



# Encouragements

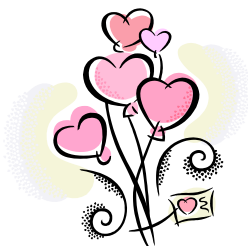
The SID Network of Ohio Newsletter  
www.sidsohio.org

Volume 47

Jan. - April, 2015

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## 2014 Accomplishments and Year in Review

As we begin the New Year we wanted to express our gratitude to each and every one of our donors and supporters as we continue our fight against SIDS and sleep related infant death. A special thank you goes out to 10 SIDS/SUID families who held fundraising events this past year in memory of their babies. We truly appreciate their hard work and dedication. Our programs and services to educate families and professionals on safe ways to sleep babies along with the bereavement support we offer to grieving families would not be possible without everyone's generosity.

This past fiscal year was an exciting and busy one for the SID Network as we began two new programs to bring the infant safe sleep message and dismal infant mortality information directly into the communities impacted the most in our state. We were very happy to bring Dr. Stacy Scott on board as our Program Manager to help with our new focus on community engagement. It is our hope that our *Community Health Forums* and *Infant Safe Sleep Mini-Grant Program* will educate parents, grandparents and other caregivers and inspire them to share the ABC's of safe sleep with their friends and neighbors so that more babies will live to see their first birthday.

We began the planning of our *Community Health Forums* in February by holding conference calls with important partners from across the state. As a result of the planning sessions, this past June, the SID Network held  
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## New Program Infant Safe Sleep Mini-Grants

The SID Network of Ohio is pleased to announce our new mini-grant program which will provide funding to neighborhood and community groups for outreach projects to reduce the risk of SIDS and other sleep-related causes of infant death in the state of Ohio. The purpose of the program is to increase community participation in disseminating the infant safe sleep message throughout the state.

Funds are to be used for educational initiatives that work to promote infant safe sleep practices and increase public awareness regarding the impact of sleep-related infant deaths, and ways to reduce these incidences. Each mini-grant must reach a minimum of 25 participants.

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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:

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

### Board of Directors:

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

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

Akron/Cleveland & NE Ohio:	18
Toledo & NW Ohio:	3
Cincinnati & Southern Ohio:	6
Dayton Area:	5
Columbus & Central Ohio:	23
South-Eastern Ohio:	1



Our mini-grant applications were due on Nov. 1, 2014 with an award date of Dec. 1, 2014. A committee of Board members and staff reviewed each grant application and we are pleased to say that 8 mini-grants were awarded at \$600 each with the potential of reaching over 1,000 community members! We have many wonderful projects and initiatives represented with unique ways to spread the safe sleep message. Grants were awarded to the following tax exempt organizations:

1. Cleveland Department of Public Health and the Moms First Program - Safe Sleep Baby Shower
2. Connected Hands Helping Others, B.A.B.Y. Project - ABCs of Infant Safe Sleep Demonstration
3. Neighborhood Family Practice - *Safe Dreams* Baby Shower
4. Toledo-Lucas County Health Department - Infant Safe Sleep Ambassador Program
5. University Hospitals Case Medical Center - *It Doesn't Have to Happen: The ABCs of Infant Safe Sleep* Community Health Fairs
6. University Settlement, Inc. - *Save Our Babies* Resource Fair
7. Youngstown City Office of Minority Health - Community-wide Baby Shower
8. YWCA of Elyria - *YNOT Talk Special Series - SIDS and Infant Mortality Awareness*

For more information about upcoming mini-grant opportunities, please contact our office at 800-477-7437.



**Saturday, Feb. 14, 2015**

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

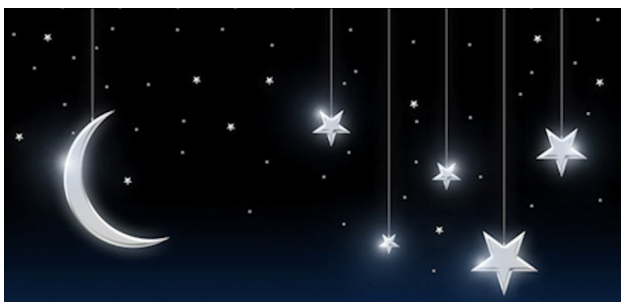
Visit [www.sidsraffle.com](http://www.sidsraffle.com) to order tickets or contact Katy Tobel at 440-823-4586 or Renee Avampato at 440-567-5039.

