



Encouragements

The SID Network of Ohio Newsletter
www.sidsohio.org

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Please keep all of the precious babies we have lost to SIDS and SUID in your hearts this holiday season.



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The SID Network Holds 4 Community Health Forums to Address Disparities in Ohio's Infant Mortality Rate

This past June, the SID Network held four *Community Health Forums* in conjunction with our partners, the Ohio Commission of Minority Health (OCMH), Ohio Infant Mortality Reduction Initiative (OIMRI) and the Ohio Equity Institute (OEI) as well as other groups who have a vested interest in improving the birth outcomes for all Ohio residents. The focus of these grass roots level forums was to address the disparities in infant mortality in our African American communities by reaching out at the community level.

Our approach was culturally tailored and community based and the goal was to educate the community about African American infant mortality, SIDS and infant safe sleep practices. At the end of each forum we gave the participants time to talk about what activities they thought would work in their neighborhoods to educate everyone about safe sleep practices and reducing the rate of babies who die before they reach the age of one year.

The forums were held in Cleveland, Toledo, Youngstown and

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September: Infant Mortality Awareness Month

October: SIDS Awareness Month

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recent report for deaths occurring in 2011, **Ohio currently ranks fifth worst in the nation for our overall infant mortality rate and the worst for our African American rate!** The report states that 1,087 babies died before their first birthday and this is simply not acceptable. Ohio is taking many steps to combat these sobering statistics. Senators Jones and Tavares have introduced 5 pieces of legislation aimed at reducing Ohio's infant mortality (see our previous newsletter) and Senator Sherrod Brown has introduced a bill that will standardize federal reporting requirements for infant and childhood deaths, providing more data which will allow it to be compared to other states. The goal is to find out how to cut the number of these deaths.

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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.

Staff:

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Dr. Stacy Scott	Program Manager
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If you wish to be taken off our email list, please contact
leslie@sidsohio.org.

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 **57** infants in the following Ohio areas. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their grieving families.

Akron/Cleveland & NE Ohio:	20
Toledo & NW Ohio:	9
Cincinnati & Southern Ohio:	8
Dayton Area:	8
Columbus & Central Ohio:	11
South-Eastern Ohio:	1



*During this holiday season, we hope you will consider
 making a donation to the SID Network of Ohio.*

*All proceeds will help to support the Network, our programs
 and our mission to reduce the rate of SIDS and sleep related infant death.*

You can mail your donation directly to us at the address listed in our newsletter or hit the secure "Donate" button on our webpage, www.sidsohio.org.

Contributions can also be made through Community Health Charities of Ohio.

And, we are now partnered with the AmazonSmile Foundation. AmazonSmile is operated by Amazon and if you shop at smile.amazon.com, 0.5% of qualifying purchases will be donated to us.

The Year Before Last

by Unknown

The holiday season is approaching
 and with it comes the New Year.
 Although for me time passes slowly
 New Year's Day will ring in quickly.

I dread this New Year's Day
 because they will look at me
 in a terribly strange way
 when I get misty-eyed,
 and talk about something you had done.

After you first left me
 they reasoned when I cried,
 "He's only been gone a few months."
 And I would catch that look of
 understanding in their eyes
 and found some comfort that they knew.

But on last New Year's Day,
 my first thought upon awakening was,
 Oh God, my son died last year,
 not just a few months ago, not even this year,
 but last year.
 He will never live in this year.

They didn't understand, they didn't reason
 that last year, for me, the loss was still new.
 They thought, "It happened last year,
 so long ago, why does she still cry?"
 I could see it in their eyes.

This New Year's Day, will it be different?
 Will my first thought upon awakening be,
 Oh God, my son died the year before last,
 not a few months ago, not this year or even last year,
 but the year before last?
 He will never live in this year.

Will they even listen, should I not look them
 in the eyes, for fear that I shall see,
 "Why is she still crying? It happened so long ago.
 It was the year before last."

Those words that we use
 to describe the passage of time,
 a few months, this year,
 last year, the year before last.
 They don't know that time stands still for me.

Will they understand that's why I cry?
 Don't they know
 my son just died ...

the year before last?

Donations have been made in loving memory of the following:

Robert Joseph Calkins

Brandon Deem

Nolan P. Fisher

Michael John Kirch

Dallas Conrad Lucas

Samuel Mullen

Laura Elizabeth Pease

Jonathan Petricini

Katie Marie Phillips

Justin Prestage

Ross Michael Skorepa

Kyle Stewart

Michael Ryan Tople

Julie Trenta

Debra Tucker

Brianna Dawn Tully

*Please know that
 we are thinking of all families
 and caregivers who have
 suffered the loss of their baby.
 The holiday season can be
 very difficult and we wish you
 peace and hope.*



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Dayton and we are pleased to say that 213 people were in attendance.

