

Encouragements

The SID Network of Ohio Newsletter
www.sidsohio.org

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**We hope to see
you at our summer
events!
(see page 6 for details)**



SID Network of Ohio
421 Graham Rd., Suite H
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221
(800) 477-7437

The SID Network Receives Funding from the Ohio Commission on Minority Health

Our thanks to the Commission on Minority Health for funding an important program to address the disparities in infant mortality in our African American communities. The SID Network of Ohio will be organizing 6 *Community Health Forums* throughout the state in conjunction with several partners (Ohio Commission of Minority Health - OCMH, Ohio Infant Mortality Reduction Initiative - OIMRI and the Ohio Equity Institute - OEI) who have a vested interest in improving the birth outcomes for all Ohio residents. We will also be reaching out to non-traditional partners as we conduct these community-based grass roots level forums.

These 6 forums will be conducted in areas where the disparity of infant mortality among African Americans is the highest (Cleveland, Columbus, Akron, Toledo, Dayton, Youngstown) and will be completed by June 30, 2014. This collaborative will strive to inform the community on the disparate statistics and the impact infant mortality has on the nation, state and their community as a whole.

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Mother's & Father's Day Wishes

Hello everyone and, hopefully, hello spring! This time of year there is so much new growth as the weather gets warmer and the rain hurries the grass and flowers along. I love this time of year, but there is always a distinct sadness that comes with the arrival of Mother's Day and Father's Day.

We lost our daughter Ella eight years ago. While we are blessed with two other sweet girls, there is always a small voice missing from our celebrations. As a family, we have started some traditions that include Ella on these days. We send balloons up to her, we have a small vase with a single daisy at our table. On my first Mother's Day without her, my husband and oldest daughter gave me daisies to plant in our yard. Those beautiful flowers have multiplied over the years and always seem to be in bloom during May and June. They are a beautiful reminder of the time we had with her.

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Mission Statement

The SID Network of Ohio promotes infant safety in an effort to reduce the rate of sleep related infant deaths including SIDS, Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID), accidental suffocation, asphyxia, overlay and other undetermined deaths. 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.

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Jennifer Connolly	Development Coordinator
Dr. Stacy Scott	Program Manager
Therese Johnson	Fiscal Manager
Carolyn Stroud	Administrative Assistant

Board of Directors:

Tracy Tucker	President
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In Sympathy

Our hearts go out to the families and friends of these precious babies who passed away suddenly and unexpectedly. Since our last publication, we lost **52** infants in the following Ohio areas. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their grieving families.

Akron/Cleveland & NE Ohio:	24
Toledo & NW Ohio:	7
Cincinnati & Southern Ohio:	5
Dayton Area:	7
Columbus & Central Ohio:	8
South-Eastern Ohio:	1



Our Apologies

In our last newsletter we posted the wrong names/ picture from the MudAthlon. Pictured below are Mallorie and Janet Klemm. Thanks to the Klemm & Obermeyer families.



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We are operating on the premise that in order for a person to effect changes; they must first be informed there is something that needs to be changed. Considering that in 2011, Ohio's black infant mortality rate ranked #49 and its overall infant mortality rate ranked #48 in the U.S., we concur that a change needs to take place.

It is our hope that by engaging these communities and the people that live there and providing them with important information regarding infant mortality and infant safe sleep practices, we can empower them in an effort to save babies lives.

SID Network Training Workshop Update

The SID Network in conjunction with the Ohio Department of Health just completed 3 training workshops entitled, "SIDS Risk Reduction and Infant Safe Sleep Educational Workshops" held on March 19, 26 and 27, 2014. These 3 hour workshops were targeted towards public health professionals, social workers and other individuals concerned with infant sleep safety and SIDS risk reduction. We had **186** people attend our workshops which were held in Elyria at the Lorain County Community College, Columbus at the State Library of Ohio and Atrium Medical Center in Middletown. We are happy to say that this was the largest turnout in many years and we hope this training will help local communities in their efforts to reduce our infant mortality.

Our goal for these training programs was to educate local health care professionals with information on SIDS and SUID; recommendations for infant safe sleep and SIDS risk reduction measures as defined in the AAP guidelines; and how to best respond to families after the death of an infant. In addition, attendees learned about the most recent SUID statistics in Ohio and the nation and how our state is responding to lowering the rate of infant deaths.

We were fortunate to have two local SIDS/SUID parents share their experiences. Their moving stories, videos and pictures helped us all understand what families go through, how professionals can assist them and ways to improve the line of communication as the parents progress through their grief journeys.

