#### A Mother's Day Wish

#### From Heaven

By Jody Seilheimer

Dear Mr. Hallmark,

I am writing to you from heaven, and though it must appear a rather strange idea, I see everything from here.

I just popped in to visit, your stores to find a card, a card of love for my mother, as this day for her is hard.

There must be some mistake I thought, I saw every card you could imagine. Except I could not find a card, from a child who lives in heaven.

She is still a mother too, no matter where I reside. I had to leave, she understands, but oh the tears she's cried.

I thought that if I wrote you, that you would come to know that though I live in heaven now, I still love my mother so.

She talks with me, and dreams with me; we still share laughter too; memories are our way of speaking now, would you see what you could do?

My mother carries me in her heart, her tears she hides from sight. She writes poems to honor me, sometimes far into the night.

She plants flowers in my garden, there my living memory dwells. She writes to other grieving parents, trying to ease their pain as well.

So you see Mr. Hallmark, though I no longer live on earth I must find a way to remind her of her wondrous worth.

She needs to be honored, and remembered too just as the children of earth will do.

Thank you Mr. Hallmark, I know you'll do your best I have done all I can do; to you I'll leave the rest.

Find a way to tell her, how much she means to me until I can do it for myself, when she joins me in eternity.

#### Oh Father, My Father

By Theresa Cochrane, Growing Family Inc, copyright

Close your eyes and feel me near

keep me inside your heart, let me live in your soul, you see through tears the things we will never do

running across the fields of my youth games never played

but it is not gone

those dreams you hold so close for I live on in every child you see

little ones standing alone...lost

or laughing in a playground.

swinging so high

touching the tree tops, that is I

wanting just to love

feel my happiness

in the song of a bird

see my sorrow in mother

hold her close forever

feeling your strength

for there will be one

to come behind me

whether through God's grace or from a different calling

a child chosen through His hand. For in darkness, a light will appear even if it is just the dawn signaling a new beginning

And as you gather my mother to your heart, release your tears

let the healing begin

and discover that I am here
in your dreams, in your tomorrows
every rainbow is the path home
and if you should stumble
I am the wings that shall lift you.

# We would like to hear

# from you!

We are sure that in some point in your life you have moved and when you did, we are sure someone said "stay in touch!", "write us and let us know how you are!", or "call so we know your Ok!".

The same goes for us at IRIS. Drop us a note, give us a call, we would love to hear from you! And don't forget:

- ? To let us know if you have a change of address. IRIS newsletters are sent by bulk mail and they will not be forwarded if you have a change of address.
- ? If you would like to be added or would no longer like to get the newsletters please let us know.
- ? Feel free to send us your letters, articles, and poems that you would like to have in the newsletter. Be sure to include the authors name if you know it.
- ? We value your feedback. Let us know what you like and what you would like to see us change.

#### If Roses Grow In Heaven

Author Unknown

If Roses grow in Heaven,

Lord please pick a bunch for me,

Place them in my Mother's arms

And tell her they're from me.

Tell her I love her and miss her,

and when she turns to smile,

place a kiss upon her cheek

and hold her for awhile.

Because remembering her is easy,

I do it every day,

but there's an ache within my heart

that will never go away.

# **OurWishList**

- ? Permanent Signs for the four IRIS windows. 33"x7" these signs will be in full sun. They can be cling on, acrylic or some type of Plexiglas, etc.
- ? Baby lotions (sample size)
- ? Baby Yarn /Sport Weight yarn pastel colors
- ? Volunteers to water the flowers at the IRIS common burial in Maple Lawn Cemetery. Section "A" by Indian Chief Taopi
- ? Volunteers to water, weed and trim plants at Kinder Park (the IRIS park) located at the corner of 17<sup>th</sup> St. and 24<sup>th</sup> Ave. in Faribault MN.
- ? Knitted or Crocheted Baby Blanket and Cap sets. We are currently in great need of size 4, 5 and 6. (24", 28" and 32" square) if you or someone you know is able to help please call the office for more information. We currently have 1 girl and no boy size 4 blankets. 1 girl and 3 boy size 5 blankets and 2 girl and 3 boy size 6 blankets.
- ? Volunteers and Sponsors for the IRIS Golf Tournament on July 21st.

