

Iowa SIDS Foundation

2023 WALK SPONSORS

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Beisser Lumber, Grimes
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Schuster Trucking Company, Le Mars
In memory of Dave M Vander Wel

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Dunes
Rexwinkel Funeral Home, Le Mars
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Supporting Families Today, Educating for the Future

2023 Walk for the Future Recap



On Saturday, August 26th, 2023 participants from all over the state gathered at one of the seven Walk locations to honor and celebrate Iowa babies. Walks were held in Carroll, Cedar Rapids, Dubuque, Fort Dodge, Le Mars, Urbandale, and Washington.

Walk participants totaled over 700 with 47 first-time walkers! It is always our hope that each and every family and walker found support in the day, made connections with other families, and were surrounded by family and friends as

our precious babies were honored and remembered.

This year the annual Walk for the Future raised over \$59,000!

These funds will be used for the daily operation of the Iowa SIDS Foundation and support services including grief resources for newly bereaved Iowans, educational materials and presentations to Iowa healthcare and child care providers, and to support SIDS/SUID research.

The 24th annual walk was made possible by thirty-one generous corporate and community sponsors.



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; *Ashleigh Wiederin, Andria Davis, Tina Wagner, Kenzie Pirie, Katie Elifrits, Pam Jeneary, Amy Gould, Connie Sievers, Tony & Tricia Lipski and Karen Weiskircher for your time and*

Continued on page 2



2023 Walk for the Future Recap Cont.



leadership in guiding your team of volunteers!! We couldn't do it without you!

In 2024 we will be celebrating our 25th Anniversary of the Walk for the Future. The Board of Directors is brainstorming ideas to make 2024 extra special to celebrate. Save the date for the 2024 Walk on Saturday August 24, 2024!

It truly takes our community of families to make the Walk happen and each year it is an honor to make this event special to remember and honor our babies. If you would like to be involved in planning, have a



connection for a corporate sponsor or are simply interested in helping on Walk Day, please call our office or email us at info@iowasids.org.

Ideas for Honoring your Baby this Holiday Season



Many people find comfort and healing 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 holiday season;

Decorate an ornament or other holiday decoration

Write your baby's name on an ornament or purchase one that reminds you of them. Place it on your tree or somewhere you can see.

Purchase and donate a gift

Buy a gift that you would buy for your baby and donate it to a charity or give to a person in need.

Light candles

Place candles on your holiday table or in a special place in your home and light them to honor your baby.

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. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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.

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
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 Gellet
Brock Adam Gould
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
Brienne 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
Presley Nicole Sapphire
Whitaker
Lauren Elizabeth Nichole
Viaene
Zayden Robert Vote
Elizabeth "Ellie" Christine
Williams
Lexis Dawn

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 Gellet
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
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: Pam Jeneary

For the last eleven years, Pam Jeneary has served on the Iowa SIDS Foundation Board of Directors in honor and memory of her son Steven. Steven Michael Jeneary died in 1983 of SIDS. Pam shares: "I joined the Iowa SIDS Foundation Board to honor Stevie and so many other beloved children and to raise awareness of safe sleep education across the state, to help provide support, and give hope to Iowa families that someday we many find the cause of SIDS."



Pam sure honors Steven beautifully and goes above and beyond her membership duties. In fact, the title "Board Member" does not give Pam the great credit she deserves. Pam is a dedicated volunteer, passionate advocate, and a humble and kind person that works tirelessly to bring awareness of SIDS and support families experiencing infant loss. In addition to her Board membership, Pam also coordinates the Le Mars location for the annual Walk for the Future. If you are in the Siouxland area it is likely you have encountered the impact of her work.

Supporting the Iowa SIDS Foundation is really a family affair for the Jeneary clan. Each year, two of Pam's grandchildren host a lemonade stand to raise money for SIDS research and you will find all the Jeneary family members helping at the Walk each year. When Pam isn't working to educate and support on behalf of the Iowa SIDS Foundation you'll find her reading, gardening, making homemade cards or spending time with her grandchildren. We are incredibly grateful for Pam, and the entire Jeneary family, for their dedication to the Foundation!

Prairie Meadows Community Betterment Grant Awarded to the ISF

In July 2023, the Iowa SIDS Foundation was awarded a grant totaling over \$8,000 from the Prairie Meadows Community Betterment Program!

As a nonprofit, Prairie Meadows supports other Iowa nonprofit organizations that support arts and culture, education, economic development, and human services. Through their grant programs, they continually work to strengthen and expand opportunities, infrastructure, and services offered within the community. The Community Betterment Grant specially supports organizations seeking to improve the lives of those in their communities. After a grant application process, the Iowa SIDS Foundation was excited to be chosen as a 2023 grant recipient. With the funding provided by Prairie Meadows, the Iowa SIDS Foundation has done or plans to:

- Purchase more Safe Infant Sleep Field Guides to be given to providers to facilitate effective safe sleep conversations. This new resource quickly ran out in April after 500 were distributed but are NOW back in stock thanks to Prairie Meadows!
- Purchase more safe sleep brochures to be distributed to Iowa professionals.
- Update and purchase Iowa SIDS Foundation informational general brochures.
- Provide 5 pack n plays to families in need a safe sleep environment for their baby.
- Purchase safe sleep board books to be given to families.
- Purchase a safe sleep simulation kit for educational purposes.

We are committed to strengthening families and building stronger, healthier, and safe communities. With Prairie Meadows support, we can continue to fulfill our mission of supporting our neighbors by providing safe sleep education and outreach to help every baby reach their first birthday and beyond.



