

# Iowa SIDS Foundation

## 2024 WALK SPONSORS

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*Supporting Families Today, Educating for the Future*

## 2024 Walk for the Future Recap

On Saturday, August 24th, 2024 participants families, friends, and communities from all over the state gathered at one of the six Walk locations to honor and celebrate Iowa babies. This year was extra special as we celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Walk for the Future! Walk locations in 2024 were held in Cedar Rapids, Dubuque, Fort Dodge, Le Mars, Urbandale, and Washington.

This year Walk participants totaled over 540! It was always the goal and focus that this family-friendly event creates an atmosphere of support and community. We hope your family felt surrounded by love and hope as your precious baby was honored and remembered.



**This year the annual Walk for the Future raised over \$59,000!** Thank you for your part in helping the Foundation raise funds to continue our support and education services! We are grateful for your support!

These funds raised at the annual Walk for the future each year are used for the daily operations of the Iowa SIDS Foundation including grief resources for newly bereaved Iowans, educational materials and presentations to Iowa healthcare and child care providers, pack n plays for families in need, other outreach materials, and to support SIDS/SUID research.



To make the 25th anniversary of the Walk even more special Governor Kim Reynolds signed a proclamation from the state of Iowa Executive Department proclaiming August 24th, 2024 as Iowa SIDS Walk for the Future Day! This proclamation acknowledged the past 25 years we have gathered to remember our babies and raise awareness and the current work the Foundation does to promote safe sleep and reduce the rate of SIDS and

Continued on page 2



## 2024 Walk for the Future Recap Cont.



sleep-related deaths in the state of Iowa.

The 25th anniversary celebration was made possible by forty-four generous corporate, community, and individual sponsors. This year our special edition Diamond Level sponsors made gifts to help make our 25th anniversary the best it can be! Thank you to Diamond Level sponsors; L&L Insulations of Ankeny, Jeneary Dental of Le Mars, Better Builders of Urbandale, the Family of Libbi Bendickson of Le Mars, and Deck Central of Urbandale! Please consider thanking those listed by visiting their businesses, referring their services, or simply taking the time to say thank you!

Each site is led by a walk coordinator and their team of local volunteers. From reserving parks, to gathering prizes, securing food, and hosting the walk, these teams of volunteers make your local Walk happen! Their commitment, teamwork, connections, and creativity make each Walk unique and special for the families that attend. Thank you to; *Andria Davis, Tina Wagner, Kenzie Pirie, Pam Jeneary, and Tony & Tricia* for your time and leadership in guiding your team of volunteers!! We couldn't do it without you!

If you would like to be involved in planning, volunteering or hosting in 2025 please reach out to us now at [info@iowasids.org](mailto:info@iowasids.org)!

If you would like to provide any feedback regarding your Walk experience please email [casey@iowasids.org](mailto:casey@iowasids.org). We would love to hear from you!



October is  
**SIDS**  
Awareness month  
**WE REMEMBER.**



# Remembering Our Babies

A life need not be long-lived for it to have been meaningful.

## Happy Birthday

### November

Anthony Allan Appley  
Jacob Alexander Boles  
Marisol Arlett Castaneda  
Katie Marie Clarey  
Sydney Ann Davidson  
Jory James Fisk  
Adam Randal Jones  
Sophie Ann Kracht  
Shawn Leon Levi  
Taylor Rose Levi  
Grant Michael Palan  
Matthew Thomas Samuelson  
Jaelyn Macie Jo See  
Nathaniel Charles Seymour  
Easton Steele Sims  
Tanner Richard Skelton  
Isaiah Thomas Swailes  
Taryn Suzanne Tuttle  
Tjay Scott VanLangen

### December

Robin Christopher Carrell  
Beimer  
Isaac Paul Gellett  
Brock Adam Gould  
Maverick John Healey  
Nekeia L. Hunt  
Catherine Louise Jacoby  
Ashlee E. Kallsen  
Baylee Ann Ludtke  
Alyssa Renee Lux  
Camden Ray O'Connor  
Jaxton Daniel Plathe  
Kennedi Eve Sherwood  
Preston Douglas Spahn  
Presley Nicole Whitaker  
Andy Duane Whiteside  
Tyler Wayne Williams  
Wyatt James Wilson  
Keaton James Wirtz

### January

Kai Maurice Barnhill-Philius  
Libbi Marsha Bendickson  
Dalton James Bixby  
Joseph Landon Blades  
Brianna Alexis Bostock