#### From Diana's Desk ...

You may have noticed by now that many of the poems in this IRIS newsletter are designed to honor

parents. Both Mother's Day and Father's Day are difficult for parents. The question often comes up as whether or not you are a mother or a father. By reading many of these poems you will know that the answer is yes.

As you may be able to tell from our Wish List we are in need of volunteers to help with knitting and crocheting baby blankets. If you know of someone who might be willing to help please tell him or her about IRIS and ask them to help.

Mark your calendar for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual IRIS Golf Tournament. This year's event will be held at the Faribault Golf Club on Friday July 21<sup>st</sup>. Golfers, Sponsors, and Volunteers are needed!

Be sure to read the info on <u>Memorial Wind-chimes</u> in the Golf Tournament flier. This year you will be able to personalize the signage by each wind-chime. This can be a picture, poem or what ever you would like. Read the registration form for more info or visit the our website: <u>www.irisremembers.com</u>

#### **Just Because**

Author unknown

Just because you don't see me cry doesn't mean the tears don't fall.
I choose my moments to let go.

Just because my baby isn't here doesn't mean he left my heart.

Don't be afraid to mention his name.

Just because I smile a lot doesn't mean I'm all better now. Please don't push me too fast.

Just because it's been a while doesn't mean I can move on. My life won't ever be the same.

Just because his crib is empty doesn't mean we aren't his parents. Our job is to keep his memory alive.

Just because I seem calm to you doesn't mean I'm not screaming inside.
Remember me in your prayers.

Just because I'm holding it together doesn't mean I don't need your help.
Lend me your ear, your shoulder, your heart.

Just because my son is in Heaven doesn't mean he's far away. Speak of him and he'll draw nearer

# An Angel in the book of life, Wrote down your babies birth, And whispered as she closed the book . . . To Beautiful for earth . . .

#### Memories are . . .

The window that hold

the past in view.

Through them we can see again

each joy we ever knew.

Author unknown

#### Thank You For Your Kind Donation:

- ? Shelly & Brad Germundson for volunteering in the IRIS office on their son's Weston's First Heavenly Birthday
- ? Kay Heiskari for donating baby blankets and shells
- ? Amy Piper for PartyLite candle items for the IRIS Golf Tournament Silent Auction and the IRIS office.
- ? Anna Kincade, Ricki Danielson, Alice Smuca for baby blankets and caps
- ? Margaret Walker for volunteering in the IRIS Office, writing thank you notes, donating stamps, and much more.
- ? Joni and Tom Trotter for volunteering their services of maintaining the IRIS website. www.irisremembers.com
- ? To everyone who has been collecting Milk Moola from Kwik Trip milk and juice, please keep up the

- ? Diane Boldan and her quilting friends from the Faribault Church of Christ.
- ? To Dan Kucera for his dedication and unwillingness to let our copy machine get

the best of him and us. Thanks Dan!

? Jean Hendricks for Baby Blankets and Hats

# Special Thank You to Insty-Prints for their generous donation of \$800 in printing to Infants Remembered In Silence, Inc. through their 2006 Shine Grant Program

"My Mom Lies"

**Author Unknown** 

My Mom, she tells a lot of lies She never did before. From now until she dies, She'll tell a whole lot more.

Ask my Mom how she is
And because she can't explain,
She will tell a little lie
Because she can't describe the pain.

Ask my Mom how she is, She'll say, "I'm alright". If that's the truth, then tell me, why does she cry each night?

Ask my Mom how she is, She seems to cope so well. She didn't have a choice you see nor the strength to yell.

Ask my Mom how she is,
"I'm fine, I'm well, I'm coping".
For God's sake Mom, just tell the truth
just say your heart is broken.

She'll love me all her life, I loved her all of mine. But if you ask her how she is, She'll lie and say she's fine.

I am Here in Heaven.

I cannot hug from here. If she lies to you don't listen, Hug her and hold her near.

On the day we meet again,
We'll smile and I'll be bold.
I'll say, "You're lucky to get in here, Mom
With all the lies you told!"