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!

Be sure to order your tickets today before they sell out!



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

- Daniel Brinkmoeller*
- Colin James Carr*
- Mark Corio*
- Marisa Aurelia Cox*
- Clement Dwertman*
- Katie Marie Phillips*
- Dean Christopher Sapsford*
- Quinn Kathryn Shirey*
- Ashlee Louise Tester*
- Jude Thomas Widener*



Dr. Stacy Scott, SID Network Program Manager, with her Poster Presentation at the Ohio Infant Mortality Summit in Columbus on Dec. 4, 2014.

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

Presented by Ohio Department of Health and  
SID Network of Ohio

**Free Workshop - Register Today!**

**March 23, 2015**

**State Library of Ohio  
Columbus  
1:00 - 4:00 pm**

**March 24, 2015**

**The Job Center  
Akron  
10:00 am – 1:00 pm**

**March 26, 2015**

**Mercy St. Vincent Medical Center  
Toledo  
2:00 – 5:00 pm**

Please visit our website to download  
registration forms under the  
*Professional Education* tab

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

Call or email Carolyn Stroud at  
the SID Network of Ohio for any questions  
you may have.

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

Ohio Department of Health, Oh-011-0415, is an approved  
provider of continuing nursing education by the Ohio Nurses  
Association (OBN-001-91) an accredited approver  
by the American Nurses Credentialing  
Center’s Commission on Accreditation.

## **Our Thanks**

The SID Network is very thankful for those families and friends who hold events in their hometowns to raise money for our organization. Each event honors the memory of their baby or a baby whom they have known personally. We are grateful for each and every donation, big or small, as they allow us to further our programming efforts in the hopes that sudden infant death will one day be eliminated.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual SIDS Walk**

This walk was held in October in honor of Jacob Beyer. The event was hosted by his family, Chris and Cindy Beyer along with sisters Abby and Lilly. Our thanks to the Beyers for their \$500 donation.

### **Ridin 4 Babies 2014**

Held in October, this motorcycle ride raised \$300 for the SID Network. We would like to thank everyone for their support in memory of Ashlee Louise Tester who passed away from SIDS on June 1,1988.

\*\*\*\*\*

**We are now partnered with the  
AmazonSmile Foundation. AmazonSmile  
is operated by Amazon and if you shop at  
[smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com),  
0.5% of qualifying purchases will  
be donated to us.**

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Infant Safe Sleep**



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

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. We measured their knowledge regarding these subjects through pre/post-tests which helped us understand where we needed to focus our educational efforts. At the end of each forum we gave the audience 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 first four forums were held in Cleveland, Toledo, Youngstown and Dayton with approximately 213 people in attendance. We were very fortunate to have Dr. Arthur James, Associate Professor, The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center 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! 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.

Each forum had a different community focus. Cleveland had the largest number of community members including pregnant moms and representatives from the Moms First program. The Toledo Forum's focus was faith based and their audience was made up of local area Pastors and church members. The Youngstown forum was held at the local YWCA and attendees included hospital staff, clients, local policy makers and community members. The Dayton area forum was held at a local apartment complex with the audience made up of local politicians, OIMRI, local police officers and CareSource employees. Each community had unique ideas and discussion on ways to get the safe sleep message directly into their neighborhoods.

We held 2 more faith based forums in Lorain and Elyria in September in conjunction with the office of Senator Sherrod Brown and the United Way of Greater Lorain Co. Approximately 30 community members attended.

It is our hope that by engaging these communities and the people that live there and providing them with

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## Columbus Division of Fire Program

The SID Network of Ohio would like to thank Scott Widener and the Columbus Ohio Division of Fire for their new program to help ensure that every baby in Columbus has a safe place to sleep. They have partnered with Columbus Public Health to create awareness regarding infant safe sleep practices with the hope of reducing the number of SIDS and sleep related infant deaths. Their program will provide a crib to any family who is identified on an EMS run to not have a safe place for their baby to sleep. A referral will be generated and an EMS Supervisor will take a safety approved crib to the family, set it up and provide safe sleep education.

