



Infants Remembered In Silence, Inc.

Whispers of the Heart Newsletter

February 2, 2010

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From Diana's Desk:

Dear IRIS Parents, Family, and Friends,

The volunteers, staff, and board members of Infants Remembered In Silence, Inc. (IRIS) would like to invite you, your family, and friends to our upcoming Charity Weekend! The IRIS Charity Weekend has been held annually since 1998 and has proven to be one of our biggest fundraisers. This year past year, funding from other sources has been cut by as much as $\frac{3}{4}$ making this year's Charity Weekend even more crucial.

IRIS services are received by 6 to 7 thousand people each year (a conservative estimate). This includes parents, grandparents, family, friends, co-workers, professionals, etc. While IRIS does not charge for these services, there is a price tag for the exceptionally rare and free services you received. On average, for each child that dies, IRIS spends approximately \$450. We ask that you take time to think about the services you, your family, friends, and co-workers have received free of charge from IRIS, thanks to the generosity of others. We hope that you will want to help continue those services for still others who will experience the death of a child in 2010.

One way that you can help IRIS is to attend some or all of the upcoming IRIS Charity Weekend events. Volunteer help is also needed at these events.

What Help is Needed?

- Silent Auction Items – you can ask businesses, family, and friends to donate items and/or you can donate an item(s) or basket in memory of your child or loved one.
- Items for the Bake Sale are needed.
- Volunteers are needed to help with the breakfast, Silent Auction, Bingo, and Family Fun Night!
- Hang posters and share the info about the events with your church, family, and friends.

Your compassion and kindness will help will make a difference in the lives of others.

You, Your Family, and Friends are Invited to
The IRIS Charity Weekend
February 13th and 14th, 2010

Family Fun Night

Saturday, February 13th
5:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Faribault Community Center
15 Division St. – Faribault, MN



Open gym, open pool, cookie decorating, Fun Hair styles, temporary tattoos, & more.
\$3 per person or \$10 per family.
Food and beverages will be for sale. An adult must accompany children. Come have dinner...stay and play!

Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, February 14th
8 am – 12 noon
Bring your sweetheart!
Faribault American Legion
112 NE 5th St. – Faribault, MN
Adult \$6.50 Children (2-6) \$3.50



BINGO

Bingo will be held
Sunday, February 14th
1:00 – 3:30 p.m.
American Legion
Huge Cash Prizes!
ALL AGES WELCOME but an adult must accompany children under the age of 18.

Bake Sale and Silent Auction

Homemade treats will be available for sale throughout the day, while quantities last and there will be many great items to bid on at the Silent Auction.



First Annual IRIS Turkey Trot

The First Annual IRIS 5K Turkey Trot was a huge success thanks to the event chairperson Deanna Kuennen, committee members,

Courtney Wolff, Angie Petricka, Wendy Rysavy, Diana Sundwall, a hundred volunteers, and the Shattuck St. Mary's School and Sports Complex. Approximately 500 people from all over Minnesota and United States including Colorado, Illinois, Wisconsin, Texas, Michigan, New Mexico, Arizona, Missouri and North Carolina took part in the Thanksgiving morning 5K timed run, walk and kids' fun run. Sergio Silva of Faribault won the timed run in the men's category with a time of 20:06. Haley Lund of Faribault won the women's category with a time of 21:35. Over \$16,000 was raised for IRIS. Results from the 5K run are available on the IRIS website. Pictures of the Turkey Trot will soon be available on the website. Click on IRIS scrapbook. Do you have pictures of this event that you would like to share? Please e-mail them to iris@qwestoffice.net and we will add them online.

In addition to the Turkey Trot that was held in Faribault, there was another impressive Turkey Trot that was held on the Saturday following Thanksgiving. Women from the Women's Federal Prison in Waseca MN held a Turkey Trot on their campus and donated the funds raised to IRIS. Monies raised by this event were matched by the IRIS Prison Liaison. Women for the prison have also begun knitting and crocheting for IRIS.



Thank You For Your Kind Donation

♥ Thanks to all of the volunteers from the IRIS Turkey Trot and the Holiday Service of Remembrance. Without your time and talents

these wonderful events would not happen. Your dedication and time commitment showed, allowing both events to run very smoothly. Thank you.

- ♥ Nancy Geren and Wendy Sandahl for their wonderful Prayer Shawls.
- ♥ Daisy and Michael Christopherson for scrapbooking supplies donated in honor and loving memory of Avalon Christopherson.
- ♥ Barb and Dave Horman for yarn, chocolate, scrapbooking supplies, vacuum bags, and office supplies donated in honor and loving memory of Kyle David Horman.
- ♥ Golden K of Faribault MN for their donation of baby blankets and hat/cap sets.
- ♥ Women from the Waseca Women's Federal Prison for their kind donation of baby blankets.
- ♥ Divine Mercy Catholic Church for storage space at the Mother Samuel Building.