#### In memory Joshua Daniel Neubauer

Who was born on October 13, 2000 and entered Heaven's gates December 8, 2000

A Child that loses a parent is an orphan, A Man who loses his wife is a widower, A Woman who loses her husband is a widow,

There is no name for a parent that loses a child, For there is no word to describe the pain.

#### Thank You For Your Donations:

- ? Greater Twin Cities United Way ~ \$22.10 Anonymous Donor Designation
- ? Kwik Trip, Inc. ~ Milk Moola Donation \$190.05
- ? Allianz Life Insurance Company of North America ~ \$50
- ? United Way of Faribault ~ \$500
- ? Northfield New Mom's Network ~ \$70
- ? Wells Fargo ~ Community Campaign ~ \$50
- ? Kettering Properties ~ \$800
- ? Faribault Eagles Auxiliary #1460 ~ \$250
- ? Council of Catholic Women, Divine Mercy Catholic Church Faribault ~\$350
- ? Kettering Properties ~ \$2,800
- ? Wells Fargo ~ Community Campaign ~ \$55
- ? Network For Good (Danae & Michelle Bell) ~ \$72.75

- ? United Way of Dodge County ~ \$3,000 ? year allocation
- ? District 1 Hospital Auxiliary, Faribault ~ \$500
- ? Kettering Properties ~ \$400
- ? Northfield Hospital ~ \$400
- ? Council of Catholic Women St. Patrick's Church of Shieldsville ~ \$25
- ? Northfield Area United Way ~ \$625 ~ 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter allocation 2005/2006
- ? United Way of Faribault ~ \$500 ~ 2<sup>nd</sup> quarterly allocation 2006
- ? United Way Donor Designations ~

Theresa Morrow, Anonymous, Sheri & Tim Wagner Jim Haug, Beth Dienst, Charles Kline, Margaret & JD Walker, Gail Mittelstead

# **In Loving Memory Of**

In loving memory of Joyce Alberts

Julie and Larry Kriesel

In loving memory of a special friend of IRIS ~ Lisa Chappuis

**Diana Sundwall** 

**Anonymous Donor** 

In Honor of

The Walker and Raidt Families

From Margaret and JD Walker

# Memorials

In loving memory of precious little Paige Schoenbauer on her 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday

#### Grandma & Grandpa Rickiby

Chrissy and Ross Larson

In loving memory of Samuel Fuentes

**Mommy and Daddy** 

(Margaret and Nelson Fuentes)

In loving memory of Natalie Rose Anderson

Juanita and John Baldwin

In loving memory of Joshua Zak

Grandma and Grandpa

Juanita and John Baldwin

In loving memory of Lizzy Dienst on her 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday (May 18<sup>th</sup>). Love you lots and miss you.

**Mommy and Daddy** 

(Beth & Nick Dienst)

**Linda and James Dean** 

(Who found one of Lizzy's balloons)

In Loving Memory of Finley Rae and Chase Douglas LaCanne

**Barb Bates-Wurst** 

Jennifer & Jason Goodwin

LMH Appraisals, Inc. / Larry Harn

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Dr. Kris and Matt Drevlow
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Janel M. Pitzen

Jessica Lakin & Zachary Velishek

In loving memory of Jacob John Aul, we will never forget you.

**Mommy and Daddy** 

(Kirsten Conry and Joe Aul)

In memory of Nicky Zeipelt, Love

Mommy, Daddy & Big Brother Ben

(Diane and Paul Zeipelt)

In loving memory of Joshua Newbauer, we love and miss you everyday.

Grandma

(Catherine Benkert)

In loving memory of our precious little Trevor Pint

**Deborah and Matthew Hoffer** 

In loving memory of our precious nephew Kilian Richard Donahue

December 22, 2003 - December 25, 2003

In honor of your 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday

Julie and Phil Zweber

Mary and Dr. David McIntyre

In loving memory of Christian Joel Kriesel honoring his birthday, January 18<sup>th</sup>

Julie and Larry Kriesel

In loving memory of Erin Grace Kriesel honoring her birthday, April 21<sup>st</sup>

Julie and Larry Kriesel

In loving memory of Sabrina Marie Strouth. We miss you Brina!

Mommy and Daddy

(Lori and Troy Strouth)

Josh, Shelby, and Sidney

In loving memory of our precious little John Michael. We love you!

