

Iowa SIDS Foundation

2025 WALK SPONSORS

DIAMOND SPONSORS

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Deck Central, Urbandale

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The Schon Family, Ankeny
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KLEM 1410 AM 96.9 FM, Le Mars

Supporting Families Today, Educating for the Future

2025 Walk for the Future Recap

On Saturday, August 23rd, 2025 participants, families, friends, and communities from all over the state gathered at one of the six Walk locations to honor and celebrate Iowa babies. Walk locations in 2025 were held in Cedar Rapids, Dubuque, Le Mars, Mount Ayr (new in 2025!), Urbandale, and Washington.

This year Walk participants totaled over 520 Walkers across the six location. It is always the goal and focus that this family-friendly event creates an atmosphere of support and community. If you attended this year, it is our hope that you and 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 \$57,000! Thank you for your part in helping the Foundation raise funds to continue our support and education services! We are grateful for your support and our organization could not work to meet our mission without this yearly event.

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 and trainings to Iowa healthcare and child care providers, pack n plays for families in need, other outreach materials, and to support SIDS/SUID medical research.

This year's Walk was made possible by over 47 generous corporate, community, and individual sponsors. After the success in 2024, the special edition Diamond Sponsor level was made available again. 2025 Diamond Level Sponsors included; 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!

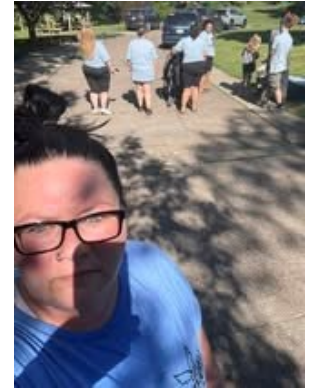
Each site is led by a walk coordinator and their team of local volunteers. From reserving parks, to gathering prizes, securing food, and hosting the walk, these teams of volunteers make your local Walk happen! Their commitment, teamwork, connections, and creativity make each Walk unique and special for the families that attend. Thank you to; *Andria Davis, Tina Wagner, Pam Jeneary, Angela VanHorn 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 2026 please reach out to us now at info@iowasids.org!

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



Thank you for sending in your 2025 Walk photos!



Safe Sleep Billboards Provide a Creative Way to Educate



Over the summer if you were around Polk, Linn, or Black Hawk County or around Council Bluffs you may have seen one of our several safe sleep billboards. In looking for additional ways to spread awareness and education on safe sleep, The Iowa SIDS Foundation utilized billboard space across the state. These spaces included physical and electronic billboards with two different messages including the ABCs of safe sleep and breastfeeding promotion, a risk

reduction factor to SIDS. Polk, Linn, and Black Hawk County, as well as the Council Bluffs area was chosen based on referrals to the Iowa SIDS Foundation for bereavement support over the last 3 years with these locations having the highest number. In targeting these areas specifically, it is the hope that referrals from these locations will decrease in the next year. Despite today's culture of modern technology, billboards still are effective ways to get information in front of people, there were over 400,000 "exposures" just in the Polk county location alone. In using various education techniques, it is the hope of the Iowa SIDS Foundation that the safe sleep message of Alone, Back, Crib is shared with everyone!



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
Hensley Mae Harms
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

Brianne 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
Spencer Charles Walker

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

In Loving Memory

November

Elizabeth Grace Atzen
Silus J Bigbee
Nathaniel Frederick Borelli
Abel Cenicerros
Cody Michael Coleman
Rylee Alizabeth 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



New SIDS Research in Iowa

There is new research being done to learn more about SIDS right here in Iowa. In partnership with the Iowa SIDS Foundation, the Department of Pathology at the University of Iowa is working on a study to better understand how parts of the brain that regulate breathing and heart rate may malfunction in infants and children who die suddenly and unexpectedly. In addition to Doctors at the University of Iowa, doctors and researchers from the University of Missouri and from Robert's Program of Boston Children's Hospital are also included. Of note, the Iowa SIDS Foundation has provided a yearly donation in honor of Iowa babies to Robert's Program, a well-known SIDS and SUID research and support program.

