



BABY1ST NETWORK

Infant safe sleep education, community outreach and family support.

Volume 50

March 2018

Inside this Issue:

| | |
|---|---|
| 2017 in Review (continued) | 2 |
| Baby 1st/GISS Free Webinar Series for Minority Health Month | 2 |
| Safe Sleep Mini-Grants Engage Ohio Community Groups | 3 |
| Board Notes | 4 |
| Baby 1st/GISS Partners (continued) | 4 |
| Our Heartfelt Appreciation | 4 |
| Memorial Donations | 5 |
| Support Information | 6 |



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community outreach and family support.*

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2017 in Review

Baby 1st Network just completed the first full year with our new name. It has been an exciting and fulfilling year as we continue to be on the Infant Safe Sleep and SIDS Risk Reduction forefront so that more babies will live to see their first birthdays.

During our last fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, we held three Community Health Forums tailored to the faith based community, fathers, brothers and uncles in Akron and Columbus. In total, we reached over 600 people with the safe sleep message at Akron's Mount Calvary Baptist Church and in Columbus at the Kappa Alpha Psi Father's Day event and Brothers United safe sleep training at the Kappa Fatherhood expo. Four additional SIDS/infant safe sleep training workshops were held across the state reaching 158 people at Columbus Integrated Health, the Intercity Food Bank in Cleveland, a SIDS Sunday grandparent event in Columbus and the Ohio Infant Mortality Reduction Initiative.

(continued on page 2)

Baby 1st Network and the Global Infant Safe Sleep (GISS) Center Announce Partnership

Baby 1st Network has established an official partnership with GISS Center to expand both organizations' efforts to reverse the growing rate of infant mortality, empower communities and broaden bereavement resources and services for Ohio families who have lost a child to sudden unexpected infant death (SUID) and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS).

With three times more infants dying in Ohio's African American communities compared to white, the two organizations together are positioned to address the disparities by educating the community about infant mortality, SIDS and infant safe sleep.

The partnership will combine Baby 1st's 40 years of SIDS education

(continued on page 4)

(continued from page 1 - Community Engagement)

Infant safe sleep materials are essential as we educate parents and caregivers on ways to sleep babies safely to reduce the risk of SIDS and to prevent accidental death. This year we distributed 6,540 onesie t-shirts imprinted with our safe sleep message through our partners at hospitals, agencies, health departments and clinics, who used them as part of their safe sleep programming. In addition, we supplied 14,523 informational safe sleep brochures to families and caregivers across the state.

This fiscal year we sent out 170 bereavement packets and other specialized grief materials from our free library to families and caregivers. Our regional volunteer SIDS/SUID parent contacts responded to numerous grieving families and provided them with support, encouragement and hope.

In partnership with the Ohio Department of Health, Baby 1st Network held 3-hour training workshops in Akron and Columbus during March and April. The *SIDS Risk Reduction and Infant Safe Sleep Educational Workshops* focused on educating public health nurses, community health workers, social workers, counselors and daycare providers. These workshops discussed the impact of SIDS and SUID; risk factors and racial disparities; recommendations for infant safe sleep and SIDS risk reduction; role of the hospital nurse educator; and role of the home visitor. A personal story from a SUID parent and the impact an infant death has on families was also shared. We had 79 in attendance and for the first time ever, we made the training available online through OhioTrain, which was taken by 86 people.

Grant funding was received from Kappa Foundation and CJ Foundation for SIDS to support the Kappa Fatherhood Safe Sleep Initiative.

We look forward to this new year and the exciting opportunities it brings to enrich our outreach programs. It is our hope more babies will celebrate their first birthday and SIDS and SUID will one day be eliminated.



