



Providing support, compassion,  
education and research

# Encouragements

The SID Network of Ohio Newsletter  
[www.sidsohio.org](http://www.sidsohio.org)

Volume 41

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**See page 3 for  
Upcoming Infant Safe  
Sleep Training  
Dates & Locations**

**You can make a difference  
in our fight against SIDS  
and Sudden Unexpected  
Infant Death (SUID)**

**Make a contribution by  
visiting, [www.sidsohio.org](http://www.sidsohio.org)**

**SID Network of Ohio  
421 Graham Rd., Suite H  
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221**

## SID Network 2012 Year in Review

The SID Network of Ohio continues to offer programs and services to parents, professionals and the community to further our mission to promote infant safety in an effort to reduce the rate of SIDS and SUID. As we reach out across the state educating parents and caregivers on safe ways to sleep their babies, we are reminded of the startling statistic that 3 infant deaths each week in Ohio are sleep related. Our efforts are ongoing and each and every one of our programs is vital to reduce the number of sudden infant deaths. To help scientists understand how and why babies are dying suddenly and unexpectedly we continue to support medical research. More importantly we provide bereavement support services to those families who so desperately need it.

The *Infant Safe Sleep Program* and distribution of informational materials is essential as we educate parents and caregivers on the  
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## Thoughts from our President

Happy New Year to Everyone,

As I look back at this year, I am both hopeful and saddened. Hopeful because there is great work being done in collaboration with several groups in the state, including the Sudden Infant Death Network, to reduce the rate of infant deaths. Ohio, however, still ranks in the bottom quarter for infant mortality in the country. There is important and vital work being done, but we are far from where we need to be.

It bears repeating...Ohio is in the *bottom quarter* for infant mortality in the country. An average of three babies die in our state each day. The news is worse for African American babies. In 2011, the overall rate for infant mortality was 7.9%. The infant mortality rate for white babies was 6.3% while the African American rate was 15.8%, more than two times the rate for white babies! According to the most recent Ohio Child Fatality Review data there were 28 SIDS deaths in 2010.

Sleep related deaths are most often preventable! Our goal is to keep that thought at the forefront of everything we do to further our mission of education and bereavement support. Through the year, our staff conducted  
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## MISSION STATEMENT

The Sudden Infant Death Network of Ohio promotes infant safety in an effort to reduce the rate of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID). We accomplish this through the promotion of infant health and wellness, community education, and medical research. We also provide supportive services to those who have been affected by the sudden loss of a child age 2 and under.

### Staff:

Leslie Redd	Executive Director
Jennifer Connolly	Development Coordinator
Mary Ellen Hinkle	Fiscal Manager
Carolyn Stroud	Administrative Assistant

### Board of Directors:

Tracy Tucker	President
Bob Kirch	Secretary / Treasurer
Joseph Wells	
Emily Shirey	
Kara Haas	

## In Sympathy

Our hearts go out to the families and friends of these precious infants who passed away suddenly and unexpectedly. Since our last publication, we lost **75** babies in the following Ohio areas. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their grieving families.

Akron/Cleveland & NE Ohio:	29
Toledo & NW Ohio:	8
Cincinnati & Southern Ohio:	8
Dayton Area:	11
Columbus & Central Ohio:	17
South-Eastern Ohio:	2



## SID Network Board of Directors New Year, New Faces

The coming of the new year brings changes to our Board of Directors. Terms ended and several Board members decided to move on and make room for others to share their fresh new ideas and expertise. The SID Network thanks Meg Skorepa, Lori Thomson, Aubrey Hastings and David Bialek. We are grateful for their dedication and leadership and we wish them well in their future endeavors.