Brianna Elizabeth Boyd  
Lane Kurt Carter  
Rita Marie Chadwick  
Matthew Paul Eckerman  
Gavyn Scott Judd  
Logan James Lamoreux  
James Allen Magruder  
Frederick Robert "Robbie"  
Dean  
Mortimer III  
Justice Marie Ruthann  
Newsom  
James Nupp Jr. "JJ"  
Benjamin David Person  
Landon Scott Schaver  
Skyler Eugene Smith  
Derek Steinkamp  
Austin Micheal Vogt

### February

Tyree R. Barnes  
Hannah Jo Blair  
Alyssa Coulbourn  
Rowan James Dolezal  
Bentlee Jacob Edwards  
Christopher Scott Evans  
Grant Philip Evans  
Kenneth Edward Giffin  
James Ray Griffin  
Tysen Jacob Imbus  
Danika Jo James  
Hazel Christine Liston  
Jalen Joseph Litscher  
O'Malley  
David Mikel Logan  
Abigail K. Mar  
Jackson Andrew Mueller  
Rylan Joseph Ogden  
Tanner Lee Port  
Alec John Schlotfeldt  
Carson T. Sickler  
Izzabella Marie Tambornino  
Colin Michael Tipping  
Presley Nicole Sapphire  
Whitaker  
Lauren Elizabeth Nichole  
Viaene  
Zayden Robert Vote

## In Loving Memory

### November

Elizabeth Grace Atzen  
Silus J Bigbee  
Nathaniel Frederick Borelli  
Abel Cenicerros  
Cody Michael Coleman  
Rylee Elizabeth Erwin  
Freya Lynn Kay Keith  
Kristina Ann Krienert  
Dawson John Lewis  
Amara C. Magee  
Abigail K. Mar  
Shelby Jo McConnell  
Johnathan Danial Prescott  
DaeShawn Marquis Rodriguez  
Laikyn Allyn Shutts  
Beth Marie Stukerjurgan  
Devon Own Tripp  
McKensie Lynn Wakeman  
Gavyn Darwin Webb  
Warren Edwin White

### December

Kayla Sue Brewer  
Cael David Burmeister  
Max David Bushlack  
Cara Lynn Eddie  
Dash Riley Ellingworth  
Ryder Martin Harnish  
Ryker Edward Huizenga  
Chelsea Miranda Jones  
Abigail Ilene Knoop  
Quinten Matis  
Maverick James Lynn Miller  
Jackson Andrew Mueller  
Knox Owen Palmer  
Darran Dasan Perkins  
Isaac Thomas Pressley  
Jaelyn Macie Jo See  
Erika Elizabeth Story  
Shane Adam Tate  
Kyle Anthony Timmons  
Noah James Zarate

### January

Dylan Peter Christian  
Andersen

Kai Maurice Barnhill-Philius  
Cody James Beck  
Robin Christopher Carrell  
Beimer  
Shialoh Marie Christopher  
Sydney Ann Davidson  
Robert Carl Davis III  
Kory Lynn Dunkin  
Isaac Paul Gellett  
Ryker Edward Huizenga  
Hailey Erin Lincoln  
Jacob Anthony Lipski  
Gunner Jacob Alex Nail  
Jessica Lynne Otto  
Ariel Faith Rattler  
Zachary Kyle Renaud  
Easton Steele Sims  
Kellan Rayne Christine  
Starrett  
Taryn Suzanne Tuttle  
Andy Duane Whiteside

### February

Matthew James Avery  
Jacob Alexander Boles  
Marisol Arlett Castaneda  
Kaleb Dean Hargens  
Nekeia L. Hunt  
Alexa Jean Jonas  
Ashlee E. Kallsen  
Peyton Jo Lehman  
Samantha Alina Parks  
Ryan Allen Robinson  
Matthew Thomas Samuelson



## Board Member Spotlight: Angela Van Horn



Meet your newest Board Member Angela Van Horn!

Angela officially joined the Board of Directors in June of this year and we are so excited to have her. Prior to joining the Board, Angela has served as a Peer Contact for many years reaching out to newly bereaved families to offer support. She continues to serve in this role along with her Board membership.

This year, Angela attended the Urbandale location for the 2024 Walk for the Future to learn more about the Walk process and hosting responsibilities and hopes to bring a new Walk location in Southern Iowa where she resides in 2025. Angela serves on the Board in honor of her son Joseph sharing,

*"When my son died, it was the last thing I ever thought I'd go through. I spent years sad and angry with a lot of anxiety. I distanced myself from babies, especially baby boys for a long time. Now I find certain ways of celebrating Joseph's life that brings comfort."*

We are so grateful Angela chose to serve on the Board as a way to celebrate Joseph! When Angela is engaged in Foundation activities, you may find her writing, trying out new Mexican restaurants, or going on long motorcycle rides. She also has a knack for making floral arrangements. Thank you Angela for your service to the Board and families you serve as a Peer Contact!