GISS Center, Baby 1st Network to Host Free Webinar Series for Minority Health Awareness Month

The first annual **Minority Health Awareness Month Webinar Series: *Communities Working Together to Achieve Birth Equity*** will be held in April during Minority Health Awareness Month. This will be a four-part, weekly webinar series, free of charge, where we as a community can gather virtually to discuss the state of infant mortality and showcase different regional and national innovative programs and initiatives to improve birth outcomes and promote health and wellness.

The webinar series, sponsored by the GISS Center and Baby 1st Network, will include such topics as collaboration/partnerships, mental health, safe sleep practices and the role of fathers and communities. National Minority Health Month is observed every year in April to highlight the health disparities that persist among racial and ethnic minority populations and the ways in which legislation, policies and programs can help advance health equity. This year's national theme is ***Partnering for Health Equity***. Partnerships at the national, state, tribal and local levels are vital to the work of reducing health disparities and advancing health equity. Please watch your email for more information about webinar topics, dates, times and registration.

Safe Sleep Mini-Grants Engage Ohio Community Groups

The goal of our *Infant Safe Sleep Mini-Grant Program* is to reach into communities across Ohio in an effort to reduce sleep related infant deaths and increase educational initiatives in communities where the racial disparities are the greatest. The program provides funding up to \$500 to neighborhood and community groups.

This past calendar year we funded 22 state projects. Through 43 activities including community baby showers/health fairs, faith-based and fatherhood workshops, childcare provider trainings and interactive display boards, 1,215 parents-to-be, babysitters and grandparents were educated on SIDS risk reduction and the vital ABC's of safe sleep (Alone, on baby's Back, in a Crib). The goal of each project is to reach at least 20 people, so we were extremely pleased to surpass our goal. Since the mini-grant program began in 2015, we have funded 63 organizations that hosted 145 events, reaching 3,353 people across the state with the ABC's of infant safe sleep!



Crawford County Help Me Grow developed an interactive display board that was used at their health resource fair for expectant and parenting teens who attend the local joint vocational school. It will be used for on-going outreach to spread the message of safe sleep.



CelebrateOne's safe sleep training was hosted at the Ohio College of Barber & Styling, in Columbus. Soon-to-be graduates and licensed barbers were trained and certified as Safe Sleep Ambassadors. Highly respected and often looked upon as confidants, beauty professionals are essential community partners.



Community Baby Showers are a fun way to share important, lifesaving information. With funding from Baby 1st Network, Hopewell Health Center's "Welcome Baby" Shower also offered valuable gifts and linked moms with their peers and community partners.

Board Notes



The Baby 1st Network would like to honor former member Bob Kirch, who retired after 38 years of service on our Board of Directors. We thank him for sharing his wisdom, dedication, passion and time in memory of his son, Michael.

He also offered his expertise in accounting and served as our Treasurer for many years. Bob began his service in Cincinnati as a regional bereavement support contact for other families who experienced the sudden loss of their baby and has continued in that role since his 2016 retirement. Bob's generosity is an inspiration to us all and we wish him well!

We would also like to extend heartfelt thanks to several other board members who have recently left our board, including SIDS parents Emily Shirey and Amy Kuzdowicz, as well as Joseph Wells.

Board president Tracy Tucker and members Kathleen Meyers and Shelden Wrice recently welcomed Mike Furlong, Karla Coleman, Sherry Percival, Dr. Augustus Parker and Beth McNeill to the Baby 1st Network Board of Directors.

(continued from page 1 - Partnership)

and bereavement services with GISS Center's grassroots safe sleep education activities in African American communities across the country. Stacy Scott, PhD formed the GISS Center one year ago. Since then, the Center has sponsored numerous events and partnered with national organizations to provide safe sleep training and cribs to families in need.

Our Heartfelt Appreciation

Our programs and services were made possible this past year through the longstanding, continuous support from 10 families who have held annual fundraising events in memory of their babies. We are grateful that their dedication and support helped to raise nearly \$81,000 in the fight against SIDS and sleep related infant death.

