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- Volunteer at your local walk.
- Host a fundraising event.
- Create a Facebook Fundraiser.
- Become a Peer Contact.
- Serve on the Board.
- Share and like our posts on social media.
- Complete your parental consent/volunteer form.
- Make a monetary donation.





Supporting Families Today, Educating for the Future

2025 Walk for the Future August 23, 2025



Registration for the 26th Anniversary of the Iowa SIDS Foundation's Walk for the Future has begun! The 2025 Walk is scheduled to be held on August 23rd in six cities across the state including Cedar Rapids, Dubuque, Le Mars, Mount Ayr *NEW,* Urbandale, and Washington. Family, friends and community supporters will gather to raise awareness for SIDS/SUID and to honor the lives of Iowa babies. This family friendly event is our primary fundraising event for the Foundation and funds are used to fulfill our daily mission of offering grief support to

SIDS/SUID families, educating professionals and the general public regarding SIDS/SUID and safe sleep, and to fund an annual contribution to research.

Each year, we build off of the experiences from the past to hopefully create the best experience possible for our families that attended each location. In addition to a new Walk location in Mount Ayr, there are some other new things happening this year that participants need to know.

For the first time in over 16 years registration fees are increasing. Walkers will have an option to register for the Walk for \$25 (\$10 youth) without a t-shirt OR register and have a t-shirt included for \$35 (\$20 youth). Based on popularity from last year, in 2025 in addition to t-shirts, hooded sweatshirts will also be available for purchase. Apparel will only be available to Walkers who register online by the registration deadline (July 28). Shirts will NOT be available to those who register after July 28 or on Walk Day at their location.



The 2025 Walk is earlier in the month of August which means that the registration deadline is too! The deadline to register

with the option to have a 2025 shirt is JULY 28! While online registration will still be open after July 28, Walkers will not be eligible for a shirt.

And a big reminder from last year- Don't forget, online registration is the only option, there will be no mailed paper registration forms. If you need assistance registering through our online system, don't hesitate to contact the office at 515-965-7655. See more about registration below.

Register TODAY. Online Registration is NOW OPEN!

Continued on page 2

2025 Walk Information Continued

All Walkers must register online! Our online system is easy to use! Scan the QR code to register or visit www.iowasids.org. If you have any issues or need assistance please contact us at 515-965-7655 or info@iowasids.org.

Please note, for safety and liability, any individual who attends the Walk must register! And don't forget, rain or shine the walks will still take place. If the Walk must be delayed due to dangerous weather, announcements will be posted on our website's event page and on social media. If dangerous storms are predicted to last all morning and the Walk must be cancelled due to safety, no refunds will be provided and shirts will be given to those that registered by the July 28th deadline.

Shirts are only available to those who register online by July 28th.

Thank you to our 2025 Walk for the Future Sponsors!

Bronze Level: American Family Insurance Charles Kudej Agency, Green State Credit Union, Dunes Dental 4 Kids, Michael Wheatley DDS, The Turn Around Dance and Gymnastics Studio, Iowa State Bank, The Golden Pheasant Steakhouse, Rexwinkel Funeral Homes, Primebank, Justin Bundy and Loren Wilken—Thrivent, Jason and Danyelle Vande Brake, Ringgold County Hospital, Wendt Repair, Bridgehaven Pregnancy Support Center, Brock Auction Co., American Bank, Northwest Bank, Makenzie Land

Silver Level: Physician's Clinic of Iowa, Cedar Memorial Funeral Home, Floyd Valley Healthcare, Northwest Iowa Endodontics, James George Attorney, Brighthouse, Schuster Co., Jensen Motors, Ed & Gerry Sue Krienert, Da Mar Company, House of Q2, Blank Children's Hospital

Gold Level: Senior Savings Services, The Schon Family, Fully Promoted Altoona, Joe and Amanda Susemihl, Tight Lines Consultancy

Diamond Level: Jeneary Dental, Family of Libbi Bendickson, Better Builders, Deck Central

Media Sponsor: KLEM Radio

2024 WALK LOCATIONS INFORMATION

CEDAR RAPIDS

Noelridge Park — Creekside Pavilion 4388 Golf St. NE Registration 8:00am - Walk 9:00am WALK DAY ACTIVITIES:

Raffle, memorial event, food, kids activities

DUBUQUE

Dubuque Arboretum & Botanical Gardens 3800 Arboretum Dr. Registration 8:00am - Walk 9:00am WALK DAY ACTIVITIES:

Raffle, Silent Auction, Memorial Event

LE MARS

Le Mars Municipal Shelter House 813 Park Ln NE Registration 8:30am - Walk 9:45am WALK DAY ACTIVITIES: Raffle, Silent Auction, Merchandise, Door prizes, Memorial Event, Free Lunch

MOUNT AYR — NEW in 2025!