## A Review of September

Did you know that the month of September is Infant Mortality Awareness Month, Baby Safety Month, and NICU Awareness Month? September kept the Foundation busy with outreach, education and advocating for these special topics each of which tie into safe sleep and SIDS awareness.

The Infant mortality rate, an important marker of the overall health of a society was 5.6 in 2022 which was the first rise in 20 years. The five leading causes of infant mortality include birth defects, preterm birth and low birth weight, SIDS, Injuries like suffocation, and maternal pregnancy complications. The Iowa SIDS Foundation participated in the Roll Baby Roll infant mortality awareness event sponsored by EveryStep on Thursday September 26th. At this event Foundation representatives were able to provide families with safe sleep education, pacifiers, and safe sleep board books.

Baby Safety Month is also a great time to remind caregivers about the importance of safety during sleep! And safe sleep pertains to even the smallest of infants and those with special healthcare needs like NICU babies. There is a higher SUID risk among pre-term and low birth weight infants and the American Academy of Pediatrics urges medical providers in the NICU setting to educate and model safe sleep to families in the hospital setting to help them successfully and safely transition home.

You can stay in the know with all these safe sleep and all awareness months by following us on social media!



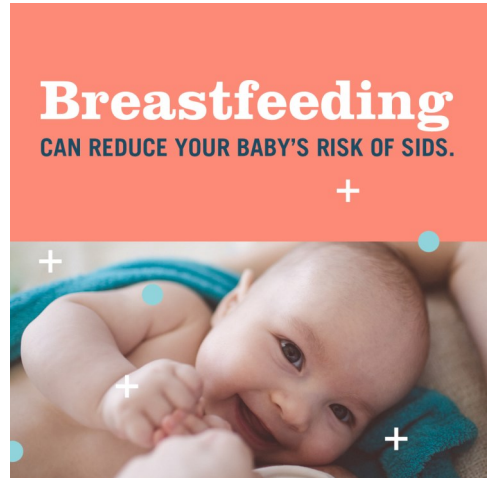
# Federal Grant to Support Community Outreach and Education in 2025



The Iowa SIDS Foundation is looking forward to further partnership with Iowa Health in Human Services in 2025 to improve education and outreach on safe sleep.

With federal grant funding to the Iowa SIDS Foundation and Iowa HHS, improvements will be made to have safe sleep uniform messaging and shared materials, increase safe sleep public awareness and understanding, enhance safe sleep education for medical students and health care professionals, and provide tangible safe sleep items such as pack n plays and pacifiers to the general public.

The Foundation plans to specifically update current educational posters, and add new educational material. The Foundation will work closely with designated HHS staff to help meet these program objectives. With a rise in Iowa SUID, we are hopeful these improvements will help save babies lives in the years to come.



## Facebook Giving makes an Impact

Does it surprise you to know how impactful giving on Facebook can be? Those birthday fundraisers and other donations that happen through social media truly do make an impact! It is something simple for people to do that really goes a long way, and yes the Foundation receive 100% of those funds given online! We are incredibly thankful to those who choose to host an online fundraiser to benefit our Foundation. We would like to thank the following individuals who opted to celebrate their birthday by raising funds to help support newly bereaved families and to advocate safe sleep. Happy birthday to the following: Cassie Bentz, Leanne Grewell, Sara Schmidt, Amanda Starrett, and Brian Wilcox. In addition, we appreciate your friends and family, listed below, that supported you in your campaigns. Big or small, it all makes a difference. The generosity and kindness of both the event sponsors and donors assists the Foundation in supporting families and providing safe sleep education. Thank you for choosing to be a part of our Foundation and helping fulfill our mission!

We appreciate all the following individuals making a Facebook donation 6/24/2024-9/30/2024:

Martin Davis  
Luther Heller  
Monica Miller  
Kim Nguyen  
Joleen Phelan

Jackson Rubendall  
Susan Ruchti  
Sheila Swafford  
Michael Wilcox  
Curtis Wright



## Thank you to Collins Community Credit Union!

A big THANK YOU to Collins Community Credit Union for their donation of \$1,440 to the Iowa SIDS Foundation! Collins Community Credit Union provides an opportunity for their employees to nominate non-profits to support through an employee giving program. The Iowa SIDS Foundation was chosen as the May recipient. After receiving the funds in June, a check presentation was held at Colling Community Credit Union in Des Moines!

