older than 1980's
- Excessive ruffles / tulle
- Soiled / discolored
- Smell of smoke/mold etc.
- Heavily Beaded
- Mother of Bride/Groom
- Christening/Flower girl
- Bridesmaid / Colored

MONTHS OF

LOVE

SIBLING BOOK &
STUFFED ANIMAL DRIVE

From now until the end of
March, please consider
donating books and
stuffed animals from
our Amazon wishlist
to support grieving
siblings and families!

Scan the QR code
for our Amazon Wish list!



Western New York
Perinatal Bereavement Network, Inc.
Email: Emily@wnypbn.org Call: (716)626-6363

WNYPBN, Inc.

Wilson Support Center
150 Bennett Road
Cheektowaga, NY 14227
Phone: (716) 626-6363
Cell: (716) 222-2150
Fax: (716) 626-6368

Emily Doring
Executive Director
Emily@wnypbn.org

Joanna Weld
Newsletter Editor
Newsletter@wnypbn.org

Christine Scott
Founder of the
Wings of Love Memorial Fund
Christine@wnypbn.org

We need your help!
Please scan the QR code below for
more information about upcoming
volunteer opportunities.



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., Brooks Memorial Hospital, Buffalo Prenatal-Perinatal Network, Inc., Catholic Health System (Mercy Hospital, Sister's Hospital, Hospice & Palliative Care Buffalo, Inc- Essential Care for Children, Kaleida Health (Oishei Children's Hospital, Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital), Jones Memorial Hospital, Wilson Support Center, Niagara Falls Memorial Hospital, Olean General Hospital, United Memorial Medical Center, UPMC Chataqua, Wyoming County Community Health Center

Board of Directors

Amber Hultgren, *President*
Joanna Weld, *Vice President and Secretary*
Terry O'Michalek, *Treasurer*

Nancy Campbell, Dr. Vivien Carrion, Jennifer Meegan, Constance Perna, Dr. Munmun Rawat, Jan Walkden, Nate Weld, and Rev. Richard Zajac

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150 Bennett Rd
Cheektowaga, NY 14227