This study being done in Iowa is in need of families who have lost a child to SIDS who are willing to give permission to use brain tissue that was collected during autopsies for research. The families of any child who died and underwent an autopsy in the state of Iowa from 2005 onwards are eligible. If choosing to participate in this research it does not effect any future diagnostic testing. There are also other projects that families may be eligible to participate in. If you are interested in signing up, a consent from must be completed. To request a consent form or learn more, you can contact Dr. Marco Hefti via email at marco-hefti@uiowa.edu or by phone at 319-335-8427. Let's work together to make SIDS and Sudden Unexpected Death in Childhood a thing of the past.



Virtual Family Education Sessions Help Promote Safe Sleep

An advertisement with a purple background. At the top, the text "ATTENTION NEW AND EXPECTING PARENTS!" is written in bold, yellow, uppercase letters. Below this, the text "Join us virtually for a FREE safe sleep education session!" is written in white. Further down, the text "Upcoming sessions: Monday October 27, 6:30pm Monday December 1, 6:30pm" is written in white. At the bottom, the text "FREE GIFT INCLUDED!" is written in bold, white, uppercase letters. To the right of the text is a stylized graphic of a hand holding a star. The Iowa SIDS Foundation logo is also present. At the bottom right, the text "Registration is required and space is limited! Register NOW! Email casey@iowasids.org" is written in white.

In order to further safe sleep education outreach throughout the state of Iowa, the Foundation has begun offering monthly virtual Family Education Sessions. These sessions provide an overview of the safe sleep recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics, cover other infant sleep related hot topics and provide an opportunity for families to get their questions about safe sleep answered.

The Family Education Sessions are open to new and expecting Iowa caregivers and are free to attend. Participants are also provided a free safe sleep gift bag to use with their baby after attending. Over 40 caregivers registered for the first two sessions in September and October. After taking a break in November due to Thanksgiving, the next session will be held on Monday December 1 at 6:30pm. If you or someone you know may be interested in attending virtually registration is required. Email casey@iowasids.org for more information or the registration link.

Iowa SIDS Raises Awareness at 2025 Iowa State Fair

August was a busy month at the Iowa SIDS Foundation! If you attended the Iowa State Fair this year, you may have seen one of our "Safe Sleep" DART buses. Through an initiative with HHS, there were 2 buses transporting Iowa State Fair attendees that were fully wrapped in safe sleep messaging. The safe sleep message is so important and this was a creative way to get it in front of a lot of people.

DART buses provide transportation for Fair attendees who choose to park in various free lots around the fairgrounds. For many people who use this service, this is the only time of year they use a DART bus. This allows the safe sleep message to be exposed to a wide variety of a the population. In 2024, over 272,800 people rode DART buses during the Iowa State Fair. The buses were also utilized for regular routes after the Fair concluded.



The Foundation also had a special opportunity to honor one of our Angels at the Iowa State Fair. Elery Hinrichsen, representing Iowa County at the Iowa Governor's Charity Steer Show, chose to have a representative from the Iowa SIDS Foundation be her "celebrity" presenter in honor of baby Maxwell Wayne Krueger who passed away suddenly this past June.

The Hinrichsen family, who have been close with the Krueger's for many years, saw this as a very special way to memorialize Maxwell and raise awareness for SIDS. Casey Manser, Iowa SIDS Foundation Executive Director, was thrilled to participate and felt very honored to have been chosen.



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

In Memory of :

Elizabeth Grace Atzen

Jan Driscoll

Libbi Marsha Bendickson

Bobbi Bendickson

Courtney Costello

Lauralee Rose Bernau

Cheryl Eslick

Jamie Patrick

Jordan Lee Daniel

Alvina Wingert

Sullivan Garrett Hall

Hold Our Youth Tight

Steven Michael Jeneary

Lindsey Wheatley

Alexa Jean Jonas

Linda Jonas

Abigail Ilene Knoop

Emily Truitt

Alex Thomas Marker

Gary and Delaine Marker Sr.