We were very fortunate to have Dr. Arthur James, The Ohio State University and co-chair of the Ohio Collaborative to Prevent Infant Mortality, speak about statewide and national infant mortality. His passion helped to drive home the fact that Ohio ranks at the very bottom of the list for our African American infant mortality making us the worst in the nation! Our overall infant mortality ranks 5th from the bottom so we still have a long way to go. Dr. Stacy Scott spoke about SIDS and infant safe sleep and various agency representatives talked about issues facing their own neighborhoods.

The local offices of OCMH organized each forum and were responsible for bringing community members and agencies together. The Cleveland forum had the largest number of community members present, including pregnant women and many representatives from the Moms First program. It was entitled, *Help, our Babies are*



Over 75 people attended the Cleveland Forum.

Dying! Communities in Cleveland Making a Difference. After open discussion with the attendees, educational strategies included getting the safe sleep message to college students who may have children soon, share an actual story from a parent who has lost a child, improve transportation and advocate for policies such as universal daycare and minimum wage increases.



A local pregnant woman sharing how thankful she is to learn this lifesaving message!

Toledo's focus was faith based and held in a church so many of the attendees were pastors and members of various local churches. Their forum was entitled, *The Moses Project: Saving Babies, Ensuring Futures*. Their dialogue for spreading the safe sleep message included going door to door with educational flyers, holding SIDS Sundays in churches and creating a strong call to action so that "each one teach one".



Dr. James speaking to the Toledo attendees.

The Youngstown forum was held at the local YWCA and attendees included hospital staff, clients, local policy makers and community members. This forum, *Our Babies are Dying, Communities in Youngstown Making a Difference* focused on premature birth and Dr. Rossi from Akron Children's Hospital presented strategies used in their NICU to reduce prematurity and infant mortality.

Why Are We Losing so Many Babies? was the title of the Dayton forum and it was held at a local apartment office in Trotwood. Attendees included

the Trotwood Mayor, the Health Commissioner, other politicians and agency representatives. The dialogue at this forum included involving the community to spread the word to apartment complexes, work places such as McDonald's, grandparents and older caregivers. Other ideas included eliminating barriers that put pregnant women in harms way and mobilizing existing resources to include safe sleep and infant mortality information.

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 to reach out to save babies lives.



Dr. Stacy Scott in Youngstown speaking about the ABCs of safe sleep.



A display in Dayton illustrating the disparities that exist in our infant death rates.



Senator Joe Schiavoni and Felicia Alexander, Director, Youngstown office on Minority Health.

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Many of these deaths are preventable with 15% occurring in unsafe sleep environments which equates to 3 babies each week! Through education we can make an impact on our infant mortality rate and we hope you will share these infant safe sleep guidelines with everyone you know. These guidelines will not only help to reduce the number of SIDS deaths but will also prevent accidental sleep related deaths. Our hope is that more babies will live to see their first birthday!

The American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines for infant safe sleep practices are:

- ◆ **Always** place your baby on his or her back for every sleep time.
- ◆ Keep soft objects or loose bedding **out of the crib**. This includes pillows, blankets, and bumper pads.
- ◆ The safest place for your baby to sleep is in the room where you sleep, but **not in your bed**. **Never place babies to sleep on adult beds**, chairs, sofas, waterbeds, pillows, cushions or soft surfaces.

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Safe Sleep Media Event

The SID Network of Ohio participated in an Infant Safe Sleep Media Event on July 30, 2014 on the south steps of the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus. This event was hosted by the Ohio Department of Health and Charlie's Kids Foundation. The event showcased 85,000 Charlie's Kids Foundation's "Sleep Baby Safe and Snug" books that the Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Hospital Association will be providing to families in our state.

Our Executive Director, Leslie Redd, was honored to be one of the speakers. The Network spoke about our programs and services in our commitment to

foundation; Dr. Robert Falcone, Vice President of Clinical Policy & Population Health, Ohio Hospital Association; Dr. Sarah Denny, The Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics; Representative Stephanie Kunze and Senator Shannon Jones, 130th General Assembly of the State of Ohio.

Our thanks to Dr. Sam Hanke and his wife, Maura for their courage in telling their story and sharing the infant safe sleep message in a beautiful, thoughtful and creative way in honor of their son, Charlie.