Scott is a SIDS Dad and a firefighter/EMT. Scott has worked with the SID Network for several years now helping to educate public health nurses and social workers on the impact that these professionals have on families when they contact them after a SIDS/SUID death. He has shared his personal story of loss after the death of his son, Jude, in 2011 and his unique perspective of trying to save him because of his work as an EMT. Scott is also a bereavement support contact for our organization and has made it his life's mission to educate families so that no one else has to go through what he and his family have endured after Jude's passing.

## Mark Your Calendar for Our 2015 Events

### February

[15<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial Benefit Reverse Raffle](#)  
[A Night to Remember](#)

**February 14, 2015**

Hosted by Katy & Russ Tobel, Renee & Sam Avampato and Amy & Janusz Kuzdowicz in loving memory of their sons Collin, Jack and Alexander Brennan's Party Center, Cleveland

### May

[15<sup>th</sup> Annual Nolan P. Fisher Golf Outing](#)

**May 22, 2015**

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

### June

[The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Laura Elizabeth Pease Memorial Golf Outing](#)

**June 8, 2015**

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

[7<sup>th</sup> Annual Brianna Dawn Tully Memorial Golf Outing](#)

**June 20, 2015**

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

### July

[27<sup>th</sup> Annual SIDS Golf Benefit](#)

**July 18, 2015**

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

[15<sup>th</sup> Annual Justin Prestage Golf Outing & Auction](#)

**July 20, 2015**

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!**



### Ohio Infant Mortality Summit

#### *Turning Up the Volume on Infant Mortality: Step Up to Catch Up*

The second statewide infant mortality summit in Columbus on Dec. 4, 2014 was a huge success with over 1,500 people in attendance. This summit was held to raise awareness of our infant death and the disparities that exist. The goal is to motivate our communities to address these challenges so that more infants will live to see their first birthdays. According to 2011 national data, Ohio ranks 50th in the country for black infant mortality with our white infant mortality not ranking much better at 44th. We can do better and this conference focused on doing things differently and involving more partners and resources as we *step up to catch up*.

The SID Network participated in two breakout sessions, *Statewide Partnership Panel - Next Steps for Reducing Infant Mortality* and *Utilizing Community Engagement to Address Black Infant Mortality in Ohio*. We also had a poster presentation entitled, "Increasing Awareness: The Impact of Infant Mortality on Ohio's African American Population". Audio recordings of all breakout sessions and key note speakers will be available on the ODH website, <http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhprograms/cfhs/octpim/summit/infantmortality.aspx>.

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important information regarding infant mortality and infant safe sleep practices, we can empower them to reach out to save babies lives.

Our second new program just got off the ground this Fall with the development of our *Infant Safe Sleep Mini-Grant Program*. We wanted to continue the momentum generated from our *Community Health Forums* by offering funding to neighborhood and community groups for outreach projects to reduce the rate of SIDS and sleep related infant death. Our goal is to increase educational initiatives in each community to share the infant safe sleep message. Each project must reach a minimum of 25 participants. We are pleased to report that we awarded 8 grants throughout the state with the potential of reaching 1000 people with the safe sleep message. The grantees were required to attend an orientation before the grants began and then a wrap up session will be held to present the outcome of their project. Our mini-grants include resource and health fairs, trainings, demonstrations, baby showers, an ambassador program and a luncheon. Most of the activities are taking place during Minority Health Month in April. We hope to offer a second session of grants this spring/summer.

Distribution of infant safe sleep materials is essential as we educate parents and caregivers on the ways to sleep babies safely to reduce the risk of SIDS and to prevent accidental death from positional asphyxia, suffocation and overlay. During fiscal year 2014 (Oct. 1, 2013 – Sept. 30, 2014), the SID Network distributed **20,220** infant safe sleep t-shirts as part of our *Infant Safe Sleep Program*. We are fortunate to have approximately 30 hospitals who have partnered with us to spread the safe sleep message through their childbirth education classes and newborn take home packages. Health departments and other agencies also use this program as part of their infant safe sleep initiatives. We are proud to say that since the inception of our program in 2006, we have reached over 155,000 families with the safe sleep message. Our *Infant Safe Sleep Program* is made possible largely through the support from SUID families who host fundraising events.

Our mission to spread the safe sleep message also includes the distribution of our “Keep your sleeping baby safe” brochures. The number of brochures given to families continued to grow again this year with over

**43,000** distributed statewide! In addition, over **13,000** other safe sleep and bereavement materials were requested from our partners for parent and caregiver education, an almost fourfold increase over last year!