Meg Skorepa deserves our extra special appreciation as she marked her 25 years of service to our Board. For 25 years she has served our agency in some capacity in memory of her son, Ross. She has helped shape us in to who we are today from the N.E. Ohio SIDS Foundation to the statewide SID Network of Ohio. She has personally contributed to our organization and attended countless numbers of fundraising events to ensure that our programs to support other bereaved parents continues and that our educational programs for infant safe sleep will

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**SIDS Risk Reduction and  
Infant Safe Sleep  
Educational Workshops**

Presented by Ohio Department of Health and  
Sudden Infant Death Network of Ohio

**Free Workshop - Register Today!**

**March 18, 2013**

**State Library of Ohio, Columbus  
1:00 – 4:00 pm**

**March 19, 2013**

**Atrium Medical Center,  
Middletown  
10:00 am – 1:00 pm**

**March 21, 2013**

**Sanger Public Library, Toledo  
1:00 – 4:00 pm**

This meeting is not sponsored by the  
Toledo-Lucas Co. Public Library

For registration forms or questions, feel  
free to call or email Carolyn Stroud at  
the SID Network of Ohio.

(800) 477-7437 or [carolyn@sidsohio.org](mailto:carolyn@sidsohio.org)

You can also visit our website to download  
forms under the Professional Education tab

[www.sidsohio.org](http://www.sidsohio.org)

*The Ohio Department of Health (OH-011-0412) is an  
approved provider of continuing nursing education by  
the Ohio Nurses Association (OBN-001-91), an accred-  
ited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing  
Center's Commission on Accreditation.*

*Donations have been made  
in loving memory of  
the following:*

*Thomas Hilt Allen*

*Jacob Beyer*

*Tim Bryll*

*Colin James Carr*

*Marisa Aurelia Cox*

*Henleigh Engard*

*Tyler Frey*

*David Furlong*

*Corbin Hastings*

*Andrea McGann*

*Sheldon Lee Morrison*

*Katie Marie Phillips*

*Jack Shelby*

*Quinn Kathryn Shirey*

*Olivia Rae Siladie*

*Brianna Dawn Tully*

*Jude Thomas Widener*



## **SID Network Receives 2 Grants to Expand our Infant Safe Sleep Program**

The SID Network of Ohio would like to thank the *Safe Kids Coalition of Summit County* and *Ronald McDonald House Charities of Northeastern Ohio, Inc.* for their recent support of the Network's *Infant Safe Sleep Program*. In April, the Network received a \$500 mini-grant from *Ronald McDonald House Charities of Northeastern Ohio, Inc.* to provide 215 safe sleep t-shirts and educational brochures to Union Hospital in Tuscarawas County, the only hospital in the county with a labor and delivery department.

Also in April, *The Safe Kids Coalition of Summit County* granted \$1309 to the SID Network for a total of 500 infant safe sleep t-shirts and educational brochures. These t-shirts were distributed between the Summit County Health District's OIMRI project, *Life Link*, and 3 of Summit County Health District's pre-natal clinics located in Akron and Barberton to use as part of their SIDS risk reduction and safe sleep education programs.

## **Generous Donations Received in December**

In December, the Network received a \$12,000 donation from the *Tyler's Run Foundation* and their *15<sup>th</sup> Annual Tyler's Run* event held in loving memory of Tyler Frey. It was recently announced that this was the last year for their event. The SID Network would like to extend a special thank you to *Tyler's Run Foundation* and its organizers Dave and Jane Frey, Mark and Kelly Frey and Joyce and Nick Ruebel for all of their support and generosity over the years. We wish them well and congratulate them on their accomplishments of educating and raising awareness to the public about SIDS.

Our gratitude also goes out to Mark and Gina Allen and their foundation named in memory of their son, the *Thomas Hilt Allen Foundation*. They donated \$2,000 to the Network from proceeds from their golf outing. Through their support and our combined efforts we will hopefully reduce and one day eliminate sudden infant death. We truly appreciate these donations.