Hoyt Kenneth McDonald

Hold Our Youth Tight

Colin Michael McGaffin

Pam Strum

Ryan Dennis Mougin

Marijo Storment

Amy Bowman

Avery Ann Palmer

Susan Pyner

Benjamin David Person

Ryan and Jody Person

Gavin Lee Sievers

Susan Peters

Ronnie Sievers

Beth Marie Sturkejurgen

Jay Sturkejurgen

Isaiah Thomas Swailes

Ashley Evans

Lane Nicolas Thomas

Amy McDermott

Zachary Richard VanVleet

Diana VanVleet

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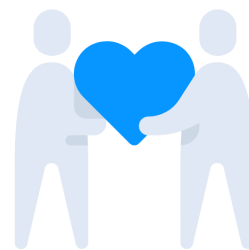
_ Christina Foster

Cindy Gerke

Dee Swanson

Joleen Phelan

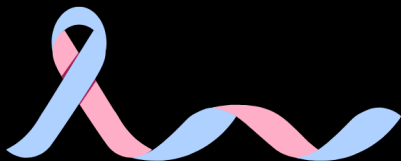
Thank you to Red Bryan, Chad Swanson, and Aly Bendickson for hosting Facebook Giving Campaigns and opportunities 7/1/2025-9/30/2025.



thank you!

Family Share Stories Help Raise Awareness

OCTOBER IS INFANT LOSS AWARENESS MONTH



BREAKING THE SILENCE AND RAISING AWARENESS FOR SUID IN IOWA

The Iowa SIDS Foundation has rolled out a new initiative to use family stories to help raise an awareness of SIDS and SUID in Iowa. When providing outreach and education, a common misconception that is encountered is that SIDS is just something people hear about online or in the news and it could never happen to them. The Foundation feels passionate in working to help people understand that SIDS is very real and happening to families right here in our local communities.

Our "Family Share Stories" help make this possible. Several families that have received services from the Iowa SIDS Foundation have participated in completing the Family Share Story Form and through the month of October a special social media campaign is in the works. Check out the Iowa SIDS Foundation Facebook page to read their stories. A special video has also been produced in which two families share their

experiences on camera. This video will be instrumental in presentations and trainings in helping raise awareness and share more about the Iowa SIDS Foundation. You can find and view the video on our Facebook page or website. Please share to help spread awareness!

We are still looking for more families who are willing to "share their stories" with us. If interested, email casey@iowasids.org.

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. 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.

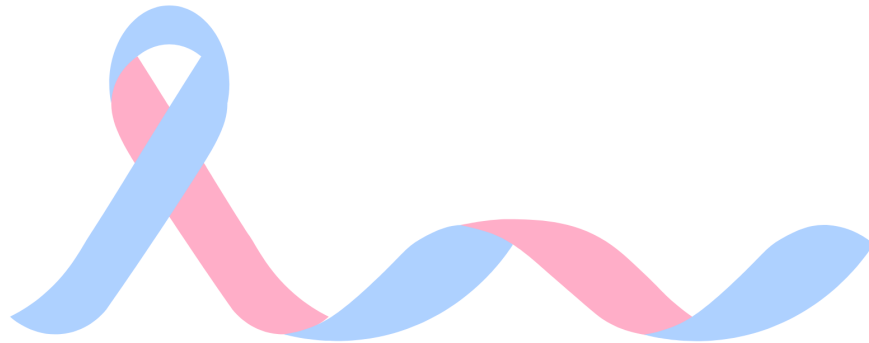
Mail to: Iowa SIDS Foundation, 2963 100th Street, Suite 2, Urbandale, IA 50322.



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.

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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