Iowa SIDS Foundation Receives Award for Education Efforts

On September 19th, Casey Manser Executive Director of the Iowa SIDS Foundation attended the annual Preventing Childhood Injury Conference in Des Moines at UnityPoint Health. Finally gathering again in-person post COVID, this conference is an opportunity for professionals to come together and learn more about risks facing children and youth today and how they can help prevent and reduce them.

The Iowa SIDS Foundation was a vendor at this event and was able to show and provide professionals with our various free educational resources like brochures and posters. Casey also had the opportunity to present this year. Her session titled “Safe Sleep Every Sleep. Even When It’s Hard” provided valuable information to help support safe sleep conversations and education between professionals and families.

During lunch the Iowa SIDS Foundation was presented with the “Preventing Childhood Injury Champion Award” for efforts in educating and reducing sleep-related deaths in the state of Iowa. This award is given out yearly to organizations who are truly making a difference in the community!

We are appreciative of the recognition by UnityPoint of our education efforts! Thank you!



Facebook Fundraising Campaigns Help Support Foundation Operations

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: Leanne Grewell, Martha Wallace Johnson, Amanda Starrett, Amanda Sue Walton, and Patty Williams. 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!

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Amanda Starrett | Susie Hervey Fowler |
| Betsy Cornette | Teresa Ahrens |
| Curtis Wright | Tiffany Flournoy |
| Dianne Castellano | Tina Kay |
| Jaci Conard-Jarmes | Travis Schmidt |
| Jessica Olson | |
| Joelle Colville-Hanson | |
| Kelsey Mews | |
| Kimberly Tanner | |
| Lesa Davis | |
| Lisa Stang | |
| Maddie McEnany | |
| Melissa Brubaker | |
| Rachel Pfantz-Nelson | |
| Sharon Stonehouse | |



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
Courtney Costello

Lauralee Rose Bernau
Caitlyn Bernau

Ryan Michael Burris
Janice Burris

Joey Cusick
Betty Cusick

Cole Alexander Davis
Chris Shroyer
Kevin Wood

Steven Michael Jeneary
Marissa Forbes
Anne Jeneary
Pam Jeneary

Alexa Jean Jonas
Linda Jonas

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Amanda Stecker

Zachary Richard VanVleet
Diana VanVleet

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Of :**

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Nicole Bruene—Vukelich
Mary Jane Crall
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Alan Swain

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Rosalie Ellefson
Ruth Farley
Anne Jeneary
Pam Jeneary
The Turn Around

Other Fundraisers:

M & J's Lemonade Stand
Pizza Ranch Tip Night, Le Mars
Panera Fundraiser, Le Mars
I-Cubs

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Jay Sturkerjurgan
Julie Luken
NCMIC
Pat Ridenour
Sheila Sandy
The Turn Around Dance Studio
and Gymnastics Studio, Le
Mars



October is SIDS Awareness Month

Each year, October is nationally recognized as SIDS Awareness month. This is a special month to honor babies lost to SIDS or SUID and also promote safe sleep awareness to help reduce SIDS. The “Safe to Sleep” Campaign organized by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development shares:

“Despite decreases in rates of SIDS and other sleep-related infant deaths, more than one-third of sudden unexpected infant deaths that occur in the United States each year are from SIDS. Research also shows that unsafe sleep areas, such as those that include non-fitted sheets, blankets, or stuffed toys, remain a leading cause of infant death.”

In October and beyond, parents and professionals can raise awareness about SIDS and promote safe sleep education. Here are some realistic ways to be a safe sleep champion:

- Help normalize safe sleep by ensuring photos of baby sleeping that are shared show a safe sleep environment.
- Don’t be afraid to point out unsafe practices.
- Ensure everyone caring for your baby knows about safe sleep.

For our Foundation families– we know that you remember and miss your baby every minute of every hour of every day, not just in the month of October. And we remember with you. Here are some special ways you can honor baby this month:

- Set a side a time each day in the month of October to light a candle for baby.
- Participate in the Wave of Light event on October 15th.
- Practice random acts of kindness this month.
- Create a post on social media or change your profile picture.
- Create something.
- Purchase something special that reminds you of your baby.

Please know the Foundation is always here to support you no matter the month of the year.



Iowa SIDS Foundation 20th Anniversary in 2024

As 2023 begins to draw to a close the Iowa SIDS Foundation is looking forward to 2024. In 2024 the Iowa SIDS Foundation will be celebrating 20 years of being a registered 501 c3 non-profit!

The Iowa SIDS Foundation was founded by parents, for parents. In 1993 three parent support groups came together to form the Iowa SIDS Alliance and began support families in Iowa who had experienced an infant loss due to SIDS. In 2004, this group transitioned to the Iowa SIDS Foundation, becoming a non-profit. For almost the last 20 years, the Foundation has worked to support families in all 99 Iowa counties impacted by SIDS or SUID and has worked to provide education to the public and professionals about safe sleep and risk reduction. Since 2004, the Iowa SIDS Foundation has supported over 812 heart broken families, given out over 206,361 safe sleep materials, hosted 292 of support and grief gatherings and had over 300 volunteers provide countless hours of their time to meet our mission.



Stay tuned for some exciting things happening in 2024 to celebrate this big milestone!



Iowa SIDS Foundation

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www.iowasids.org
515-965-7655

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October is SIDS Awareness Month



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Ruth Arndt

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Neal Wallace

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.

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.

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