## **Saturday, Feb. 23, 2013**

**Enjoy an evening of wonderful  
raffles, auction items and prizes.  
Don't forget the great food  
and dancing.**

**Tickets can be ordered directly  
by visiting [www.sidsohio.org](http://www.sidsohio.org).  
Just click on the *Events* tab  
and go to the *Reverse Raffle*.**

**Visit [www.sidsraffle.com](http://www.sidsraffle.com)  
for more information or contact  
Katy Tobel at 440-823-4586 or  
Renee Avampato at 440-567-5039.**

**Held at Brennan's Party Center  
Triskett Road, Cleveland**

The evening will include a buffet dinner, open bar, dancing to the music of DJ, *TKO Entertainment* and over \$5000 in cash and prizes. The Main Board Prize is \$2,500! Watch your mailbox/emails for more detailed information. Get your tickets before they sellout!!





## Engard Memorial Benefit

Tim and Danielle Engard held their 2nd Annual *Henleigh Engard Memorial Benefit* in August. The event was a family fun day held at the city park with something for everyone to enjoy. They had games, face painting for the kids, Bingo, a chicken BBQ, a large 50/50 raffle and prize raffles.

This year they were blessed with an out pouring of generosity. The benefit had over 80 items to raffle including a boys bike, girls bike, and grill. They also had 17 teams compete in the corn hole tournament and the event was a huge success. In all they raised \$6000 which was equally divided between the SID Network of Ohio and Donate Life Ohio.

The SID Network is extremely grateful for the Engard's very generous donation to further our mission.

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many trainings and awareness events throughout the state. During this fiscal year, 14,790 infant safe sleep onesie t-shirts were distributed along with our "Keep Your Sleeping Baby Safe" brochures. These were sent to hospitals, clinics and agencies all over the state. We spoke with many families who experienced a loss as well. Each story reinforces our determination.

We believe that we *can* move the needle for Ohio. It will take continued diligence to educate caregivers on ways to prevent sleep related infant deaths, but ultimately we believe that every baby deserves to blow out their first birthday candle.

Thank you for your continued support of our mission!

Sincerely,

*Tracy Tucker*

President, SID Network Board of Directors



Tamara & Avery enjoy face painting



2012 Champs - Brandon and Jeff

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ways to sleep babies safely to reduce the risk of SIDS and prevent accidental death from positional asphyxia and overlay. During fiscal year 2012, the SID Network distributed **14,790** infant safe sleep t-shirts to 30 hospitals, health departments and agencies throughout the state. This program is made possible largely through families who host fundraising events and grants. Over **34,439** "Keep your sleeping baby safe" brochures were distributed statewide as part of our *Infant Safe Sleep Program* to various hospitals/agencies and at our trainings. These brochures are printed and shipped to us through an in-kind donation from Pampers®. Pampers updated our brochure to incorporate the 2011 expanded recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics. Over **7,290** additional risk reduction and safe sleep materials were sent to our partners to further our mission of reducing and one day eliminating SIDS and sleep related infant death.

An important part of our mission is to send families who lose a baby suddenly and unexpectedly information on the grieving process and resources that can help them deal with the unimaginable grief they are facing after such a tragic loss. This fiscal year we sent out 200 bereavement packets to families.

Other grief materials including 21 books entitled, *SIDS and Other Infant Death Survival Guide* were sent to parents and caregivers at their request. Our parent support contacts throughout the state were available to talk with these families as well. Families have found our support group in Columbus to be invaluable as they navigate through their grief and talk with other families who have suffered the same tragedy. The Network also logged over 146 phone calls and emails requesting bereavement support. Our newsletter, *Encouragements*, is a bereavement resource for parents and professionals and it also contains up to date information on SIDS and SUID related issues. Over 9,310 newsletters were distributed and 521 were emailed.