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 163 bereavement packets to families.

Other grief materials including the *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 contacts 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 165 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. Approximately 1,540 newsletters were emailed to families and professionals.

The SID Network continues our partnership with the Ohio Department of Health’s *Sudden Infant Death Program, Provision of Mandated Reporting and Bereavement Support*. The purpose of this program is to receive reports of sudden unexpected infant deaths from county medical examiners/coroners; report these deaths to the local health departments; insure that the local health departments have resources for providing bereavement support and to serve as the state expert on SIDS. The SID Network received 184 infant death referrals from coroners this past fiscal year. Final diagnoses were received for 152 babies to date with 10 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 in March. The *SIDS Risk Reduction and Infant Safe Sleep Educational Workshops* focused on educating public health nurses, community health workers, social workers,

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counselors and daycare providers. We had 186 in attendance at these 3 hour workshops in Elyria, Middletown and Columbus.

The SID Network understands the importance of staying at the forefront of SIDS, SUID and infant safe sleep education and we have continued our partnerships and memberships with the following groups in our efforts to help make a difference in Ohio's infant mortality and sleep related infant deaths: Summit County Child Fatality Review Board; Ohio Child Fatality Review Advisory Committee; Ohio Injury Prevention Partnership's Infant Safe Sleep Subcommittee; Summit County Child and Family Health Services Consortium; Summit County Safe Kids Coalition; Summit County Safe Sleep Committee; Summit County Collaborative for Better Birth Outcomes and the Ohio Collaborative to Prevent Infant Mortality.

We wanted to share with you additional activities and highlights of our last fiscal year:

- October 29 – participated in the Summit Co Children's Services Board *Provider Resource Fair*
- November 19 – staff attended the March of Dimes *Infant Mortality Summit* in Cleveland
- March 11 – Dr. Stacy Scott gave a presentation on the programs and services of the SID Network at the quarterly meeting of the Ohio Collaborative to Prevent Infant Mortality in Columbus
- April 22 - Dr. Stacy Scott narrated and filmed the Ohio Department of Health's *Safe Sleep 101 Video*. This video can be seen on the ODH website, [www.odh.ohio.gov/features/odhfeatures/SafeSleep/SafeSleepHomePage.aspx](http://www.odh.ohio.gov/features/odhfeatures/SafeSleep/SafeSleepHomePage.aspx)
- July 30 – Leslie Redd spoke at the *Safe Sleep Media Event* in Columbus at the Statehouse
- August 8 – participated in the *Back to School Resource Fair* in Cleveland
- August 25 – Safe Sleep Training for the Wayne and Medina County Head Start Program in Wooster. 100 people attended
- September 3 – participated in the *Summit County Safe Kids Baby Shower* at Akron Children's Hospital. Approximately 35 at-risk moms attended the event and received a *Cribs for Kids* portable crib, safe sleep kit and car seat

We look forward to 2015 as we continue our new programs to reach out to communities in our state to spread the infant safe sleep message. It is our hope more babies will live to see their first birthday with SIDS and SUID one day being eliminated.

## Support Information

Our bereavement support contacts are available to speak to anyone affected by a SIDS or SUID death. Please feel free to contact them when you are ready.

**Cincinnati** area - Bob Kirch, 513-636-8000.

**Columbus** area - Tracy Tucker, 614-855-5999; Aubrey Hastings, 614-539-8260; Jessica Tully, 614-315-7838 or Sara Warren, 614-975-2471. In the **Dublin** area, contact Karen Williams at 419-656-1997. In the **Lancaster** area, email Scott Widener [swidener5@gmail.com](mailto:swidener5@gmail.com) or leave a message at 740-407-3299.

**Cleveland & the Cuyahoga County** area - Angela Mack, 440-327-4336.

**Darke, Mercer & Preble Counties** - Renea McCleskey, 937-467-3732.

**Dayton** area - Yolanda Young, (937)-999-9007.

**Lorain County** area - Sister Jeanne Marie Glorioso, HM, 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**.

**Middletown** area - Kendra Klausing, 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.

**NE Ohio** area - SID Network, 800-477-7437.

**Sandusky, Erie & Huron Counties** - Peggy Courtney, 419-266-0487.

**Toledo** area - Jim Marlowe, 419- 291-5419.