A Night to Remember Reverse Raffle and Auction in memory of Alexander Kuzdowicz, Collin Tobel and Jack Vittardi, Nolan P. Fisher Golf Outing, Corbin Hastings Memorial Day Ride/Run, Laura Elizabeth Pease Memorial Golf Outing, Brianna Dawn Tully Memorial Golf Outing, SIDS Golf Benefit in Memory of Jonathan Ross Petricini, Annual Justin Prestage Golf Outing and Auction and the Annual Grant's SIDS 5k Run/Walk.



Dan Petricini, along with his children (l-r) Bobby, Julianna and Danny at his 29th Annual event.



Charlie and Tara Pease (center) with golfers at their 23rd annual event.



Jessica and Brian Tully and family at the 9th Annual Brianna Dawn Tully Memorial Outing.



Jim, Emily and Melanie Prestage along with Melanie's brother, Randy Matejka host their 17th Annual Golf event.



Karen Williams (center with blue shirt) congratulating the winners of the Grant's SIDS 5k.

**Our appreciation for
donations made in loving
memory of the following**

Thomas Hilt Allen
Adam Anthony Aufdenkampe
Shiloh Alston
Agnes Burns
Ethan Riley Christopher
Johnny Wild Lawrence Cox
Nolan Pieta Fisher
Helen Furlong
David Furlong
Charles M. Gannon
Michael Kirch
Katie Marie Phillips
Ethan Christopher Riley
Quinn Kathryn Shirey
Ella Elizabeth Tucker
Grant Peyton Williams

**Special thanks to all our
gracious donors to our first
Annual Appeal.**

Support Information

The Baby 1st Network has regional bereavement support contacts that are available to speak to anyone affected by a SIDS or SUID death.

For support in the **Akron/Summit County** area, please contact Gina Allen at (937) 657-3054 or her husband Mark Allen at (330) 690-1153 or Lori Thomson at (330) 626-3602.

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) 296-1142, Jessica Tully at (614) 315-7838; Sara Warren at (614) 975-2471; or Scott Widener at swidener5@gmail.com or leave a message at 740-407-3299.

For support in **Darke, Mercer & Preble Counties**, please contact Renea McCleskey at 937-467-3732.

For support in the **Dayton** area, please contact Yolanda Young at (937) 999-9007 or Renea McCleskey at 937-467-3732.

In the **Dublin** area, call Karen Williams for bereavement support. You can reach Karen on her cell phone at (419) 656-1997.

In the **Middletown** area, please contact Kendra Klausing at (937) 748-2347 for bereavement support.

HEALing Together Parent Support Group meetings are the third Tuesday evening of each month from 7:00-9:00 P.M. @ Hilltop OB/Gyn office, Professional Bldg. 1 on the Atrium Medical Center campus, One Medical Center Drive, Middletown, OH 45005. All materials are provided and registration is not required. For information call (513) 705-4056.

In the **North East Ohio** area, call the Baby 1st Network at (800) 477-7437.

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

The **Toledo** support contact is Jim Marlowe and he can be reached by calling (419) 291-4003.



Mission Statement

The mission of the Baby 1st Network is to provide educational material and support for all who work to reduce Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID). We are committed to providing the tools necessary to empower and engage communities to keep their infants safe. We also provide compassionate support services to families who have experienced the sudden unexpected loss of an infant.

Staff:

| | |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| Leslie Redd | Executive Director |
| Elizabeth Wilson | Development Coordinator |
| Stacy Scott, PhD | Program Manager |
| Therese Johnson | Fiscal Manager |
| Carolyn Stroud | Administrative Assistant |

Board of Directors:

| | |
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| Tracy Tucker | President |
| Kathleen Meyer | Secretary |
| Sheldon Wrice, PhD | |
| Karla Coleman | |
| Sherry Percival | |
| Dr. Augustus Parker | |
| Beth McNeill | |

If you wish to be taken off our email list, please contact info@baby1stnetwork.org.