Leslie Redd speaking along with the other presenters for the day.

reduce the number of sleep related infant deaths in Ohio. Other speakers included Lance Hines, Interim Director, Ohio Dept. of Health; Dr. Hanke and his wife Maura, founders of Charlie's Kids



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- ◆ Dress your baby in sleep clothing, such as a sleep sack, and **do not use a blanket.**
- ◆ **Avoid letting the baby get too hot.** Keep room temperatures in a range comfortable for a lightly clothed adult.
- ◆ Infants should receive **all recommended vaccinations.**
- ◆ **Breastfeeding is recommended** to help to reduce the risk of SIDS.
- ◆ **Avoid smoke exposure** during pregnancy and after birth. Place the crib in an area that is always smoke free.
- ◆ **Supervised, awake tummy time** is recommended daily to facilitate development.
- ◆ **Consider using a pacifier** at nap time and bed time, once breastfeeding is well established.
- ◆ Talk to those who care for your baby, including **child care providers, family, and friends, about placing your baby to sleep on his back for every sleep.**
- ◆ Obtain **regular prenatal care** to reduce the risk of SIDS even before birth.
- ◆ **Avoid alcohol and illicit drug use** during pregnancy and after birth.

Infant Safe Sleep



Baby sleeps safest alone, on their back, in a crib.

Summer Golf Event Recap

It was a great summer for golf outings! In total over **\$38,000** was raised to support the SID Network of Ohio. The summer began with the *14th Annual Nolan P. Fisher Golf Outing*. This event was held on Friday, May 23rd at Raymond Memorial Golf Course in Columbus. Each year this outing is greatly supported by the family and friends of co-hosts Paul Fisher and Matt Piela, in memory of their son and nephew, Nolan.

The *20th Annual Laura Elizabeth Pease Memorial Golf Outing* was held on Monday, June 9th at the Wyoming Golf Club in the Cincinnati area. Tara and Charlie Pease host this outing in memory of their daughter, Laura. Bev and Glenn Stewart and Bob Kirch co-host the event in memory of their sons, Kyle and Michael. It was a truly wonderful day filled with golf and camaraderie.

The *6th Annual Brianna Dawn Tully Memorial Golf Outing* was held on Saturday, June 21st in the Columbus area at The Links at Echo Springs. Brian, Jessica, Connor and Ava Tully host this event in memory of their daughter and sister, Brianna. Together, friends and family, help to make this golf outing a special day.

The *26th Annual SIDS Golf Benefit*, hosted by Dan Petricini, in memory of his son, Jonathan, was held on Saturday, July 12th at Paradise Lake Country Club in Mogadore. We are thankful for the many golfers who travel far distances to attend this annual tradition.

The summer golf season finished with the *14th Annual Justin Prestage Golf Outing*, held on Monday, July 21st at Coppertop at Cherokee Hills in Valley City. Jim and Melanie Prestage and Randy Matejka host this fundraiser together in memory of their son and nephew, Justin. It was a great golf outing to end the summer on with a longtime supporter of this event shooting a hole-in-one!

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Our Thanks

Cincinnati International Wine Festival

At a check-presentation ceremony on June 17th at the Kenwood Country Club in Cincinnati, the SID Network of Ohio received \$12,000 from the Cincinnati International Wine Festival. This was their 24th year and they have donated over \$4,200,000 to various local charitable organizations since their inception. We are extremely grateful for their continued support and will use these funds for risk reduction and safe sleep educational programs, community outreach programs and bereavement services in the greater Cincinnati area.

The Cincinnati International Wine Festival was founded in 1991 to promote the wine industry and raise funds for local charities. Each year the festival has grown, with increasing winery participation, events and attendance. The festival is made up of four events including winery dinners, grand tastings, the Charity Auction & Luncheon and the Russ Wiles Memorial Golf Tournament. We encourage you to show your support by attending the festival next year. For more information about the Cincinnati International Wine Festival events in 2015, please visit www.winefestival.com.

Thomas Hilt Allen Foundation

We are very grateful to the Thomas Hilt Allen Foundation for their generous \$2,000 donation to help fund our programs. They hold several events in memory of their son, Tommy, and have designated us as one of their beneficiaries. We truly appreciate their continued support.

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On Friday, August 15th the Tully Family also hosted a new event at the World of Bounce in New Albany. There were 116 participants who bounced the evening away while raising funds to help end SIDS.

The SID Network Staff and Board of Directors would like to thank all of the hosts, sponsors and contributors of this year's summer events for all of their support and dedication. We are so grateful for each and every one of you! Thank you!

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 Courtney at 419-266-0487.

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