Mommy and Daddy

(Kely & Dan Niles)

#### **Removing Unwanted Solicitations**

Having a child is a matter of public record, because of that many magazine companies and businesses can get your name, address, and phone number to make solicitations. If you

Do Not want these types of solicitations

contact the numbers / addresses below.

It can take six months or longer to be removed from a list once you have been added.

Direct Marketing Association: 1-212-768-7277 or visit their website: <a href="www.dmaconsumers.org">www.dmaconsumers.org</a> or send a letter to:

**Direct Marketing Association** 

#### Mail Preference Service

P. O. Box 9008

Farmingdale, NY 11735-9008

#### **Direct Marketing Association**

#### **Phone Preference Service**

P.O. Box 9014

#### Farmingdale, NY 11735-9014

It works best if you contact all addresses, and provide them with all variations of your name and spellings.

Visit the National Cell Phone Do Not Call List at: www.donotcall.gov

If you are receiving baby product samples and / or formula samples, please contact the IRIS office at (507) 334-4748 for assistance.

#### **Special Funeral Music**

IRIS regularly receives requests for music to be played at funeral and memorial services as well as other special services held by parents. Please take a few moments to visit our wonderful website <a href="https://www.irisRemembers.com">www.irisRemembers.com</a> and review the list of music that you will find there. If you have suggestions to add to that list please let us know. If possible include the artist.

# Thank You For all of your Help With the IRIS Charity Weekend

Thanks to all of your help we were able to raise over \$10,000 for IRIS. Below you will find a list of many of the volunteers. We are sorry for anyone that may have been left off of this list.

Marianne Vandereide, Jessie & Jim Donahue, Angie & Dan Neubauer, Jackie & Jason Schoenbauer, Libby & Thomas Schmit, Katie Savoie, Reane & Larry Jones, Katie Raidt, Margaret Walker, Maren MacGregor & Hannah, Greg Haman, Kelsey Marks, Elizabeth Johnson, Anne & Joe Pientka, Jennie Umbreit, Natalie & Leif Crooks, Jessica Lakin, Kevin & LeaAnn Cory, Chris & Mike Petricka, Kelly Petricka, Brandi Petricka, Kathy Hanek, Tom Sticka, Denise & Mike Dube`, Tanya Anderson, Jim Goldsmith, Mike Neubauer, Tammy Dvorak, Marilyn & Jim

Holicky, Carol Underferth, Anna & Dick Kettering, Betty Muellenmeister, Ruth, Guy, Viole, Mya, Luke and Alex Friedstrom, Kelly Velander, Anne Dienst, Stacy & John Chmelik, Sam Jansens, Cassie Sjogren, Caitlin Sundwall, Justine Adamek, Jeff Sundwall, Andy Sundwall, Diana Sundwall, Kris & Al Shuda, Babe, Teresa, Libby & Amanda Moer, Jim Walsh, Chris Nelson and the Nelson's catering department including Jeannie & Scott, the City of Faribault and the other people who simply got up and helped when we were swamped, Thank you!

#### IRIS would also like to thank our Charity Weekend Sponsors

1<sup>st</sup> United Bank, Boldt Funeral Home, Bruzek Funeral Home, City of Faribault, District One Hospital, Faribault American Legion, Faribault Community Center, Kettering Realty, McRaith Funeral Home, Nelsons County Market, Parker-Kohl Funeral Home, and State Bank of Faribault.

#### **Silent Auction Thank You**

IRIS would also like to thank those who donated to our silent auction. We had well over 100 baskets! Some donated in memory of a child, others given by anonymous donors, and still others were from businesses located throughout our service area. Thank you just does not seem like enough to say for your generosity. Your actions and kindness prove daily that . . .

"One Caring Heart Makes A Difference."

## Milk Moola

IRIS accepts Kwik Trip Milk Moola and Donuts to Dough. What is the Milk Moola and Donuts to Dough Program? For every Milk Moola bottle cap or bag top found on milk and juice products from Kwik Trip, or Donut to Dough coupon found on Kwik Trip donuts IRIS will receive 5? or 10? Believe it or not the money adds up fast!