Thousands of pieces of risk reduction and safe sleep literature were given to the local professionals to distribute to families and caregivers in their areas. Three infant deaths each week in Ohio are sleep related so it is imperative to educate everyone on this life saving safe sleep message. We all share the same goal to reduce the rate of sudden unexpected infant death in the state.

Donations have been made in loving memory of the following:

***Thomas Hilt Allen
Ethan Christopher
Mark Corio
Charlie Gannon
Jack Shelby
Quinn Kathryn Shirey
Jonathan David Steiert
Collin Tobel
Ryan Tople
Brianna Dawn Tully
Jack Vittardi
Jude Thomas Widener***

In Honor of:

Debbie Frank



Our Thanks

The SID Network would like to offer our sincere appreciation and gratitude for the following donations from individuals and organizations:

The Nash Dash 5k – On October 26, 2013, Tiffany and Chad Hood hosted a 5k run/walk and 1k kid's fun walk in memory of their son, Nashton James Hood, at Oak Openings Metro park. The purpose of the event was to bring community members together for awareness and support for families who have lost a baby. The SID Network received an **\$8,000** donation from the proceeds of this event on 3/6/2014 to provide 3,100 safe sleep onesies and brochures to St. Luke's Hospital in Maumee. We are very thankful for this large donation as it enables the Network to reach parents in the Northwest Ohio area with the lifesaving safe sleep message.

Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Northeastern Ohio - The Network received a **\$500** grant to provide 215 safe sleep onesies and brochures to Union Hospital in Tuscarawas County. We are deeply grateful for their continued support.

In memory of James Ashburn – The SID Network received a **\$260** memorial donation to provide 100 safe sleep onesies and brochures to provide infant safe sleep education to local centers in the Dayton area. Our thanks to the Ashburn family for contributing to this important program.



The 14th Annual Memorial Reverse Raffle and Silent Auction Benefit, “A Night to Remember”, was another huge success this year. It was held on Saturday, February 22nd at Brennan’s Party Center in Cleveland. Over 300 family and friends attended the event held in memory of Collin Tobel and Jack Vittardi.

Katy and Russ Tobel and Renee and Sam Avampato hosted the evening events, including the Top Hat Raffle, Sideboards, Cruise Raffle and Lucky Last Chance and Play it Again Raffles. The winners of the main Reverse Raffle each donated a portion of their prize to the SID Network! The night concluded with the closing of the silent auction and dancing to everyone’s favorite DJ, *TKO*. This year, “A Night to Remember” raised a grand total of over **\$27,000!** The SID Network is truly appreciative of everyone’s support!



Statewide Campaign Launched ABCs of Safe Sleep

On April 14th, the Ohio Department of Health launched a statewide awareness campaign in the hopes of reducing the number of babies in Ohio who die in unsafe sleep environments. Each week in Ohio 3 babies die in unsafe sleep environments with an astounding 819 babies dying from 2007 - 2011. The majority of these deaths are preventable.

The goal of this statewide campaign is to educate parents, grandparents and caregivers on the importance of placing babies to sleep safely by following the ABCs of safe sleep: **A**lone, on their **B**ack, in a **C**rib. Parents and caregivers can reduce the rate of these sudden unexpected deaths by following these simple guidelines.

Sleep-related infant deaths occur suddenly and unexpectedly in a sleep environment and include SIDS, accidental suffocation and undetermined. It is hoped that this consistent ABC message will help to reduce Ohio's infant mortality rate.

Watch for billboards, cable TV pieces, bus signs, internet ads and radio mediums in high-risk areas. ODH developed a new safe sleep website, www.safesleep.ohio.gov for parents and caregivers where they can learn about safe sleep practices, download brochures and posters and watch a public service announcement.

For more information visit:

SafeSleep.Ohio.gov

To learn why the ABCs of safe sleep are the safest for your baby.

Infant Mortality Legislation

Ohio's infant mortality rate is unacceptable! Ohio ranks 48th overall in the country for our infant mortality rate (37th among white babies and 49th for African American babies).