**Thank You...** *The Iowa SIDS Foundation wishes to thank the following donors for their generous gifts.*

**In Memory of :**

**Mason James Bauer**

Dean and Becky Paulson

**Libbi Marsha Bendickson**

Susan Lyons

**Joey Cusick**

Betty Cusick

**Brock Adam Gould**

Vaughn and Joan Livingston

**Alexa Jean Jonas**

Linda Jonas

**Abigail Ilene Knoop**

Emily Truitt

**Lindsay Marie Krusemark**

Joel Krusemark

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Kabb

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Jill Matthias

Modern Woodmen

Nathan Tentinger

Project Live—University of

Northern Iowa

Rebecca Wiederholt

thanks  
for your  
support

## Annual Wave of Light Event 10/15

Every year, October is recognized as Infant Loss and SIDS Awareness month. Through the month, we work to promote awareness for babies gone too soon and support families. While the entire month is devoted to advocating, Baby Loss Awareness Week officially begins Wednesday October 9th and culminates with the Annual Wave of Light Event at 7pm on Tuesday October 15th. The annual Wave of Light is a globally recognized event in which families are invited to light a candle in honor of their baby at 7pm local time. With families doing this across the US and the globe at their local 7pm time it creates a literal wave of light all over the world for 24 hours. A beautiful sentiment to those babies who lit up our world so brightly, even



if only for a brief moment. We invite you to light a candle in your home on Tuesday October 15th at 7pm. You can post a photo on various social media platforms using #WaveofLight to join the community of many others doing the same.

We take pride in raising awareness for SIDS and SUID families every month throughout the year but always enjoy the extra special event such as the Wave of Light in October. Be sure you are on our email list and following us on social media to see how you can stay involved all year long.

## Honoring your Baby this Holiday Season

We know that you carry your baby with you all year long but the holiday season can bring up various emotions for those who are grieving. Many find comfort during the holiday season by intentionally honoring their loved ones who have passed. Here are a few ideas and ways you can honor your baby this season;

- Decorate an ornament, stocking, wreath or other holiday decoration and display for your baby.
- Purchase and donate a gift that you would for your baby.
- Place candles on your holiday table or in a special place and light them to honor your baby. Include a photo or memorabilia from your baby.
- Create a new tradition, this can be simple or extravagant. Something you do as a family, group, or privately. Whatever feels right to you!



## Holiday Donation to Benefit Research or SIDS Support Services

We appreciate that each of you have many worthy and notable causes and hope you will consider supporting the Iowa SIDS Foundation during your holiday giving. Generous donations, of any size, are the key to our success and allow the Iowa SIDS Foundation to offer support to newly bereaved families, safe sleep education to Iowa parents and providers, and financial support for SIDS research. You can also make a donation directly on our website, [iowasids.org](http://iowasids.org). Thank you for your support!



**This holiday donation is in memory of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Donated by:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **I would like 100% of this donation to be included in the research campaign.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **I would like this donation be used for general operating funds.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Please send a note to the above baby's family to let them know that I was thinking of them and their baby.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please send me a receipt for my tax deductible donation.

Mail to: Iowa SIDS Foundation, 2963 100th Street, Suite 2, Urbandale, IA 50322.



## Iowa SIDS Foundation

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### General Submissions

The Iowa SIDS Foundation offers all parents, grandparents, relatives, childcare providers and friends the opportunity to submit information for the newsletter. This may include letters, poems, sharing your family's story or perspective, or highlights of events held in your local community to benefit the Foundation or to bring awareness to SUID and SIDS. Please note that due to space limitations, submitted material may have to be edited or held until a later newsletter.

It is our hope to give as many parents and family members the opportunity to share. For additional information or to submit your story, please contact the Iowa SIDS Foundation by calling 515-965-7655 or by email at [info@iowasids.org](mailto:info@iowasids.org).

### Remembering Our Babies

If you would like to honor your baby in our Remembering Our Babies section of the newsletter, we do require a written parental consent to be on file. Consents may be printed from our webpage or can be mailed or emailed to you by contacting our office by phone or email.

**UNSUBSCRIBE:** If you would like to have your name removed from the Iowa SIDS Foundation mailing database, please notify us at 515-965-7655 or [info@iowasids.org](mailto:info@iowasids.org).

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