Please mail or drop off your Milk Moola or Donut to Dough coupons at the IRIS office.

Special thanks to the students at the MN School for the Blind who have been counting the coupons and bottle caps for us.

# **Support Group Meetings**

You are not in this alone. IRIS is here to help, to listen, and to understand. One of the ways we do this is the IRIS Support Group Meetings. Meetings are held twice each month at the IRIS office (101 Third St. NW in downtown Faribault) Meetings are informal and a wonderful place to vent your frustrations,

feelings, and share emotions with other parents who understand exactly how you feel. Meetings are just a place to talk about your experiences and your child without anyone judging you, your feelings, or your thoughts.

**Midday Meetings** are held on the second  $(2^{nd})$  Wednesday of each month from 11 am - 1 pm

**Evening Meetings** are held on the fourth  $(4^{th})$  Tuesday of each month from 7 - 8:30 pm

Midday Meetings	Evening Meeting
June 14 <sup>th</sup>	June 27 <sup>th</sup>
July 12 <sup>th</sup>	July 25 <sup>th</sup>
August 9 <sup>th</sup>	August 22 <sup>nd</sup>
September 13 <sup>th</sup>	September 26 <sup>th</sup>
October 11 <sup>th</sup>	October 24 <sup>th</sup>
November 8 <sup>th</sup>	November 28 <sup>th</sup>
December 13 <sup>th</sup>	No Meeting

#### **Our Baby Was a Gift**

By Jennifer Braun - Teacher

Our baby was a gift to us, and a great teacher.

We learned patience and compassion.

We were given a crash course in values ~

Things that once seemed so important

All at once became meaningless.

There was a new depth to our souls, our faith, and our being ~

A learning

A wisdom

An understanding.

We ourselves had touched death ~

Death that came wrapped in a little blanket.

This was death to our humanity.

We have also touched life and hope.

A life we will greet in heaven,

And a hope to meet him there soon.

A faith we once practiced, we now live.

We discovered friends and neighbors we never knew.

Stories that resonate throughout generations.

People who taught us empathy and comfort.

We learned how to let go and to go on.

All these things were taught to use by
a precious teacher

Who never spoke a work or taught a class
And whose footprints will remain
always in our heart.

#### **Golf Memorials**

Would you like your child remembered during the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual IRIS Golf Tournament? Anyone can purchase a memorial wind-chime. If you would like you can also send or e-mail a picture of your child or a special keepsake to be added to the signage for each wind-chime.

IRIS

**101 NW Third Street** 

Faribault, MN 55021

E-mail: iris@LL.net

# The 15<sup>th</sup> National Perinatal Bereavement Conference October 12-15, 2006 Chicago, Illinois

Sponsored by Pregnancy Loss and Infant Death Alliance (PLIDA). For information on the conference overview, featured presenters, conference schedule, hotel and travel information please visit: www.perinatalbereavementconference.org\

Would you like to attend this conference but are concerned about getting to Chicago and back. Call the IRIS office today; we are looking into making special bus arrangements for anyone who would like to attend. Call today as space is limited, fee based on number attending. Call (507) 334-4748.

A Dad's Grief

**Author Unknown** 

It must be very difficult

To be a man in grief

Since "men don't cry" and "men are strong"

No tears can bring relief.

It must be very difficult

To stand up to the test

And field the calls and visitors

So she can get some rest.

They always ask if she's alright

And what she' going through.

But seldom take his hand and ask,

"My friend, but how are you?"

He hears her crying in the night and thinks his heart will break.

He dries her tears and comforts her,

But "stays strong" for her sake.

It must be very difficult

To start each day anew

And try to be so very brave –

He lost his baby too.

### **Scrapbooking**

After taking the summer months off we will be getting back into scrapbooking in September. Scrapbooking is held on the  $3^{rd}$  Sat. of the month most often at the IRIS office (101 NW  $3^{rd}$  St. in Faribault)

Please remember, this is for IRIS parents only and is designed for memorial scrapbooks of our children

that have passed away.

Thanks to many donations IRIS has a lot of supplies for you to use and scrapbooks if you need one.