The SID Network continues our partnership with the Ohio Department of Health's *Sudden Infant Death Program, Provision of Mandated Reporting and Bereavement Support*. This relationship will continue as we were awarded the contract through September 2015. The purpose of this program is to

receive reports of sudden unexpected infant deaths from coroners, report these deaths to the local health departments, assure that the local health departments have resources for providing bereavement support and to serve as the state expert on SIDS. The SID Network received 232 infant death referrals from coroners this past fiscal year. Final diagnoses were received for 186 babies to date with 12 diagnosed as SIDS.

As part of our mission to promote infant health and wellness through community outreach and education and our partnership with the Ohio Department of Health, the SID Network held 3 training workshops throughout the state. The *Ohio SIDS Risk Reduction and Safe Sleep Practices Community Outreach & Education* workshops focused on educating public health nurses, community health workers, social workers, counselors and daycare providers. We had 144 in attendance at these 3 hour workshops in Columbus, Akron and Middletown. Other education and awareness events included:

- (11) Infant Safe Sleep Presentations to hospitals and agencies in the Cincinnati area
- Training for SIDS risk reduction and infant safe sleep – student nurses, Miami University, Oxford
- Healthy Baby Fair, Akron
- Baby Bonanza & Kids Expo, Columbus

The SID Network would like to offer our gratitude to 11 SIDS/SUID families who held fundraising events this past year in memory of their babies. Their commitment to our organization is vital in order for us to continue to fund our programs and services that are important to SIDS/SUID families. We truly appreciate their hard work and dedication.

We would also like to thank our donors who included over 600 individual, business and charitable organizations.

The Staff and Board of the SID Network are pleased with our accomplishments this past year. We hope we can count on your support once again so we are able to continue to provide the programs and services that are essential to the heart of our mission.

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someday help to put an end to SIDS/SUID. Meg has devoted her life to our cause and she has certainly created a legacy for Ross through her inspiring service. Our thanks to Meg and her family. We will miss her and we only wish her the best!

We are excited to welcome two new members to our Board of Directors. On June 16, 2008 Emily Shirey and her husband lost their three-month-old daughter, Quinn Kathryn to SIDS. In her words, "It is a day that has changed my life forever." Since then, Emily has attended events and is the co-founder of the Columbus area support group. She is currently the Manager of Visual Merchandising at Victoria's Secret and has been a volunteer with the "Make a Difference" program with Limited Brands. Emily is excited to contribute, share and volunteer with the SID Network in memory of Quinn.

Kara Haas is a former educator for 12 years and is currently a stay-at-home mom. She taught twelfth grade English for nine years and was an adjunct professor at the University of Dayton for 2 years. Her passion for children and education drew her to our organization. Her desire is to utilize her background in education to benefit the pro-active components of our vision to prevent and ultimately eliminate sudden infant death. As a member she will advocate, support and educate our communities.

### **Our SIDS / SUID Support Group** **Columbus Area**

For parents, friends and caregivers...

**February 17, 2013**

**April 21, 2013**

**June 16, 2013**

**August 18, 2013 - Park of Roses  
(Family Picnic)**

4:00 PM - 5:30 PM - Panera Bread  
4519 N. High St., Clintonville, OH 43214

Meets every other month on the 3rd Sunday  
Contact: Tracy Tucker at (614) 855-5999

### **Support Information**

Our bereavement support contacts are available to speak to anyone affected by a SIDS or SUID death.

For support in the **Cincinnati** area, please contact Bob Kirch at 513-636-8000.

For support in the **Columbus** area, please contact Tracy Tucker at 614-855-5999, Aubrey Hastings at 614-539-8260, Jessica Tully at 614-315-7838 or Sara Warren at (614) 975-2471. In the **Dublin** area, contact Karen Williams at 419-656-1997.

For support in **Cleveland & the Cuyahoga County** area, please contact Angela Mack. Angela can be reached by calling 440-327-4336.

For support in the **Dayton** area, please contact Yolanda Hunter. Yolanda can be reached by calling (937)-999-9007.