Fife's Grove Park 2201 210th St. (1 mile north of Mt Ayr) Registration 10:00am - Walk 11:00am WALK DAY ACTIVITIES:

Facepainting, playground, snacks and drinks, memorial event.

URBANDALE

Walker Johnston Park Giovannetti Shelter 8900 Douglas Ave Registration 9:30 am—Walk 10:30am WALK DAY ACTIVITIES: Silent Auction, Merchandise, Playground, Kids activities, Memorial Event, Food

WASHINGTON

Sunset Park Corner of W Madison St. & South Ave Registration 8:30am - Walk 9:30am WALK DAY ACTIVITIES:

Raffle, Silent Auction, Merchandise, Activities, Memorial Event

Iowa SIDS Foundation Continues to Support SIDS Research

Since the inception of the Iowa SIDS Foundation, part of our mission statement has included "supporting medical research into unexpected sleep related infant deaths." Each year the Foundation makes a monetary donation in honor of Iowa babies toward SIDS research. Funds for this donation include a portion of the annual operating budget and donations received throughout the year that are earmarked specifically for research.

For the last several year, totaling over \$50,000, the Iowa SIDS Foundation has chosen to donate to Robert's Program at Boston Children's Hospital.

The Robert's Program mission involves using translational science to shed light and counsel families in the aftermath of sudden unexplained deaths in their young children. And includes a clinical mission of providing comprehensive clinical care to families that have suffered the sudden and unexpected death of a child and a



research mission of performing state-of-the-art research into sudden unexpected death in pediatrics and to understand fatal underlying vulnerabilities in children and prevent them.

Although advancements in scientific research regarding of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome have been made in the last 20 years, the cause of SIDS still remains unknown. It is with hope and faith that the Foundation continues to support medical research so that one day the cause of SIDS and other sudden unexplained infant deaths will have known causes and be preventable.

You can learn more about Robert's Program on their website at www.childrenshospital.org/programs/roberts-program. If you would like to make a donation to support medical research, visit our donation page where you can designate your support toward the annual research donation.

Requests for Free Safe Sleep Spaces Increases



Sleep can't be safe without the right environment. It's important that babies only sleep in safety approved spaces such as a crib, pack n play, or bassinet. These spaces include a firm, flat, non-inclined surface and should always be free of toys, pillows, and blankets.

With rising prices on almost every manufactured product nowadays, these safe sleep environments can be expensive and difficult for some families to access. The lowa SIDS Foundation never wants the inability to afford a safe sleep space to be a barrier for families. That's why the Foundation became a Cribs for Kids partner in 2021. This partnership allows the Foundation to purchase pack n plays, an approved safe sleep space, at a discounted price to give to families in need.

Families can request a pack n play online through the Foundation website, and while there are no income requirements there are elements of eligibility including that the family must reside in the state of lowa, have an infant under 12 months (or be expecting), and the infant must primarily reside with the adult requesting the pack n play.

Throughout the last several years, the requests for these free safe sleep spaces has steadily increased. However, so far in 2025 the Foundation has seen recording breaking numbers of requests already doubling what was provided in 2024. So far in 2025, the lowa SIDS Foundation has provided over 82 free pack n plays to families in need across the state. These have gone to 34 lowa cities in 21 different counties.