IRIS Newsletters

As many of you may have noticed IRIS is no longer sending out four (4) newsletters a year. The reason for this change is simply the cost. IRIS has been printing and mailing our newsletters by bulk mail for years and cost has been increasing yearly. IRIS now pays approx \$1,000 per mailing of one newsletter (\$4,000 a yearly). In addition, many of you have stated that the newsletters contain time sensitive information and you are not receiving it in the appropriate time frame. There are two reasons for this. One is that bulk mailing, while less expensive, can take 6 weeks or longer to be delivered and two, bulk mail is not forwarded. If you move or your address changes in any way, your newsletter will not be delivered. We are not notified of this, thus corrections cannot be made.

We have also heard from many of you that that you would rather read the newsletter online. We will begin posting newsletters online more frequently and it is our hope that this will eliminate some of the problems that we have been having. If you do not have access to the internet we ask that you contact us so that arrangements to keep you informed of IRIS events.

You are the key to making this new system work! We will be sending out e-mail notices when a newsletter is posted online. In order to do this we need to have your current e-mail address. Please send an e-mail with NEWSLETTER as the subject to: iris@qwestoffice.net



Unconditional Love

© By José Cruz - 2009

Sitting on the clouds of heaven
We know you're in a better place
I know you're not alone
Up there you'll find a familiar face.

With your wings so white and bright
Feel free to come down to earth
To give your mother and I a kiss
Every day and night.

We miss you dearly like you wouldn't believe
I just wish you were here
With your mom and me where you're suppose to be.

We have a beautiful son
That we named Lucky
And I'm proud to say
That you're his mama and I his popi.

The day will soon come
Which we will be together
For this life does not last
But our unconditional love is forever.

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."
~ Aesop

IRIS Calendar of Events



- 10 Midday Support Group Meeting 11am - 1 pm
- 13 Family Fun Night
Faribault Community Center 5:30 – 8 pm
- 14 IRIS Pancake Breakfast - Faribault American Legion
Breakfast 8am – 12 noon, Bingo 1– 3:30
Bake Sale & Silent Auction all day
- 23 Evening Support Group Meeting 7 – 8:30 pm
- 27 Scrapbooking Meeting 9 am – 9 pm call for location



- 10 Midday Support Group Meeting 11am – 1pm
- 23 Evening Support Group Meeting 7 – 8:30 pm
- 20 Scrapbooking Meeting 9 am – 9 pm call for location



- 14 Midday Support Group Meeting 11am -1 pm
- 27 Evening Support Group Meeting 7 – 8:30 pm



- 12 Midday Support Group Meeting 11am – 1pm
- 25 Evening Support Group Meeting 7 – 8:30 pm



IRIS Wish List

- ♥ Labels (Avery 8160)
- ♥ Baby lotions (sample size)
- ♥ Stamps
- ♥ Postal scale
- ♥ Baby yarn or sport weight yarn in pastel colors. We are very low on blue yarn.
- ♥ Printer ink (HP 56 black HP 57 color)
- ♥ Scrapbooking supplies including scrapbooks, scrapbooking papers, embellishments
- ♥ Cash donations and memorials
- ♥ Books for the lending library (we accept books that you have read and would like to share with other bereaved parents, grandparents, and friends)
- ♥ Silent Auction items for the Charity Weekend
- ♥ Volunteers for the Charity Weekend



Polishing the Memories

By Melissa Cusick

For my son, Matthew Thomas Cusick
February 14, 1994 – April 28, 1994

My precious boy, calmly staring
at someone beyond the edges
of the picture frame.

You are a whisper of beauty.
You are a song of perfection.

Come close and you too can smell,
the outfit that once fit him so well.
Feel his cheek, so smooth, so warm.
Touch his lips, his crooked smile, feel his charm.
Look deep into his sky-blue eyes.
Hold his hand, so small and tender in size.
Can you feel it? He seems so wise.

Smiling back at me, looking deep,
oh, so deep within my soul.
Tell me, why did you have to go?
Was there something I did not know?

My son...
I miss you and all we never had,
all of the steps you never took,
all of the friends you never made,
all of the stories you never told,
all of the boo-boo's I never kissed,
the girlfriends, the wife, the children, too,
all of the grandchildren...I never had from you.

I dust them off, these memories and thoughts.
I polish them each day.
I dust your picture,
following your eyes,
following you.

Yes, Matthew, following you...some day.

All my love,
Mommy

Someday

By Linda Drewes

I sit and hold your picture
As you looked so long ago.
I wonder, how would you look
Were you here with me today.
God had you in His plans that day
You were lifted from my arms.
But still, as days go passing by,
My eyes keep searching, everywhere.
My heart is still as broken
As it was that other day, and,
Though the years have passed and gone
I'll love you, each and every day.
And if the Lord gave me one wish
I wouldn't think, not for a second.
I'd ask to see your face, my son,
For just a single, fleeting minute.
You're locked up deep within my soul,
And etched into my heart.
And when the time is right, my son,
I'll once more fold you into my arms.....
Someday.....