For support in the **Lorain County** area, contact Sister Jeanne Marie Glorioso, HM at 440-282-9380. She will meet one on one with families and is located at Church of Saint Peter Parish Center, 3655 Oberlin Ave., **Lorain**.

In the **Middletown** area, contact Kendra Klausung at 937-748-2347. In addition, the **HEALing Together Parent Support Group** meets the 3rd Tuesday evening of each month from 7:00-9:00 pm at Hilltop OB/Gyn office, Professional Bldg. 1 on the Atrium Medical Center campus, One Medical Center Drive, Middletown. For information, contact Sheree Young, RNC, Program Coordinator, 513-705-4056. All materials are provided and registration is not required.

In **NE Ohio**, call the SID Network, 800-477-7437.

In **Ross, Scioto, Pike & Jackson counties**, please contact Amy Brown for support. Amy can be reached at 740-352-2553.

In the **Sandusky, Erie & Huron county** area, please contact Peggy Rodriguez (419) 266-0487.

The **Toledo** support facilitator is Jim Marlowe. Please contact him at 419- 291-5419.

Sudden Infant Death Network of Ohio  
421 Graham Road, Suite H  
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221

Phone: 800-477-7437 or 330-929-9911  
Fax: 330-929-0593  
Email: [leslie@sidsohio.org](mailto:leslie@sidsohio.org)

## Sudden Infant Death Network of Ohio



**Providing Support,  
Compassion, Education and Research**  
[www.sidsohio.org](http://www.sidsohio.org)

If you wish to be added to or taken off our mailing list,  
please contact [leslie@sidsohio.org](mailto:leslie@sidsohio.org).

### Upcoming Fundraising Events

#### 13th Annual Reverse Raffle - A Night To Remember

Hosts: Katy & Russ Tobel and Renee Avampato in loving memory of their sons, Collin Tobel and Jack Vittardi  
Date: **February 23, 2013**  
Where: Brennan's Party Center, Cleveland  
Contact: Katy Tobel, 440-823-4586,  
Renee Avampato, 440-567-5039

#### 13th Annual Nolan P. Fisher Golf Outing

Hosts: Paul Fisher and Matt Piela, in loving memory of their son and nephew, Nolan  
Date: **Friday, May 24, 2013**  
Where: Raymond Memorial Golf Course, Columbus  
Contact: Paul Fisher, 614-507-1319

#### Corbin Hastings Memorial Day Ride

Hosts: Jon & Aubrey Hastings in loving memory of their son, Corbin  
Date: **May 27, 2013**  
Where: Alum Creek State Park, Delaware

#### 19th Annual Laura Elizabeth Pease Memorial Golf Outing

Hosts: Charlie & Tara Pease in loving memory of their daughter, Laura Elizabeth. Co-hosted by Bob Kirch & Bev Stewart  
Date: **June 10, 2013**  
Where: Wyoming Golf Club, Wyoming

#### 5th Annual Brianna Dawn Tully Memorial Golf Outing

Hosts: Brian, Jessica, Connor & Ava Tully in loving memory of their daughter and sister, Brianna  
Date: **TBD - June 2013**

#### 25th Annual SIDS Golf Benefit

Hosts: Dan Petricini in loving memory of his son, Jonathan Ross  
Date: **July 13, 2013**  
Where: Paradise Lake Country Club, Mogadore

#### 13th Annual Justin Prestage Golf Outing & Auction

Hosts: Jim & Melanie Prestage & Randy Matejka in loving memory of their son & nephew, Justin  
Date: **TBD - July 2013**  
Where: TBD

#### Stroll the Zoo & 5k Run for SIDS

Hosts: The Molnar Family in loving memory of their daughter/sister, Clare Rose  
Date: **TBD - 2013**  
Where: Cleveland Metroparks Zoo  
Contact: Trudy Molnar, 440-263-5671 or [trudymolnar@yahoo.com](mailto:trudymolnar@yahoo.com)

(contact the SID Network for more information unless otherwise noted)