Our thanks to Senators Shannon Jones and Charleta Tavares for introducing a legislative package to fight the state's high rate of infant death. As they stated, "We lose too many babies in Ohio before they reach their first birthday and many of these cases can be prevented with proper training and education." A summary of their 5 pieces of legislation follows and we will keep you updated on their progress:

- 1) Provide Safe Sleep Education - would update Claire's Law which requires Shaken Baby Syndrome education to be given to all parents, by also requiring safe sleep education materials be given to all parents.
- 2) Establish an Infant Mortality Commission to inventory state services, resources and their funding streams available to address Ohio's high rate of infant deaths.
- 3) Require the use of the Sudden Unexplained Infant Death Incident Reporting Form whenever a child one year of age or younger dies suddenly when thought to be in good health. This will help to understand the causes behind SIDS and devise strategies to help prevent those deaths.
- 4) Establish a Federally Qualified Health Center Pilot Project. This would establish a 2 year pilot programs using the model of Centering Pregnancy to improve birth outcomes at 4 Federally Qualified health Centers.
- 5) Postpartum care management and Medicaid reimbursement for non-medical services. This legislation would require case management services for postpartum care be included in the Medicaid managed care system.

Mark Your Calendar for Summer Events

May

14th Annual Nolan P. Fisher Golf Outing

May 23, 2014

Hosted by Paul Fisher & Matt Piela in
loving memory of their son and nephew, Nolan
Raymond Memorial Golf Course, Columbus

Corbin Hastings Charity Ride & Run for SIDS

May 26, 2014

Hosted by the Hastings in loving memory
of their son, Corbin
Alum Creek State Park, Delaware

June

The 20th Annual Laura Elizabeth Pease Memorial Golf Outing

June 9, 2014

Hosted by Tara & Charlie Pease in loving
memory of their daughter, Laura Elizabeth
Wyoming Golf Club, Cincinnati



June

6th Annual Brianna Dawn Tully Memorial Golf Outing

June 21, 2014

Hosted by Brian, Jessica, Connor & Ava Tully
in loving memory of their daughter
and sister, Brianna
The Links at Echo Springs, Johnstown

July

26th Annual SIDS Golf Benefit

July 12, 2014

Hosted by Dan Petricini in loving memory
of his son Jonathan Ross
Paradise Lake Country Club, Mogadore

14th Annual Justin Prestage Golf Outing & Auction

July 21, 2014

Hosted by Jim & Melanie Prestage
and Randy Matejka in loving memory of
their son & nephew, Justin
Coppertop at Cherokee Hills, Valley City

We hope you can join us!



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I think it helps to have rituals and traditions on tough days. It keeps our loved ones close to our hearts and a part of our everyday lives. The Network sells a necklace that I have and wear often when I want to have a reminder of Ella with me through the day. It is also a way to show my support of the work we are doing here. The pendants are a special project for us and available for order on the homepage of our website at sidsohio.org.

Happy Mother's Day and Happy Father's Day to each of you. I hope you find meaningful ways to keep your loved ones close to your heart all year long.

Tracy Tucker, Board President

Special Mother's Day Pendant

Consider this pendant for your wife, mom, sister or grandmother as a way of keeping our families who have lost a baby suddenly and unexpectedly in our hearts forever. This pendant also acts as a voice for our mission as we continue to support and educate our community.

This keepsake is a daily reminder of the families and friends who are affected by a sudden infant death.

For your \$35 donation, we will send you our pendant as a remembrance.

To order your keepsake pendant, please visit www.sidsohio.org.

You will be able to select either silver or black.

Our thanks to Artist, Jennifer Scourfield,
(330) 730-4536



Each necklace contains both the front and back sides as shown



Mother's & Father's Day

It's so very hard to understand
why one so small is taken,
leaving a Mom and Dad behind
with hearts so badly aching.

There are so many things in life
that no one really understands.
But the child you hold in your heart,
God now holds in His hands.

Cared for and nurtured by the Father,
she will grow and mature in His love,
while angels guide and protect her
in her Heavenly home up above.

They will tell her she was, oh, so special
to you both, in every way ~
as they spend countless hours preparing
for your reunion One Grand Day!

They will take her to the edges of Heaven
and let her look, often, down below
to see the Mom and Dad down here
that she didn't get much time to know.

So as you gaze up into the sky,
know she's now in a Glorious place,
and maybe she's looking back to you ~
searching for a smile upon your face.

For I'm certain that in her little heart
it grieves her to see you so sad,
for she knows she had the very best ~
The world's greatest Mom and Dad!

~Author Unknown~



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. In the **Lancaster** area, email Scott Widener swidener5@gmail.com or leave a message at 740-407-3299.

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 Young. 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 Klausing 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 the **Sandusky, Erie & Huron County** area, please contact Peggy Rodriguez at 419-266-0487.

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