Children We Lovingly Remembered at the IRIS
Holiday Service on December 6, 2009

Eunice K. Shumway (The Chapel is dedicated in her memory), Kaden Robert Ackman, Michael Almendinger, Calvin Almendinger, Hannah Marie Alexander, Baby Anderson, Brice Alec Anderson, Baby Bauer, Cashe Lonnie Berge, Cole Brent Krenzke, Mariah Grace Boerner, Betty Lynn Boerner, Baby B, Hope Brandt, Faith Brandt, Grace Brandt, Noah Roland Emil Brandt, Abigail Elizabeth Brandt, Our Precious Angels, Scott Arthur Carver, Avalon Lia Christopherson, Baby Boy, Baby Boy, Nathan Earl Cory, Our Babies, Corey Lyn Creger, Preston Hugh Crooks, Baby Crooks, Lucky Jorge` Cruz, Annette Marie David, William Robert and Bethany Agnes DeGrood, Lizzy Sammon Dienst, Lily Marcella Dietz, My Darling Daughter, My Beloved Son, Tahirih Dimayuga, Hudson Gregory Dison, Kilian Richard Donahue, Declan Arthur Donahue, Malachi Donahue, Baby Donahue, Jerry Dougherty, Aubrey Corionna Dozark, Carolyn Ann Dozark, Kayla Jamie Dusek, Angel little ones Embury, Our Four Babies, Marcia Flim, Gerber Twin Girl, Keira Helen Goldberg, Victoria Ann Graves, Chloe Louise Groseclose, Lindsay Rose Hermsen, Scout Nicole Herndon, Baby Hjelman, Baby Hjelman, Derek Joel Holicky, Kyle David Horman, Baby Jackson, Brian James Jacobson, Grace Johnson, Gracie Johnson, McKenzie Grace Johnson, Wyatt, Gabriel Karnick, Kevin Karnick, Elizabeth Karnick, Baby, Molly Blue, Baby Girl Keith, Baby Kelley, Baby Kelley, Baby Boy Kelley, Mary Kelley, Logan Leonard Kempenich, Precious Baby K, Hayden T. Kirsch, Kenden G. Kirsch, Hope Kuennen, Augustus Michael Kuennen, Chyanne Rose Kuschel, Chase Douglas LaCanne, Finley Rae LaCanne, Jacqueline Margaret Mae LaCanne, Joseph Robert Lake, Christopher James Larsen, Baby Maas, Jacob Conner Mack, Baby, Joseph Thomas Markman, My three Children, Chester Mayo, Aiden Patrick Mc Guire, Julian Marcos Mendoza, Nicholas Joseph Moravec, Sara Jane Murray, Gracie Ann Narveson, Jonathan Norbert Narveson, Peter Vincent Narveson, Baby, Joshua Daniel Neubauer, Daniel Robert Novak, Ariel Payne, Gabriel Payne, Xavier James Payne, Baby, Lillian Grace Petricka, Daniel James Piepho, Noah Ethan Priebe, Samuel Ethan Priebe, Owen B. Pugh, Aiden Michael Puppe, Owen Michael Puppe, Angel Twins, Bennett Lou-Jean Rassmussen-Terry, Angel Alison Reuvers, Jodi Lynn Rickaby, My First Grandson, Jesse D. Robinson, Samantha Opal Rolstad, Baby R, Hannah Rose Rysavy, Baby St. Martin, Baby Moeller, Amanda Jo Saylor, Baby S, Jake Michael Schaffran, Zachary Andrew Schmit, Baby Bailey Schmit, Paige Emily Schoenbauer, Michael Charles Shelby, Blake Robert Stadler, Andrew James

Stephens, Garrett Robert Sterling, Alexander Paul Stout, Michael Glenn Strampe, Baby Strampe, Sabrina Marie Strouth, Baby S., Baby S., Derek Joseph Sundwall, Precious Twins, Baby Boy, Dawn Thorson, Baby T, Ben Timothy Tonjum, Jacob Ryan Torgerud, Arianna Luella Trotman, Baby, Kelly Jean Vandereide Erica Kay Vandereide, Griffin Jon Velishek, William Thomas Wagner, Baby Wagner, Jay Wang, Emma Kaye Ward, Baby, Baby Girl, J.J. Wolf, Baby Dillon, Baby Z, Joshua Clarence Zak, Baby Zak, Anthony Michael Zimprich, Our Twelve Children

And all the children remembered in their parent's
and loved one's hearts.



Now I Know

By Shelley Worley

I never knew, when you lost your child,
what you were going through.
I wasn't there, I stayed away,
I just deserted you.
I didn't know the words to say,
I didn't know the things to do.
I think your pain frightened me,
I didn't know how to comfort you.

And then one day, my child died.
You were the first one there.
You quietly stayed by my side, listened,
and held me as I cried.
You didn't leave, you didn't go.
The lesson learned is...
now I know.



Please join us for the
IRIS Charity Weekend
February 13th – Family Fun Night
Faribault Community Center

February 14th a Full Day of Fun
At the American Legion in Faribault
Pancake Breakfast 8 am – 12 noon
BINGO 1 – 3:30 pm
Silent Auction and Bake Sale All Day!

Your help is needed with this event!
Silent Auction items are needed!
Baked goods are needed!