We also have a generous donation from Laura Schultz a Creative Memories consultant from Janesville. Laura is offering all IRIS parents the opportunity to purchase one (1) creative memories scrapbook at a 30% discount. Please call the IRIS office for Laura's phone number.

#### **Scrapbooking Dates**

September 16<sup>th</sup> at the IRIS office 10 – 4

October 21<sup>St</sup> Scrapbooking will be held at Bonnie's Boutique ~ 21 Franklin SE in Morristown. (15 miles west of Faribault on Hwy 60.) RSVP to the IRIS office. Space is limited. There is a \$5 fee. This fee includes lunch! Please bring snack to share and your own beverages.

November  $18^{th}$  at the IRIS office 10 - 4

December 16<sup>th</sup> at the IRIS office 10 – 4

#### **Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth**

The Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth for the state of Minnesota has been updated! Please visit the IRIS website or the MN Department of Health website for current updates in paperwork. It's easier to understand and request a certificate!

All document must be notarized, please stop at the IRIS office for this free service and help with the New state requirement.

www.irisRemembers.com

www.health.state.mn.us

#### **IRIS Calendar of Events**

June

 $23^{\mbox{rd}}$  –  $25^{\mbox{th}}$  . . . National Gathering for Bereaved Parents of the USA

Visit www.bpusastl.org for more information or call (314) 878-0890

27 <sup>th</sup> Evening Support Group Meeting 7 – 8:30PM at the IRIS Office
July
1 <sup>st</sup> Registration and Memorials Requested for the 5 <sup>th</sup> Annual IRIS Golf Tournament
12 <sup>th</sup> Midday Support Group Meeting 11am – 1 pm at the IRIS Office
21 <sup>st</sup> <b>5<sup>th</sup> Annual IRIS Golf Tournament</b> – Faribault Golf Club (1700 NW 17 <sup>th</sup> St. Faribault MN)
11 am Registration, 1 pm Shotgun Start, 6 pm Dinner & Awards
25 <sup>th</sup> Evening Support Group Meeting 7 – 8:30PM at the IRIS Office
August
9 <sup>th</sup> Midday Support Group Meeting 11am – 1 pm at the IRIS Office
22 <sup>nd</sup> Evening Support Group Meeting 7 – 8:30PM at the IRIS Office
September
13 <sup>th</sup> Midday Support Group Meeting 11am – 1 pm at the IRIS Office
16 <sup>th</sup> IRIS Scrapbooking 10 am – 4 pm at the IRIS office
26 <sup>th</sup> Evening Support Group Meeting 7 – 8:30PM at the IRIS Office
October ~ National Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month
1 <sup>st</sup>
11 <sup>th</sup>
12 – 15 <sup>th</sup> Winds of Change Whispers of Hope, Remembering Precious Lives, 15 <sup>th</sup> National Perinatal Bereavement Conference, Chicago IL, visit <u>www.perinatalbereavementconference.org</u> for

info

 $21^{\text{St}}$ ..... IRIS Scrapbooking 10 am - 4 pm at Bonnie's Boutique 21 Franklin SE Morristown - RSVP Requested

 $24^{\mbox{th}}$  . . . . . . . Evening Support Group Meeting 7 – 8:30PM at the IRIS Office

#### **November**

8<sup>th</sup> . . . . . . . . Midday Support Group Meeting 11am – 1 pm at the IRIS Office

18<sup>th</sup> . . . . . . . . IRIS Scrapbooking 10 am – 4 pm at the IRIS office

28<sup>th</sup> . . . . . . . Evening Support Group Meeting 7 – 8:30PM at the IRIS Office

#### **December**

13<sup>th</sup> . . . . . . . Midday Support Group Meeting 11am – 1 pm at the IRIS Office

16<sup>th</sup> . . . . . IRIS Scrapbooking 10 am – 4 pm at the IRIS office

 ${\bf 26}^{th}\ldots\ldots \ \, \textbf{No Evening Support Group Meeting}$ 

#### **Memorial Wind Chimes**

Memorial wind chimes will be placed on the course. Parents are encouraged to send or e-mail IRIS a picture of their child, pictures of special keepsakes, important dates, scripture, and /or poems. These items will be used to personalize each sign that will accompany the

36" long glow in the dark wind chimes.