Thanks to current federal grant funding provided through a contract with Iowa HHS, the Foundation has been able to meet this need. As this current funding is projected to hopefully last another year, the Foundation is beginning to plan for the future need anticipating that request will only continue to increase. You can help support the future of this much needed program by earmarking your donation for "Outreach and Family Services" online. Every baby deserves to sleep safely! Learn more about Cribs for Kids at www.cribsforkids.org

Remembering Our Babies

Happy Birthday

July

Elizabeth Grace Atzen Jerome Alexander Brown Cole Edward Clark Rylee Alizabeth Erwin Owen Jay Fisher Brennan Charley Godfredsen Alana P. Gonzales Ryder Martin Harnish Kacy Lee Hartman Zarena Rayne Jennings Catherine Elizabeth Lafferty **Huxley Maytum** Shelby Jo McConnell **Ethan Daniel McDermott** Darian Bea O'Connell Jessica Lynne Otto Carson David Phillips Joshwa Izaiah Rivera Jaycee Marie Schilling Jacoby James Sickels **Danielle Rae Thomas Bryton Thompson** Jordyn N. Thompson Easton Allin Werner

August

Braxton Timothy Charles Bell Emmet Lee Woodyard Zoey Kaye Bestland Silus J Bigbee Max David Bushlack **Abel Ceniceros** Johnathon Oscar Danner Jennifer Lynn Dyar Dash Riley Ellingworth Kenna Reese Henss Kingston Richard Hronik Hattie Jo Jenkins Freya Lynn Kay Keith Evan Dean Klemme Abigail Ilene Knoop La'Tianna Jo'Nae Luten Amara C. Magee Maverick James Lynn Miller Carly Ann Mordock Danielle Rose Noggle Hope ElizaRae Ohrt Kadyn Jo Pirie **Aaron Postel** Zachary Kyle Renaud Aarie Jai Richardson Analisa Ines Rodriguez Maggie Amelia Rose Rogerson Nolan Douglas Rubendall Phoenix Isabelle Shank-Weaver **Hunter Dean Stevens**

Cael Anthony Subject

Shane Adam Tate Ella Elizabeth Timm **Kyle Anthony Timmons** Oakley Joe Van Patten Shiana Lynn West Kvler Lon Wilcox **Emmett Lee Woodyard**

September

Dylan Peter Christian Andersen Maria Irene Andersen Lauralee Rose Bernau **Benjamin Blowers** Kayla Sue Brewer Ariana Marie Bunch Cody Michael Coleman Korv Lvnn Dunkin Jennifer Lynn Dyar Allison Renee Elliott Kaleb Dean Hargens Chelsea Miranda Jones Dominic Joseph Laurenzo Samaya Sue Lochner Hailey Erin Lincoln Jacob Anthony Lipski Ross "Rosco" Jacob McGlothlen

Brenden Meinecke Alex Ostlund **Knox Owen Palmer** Darran Dasan Perkins Johnathan Danial Prescott Ariel Faith Rattler Ashton Lavail Seaton **Gavin Lee Sievers** Beth Marie Stukerjurgen

Alec Robert Wagner Warren Edwin White Alec Arlan Woerdehoff **Emmett Lee Woodyard** Noah James Zarate

October Matthew James Avery Cody James Beck Robert Carl Davis III Cara Lynn Eddie Sullivan Garrett Hall Ryker Edward Huizenga Alexa Jean Jonas Peyton Jo Lehman Leavy Joel Simaj-Christianson Kellan Rayne Christine Starrett Erika Elizabeth Story Dawson John Lewis Quinten Matis Justin Evan Miller Robby Matthew Miller Gunner Jacob Alex Nail Madison "Maddy" Lynn Nesbitt Avery Ann Palmer Cameron Palmer Samantha Alina Parks Riley Jane-Marie Perkins Isaac Thomas Pressley Rvan Allen Robinson DaeShawn Marquis Rodriguez Jessica Lynn Sammons Leavy Joel Simaj-Christianson Kellan Rayne Christine Starrett Erika Elizabeth Story Tara Beth Schroeder Laikyn Allyn Shutts **Douglas Ronald Tietge Devon Owen Tripp** Zachary Richard Van Vleet

In Loving Memory July

Sydney Nicole Allen **Emmett Leo Clary** Cole Alexander Davis Rowan James Dolezal Owen Jay Fisher Brooke Louise Goodyk Marianna Sarina Guess Maverick John Healey Logan Grant Higginbotham Ryan Dennis Mougin Matthew Timothy Otten Mariah Pickering Kelly Ann Pitts Alexis Deane Rudkin Carson T. Sickler **Douglas Ronald Tietge**

Lauren Elizabeth Nichole Viaene

Austin Micheal Vogt

August

Olivia Nora Aikey Jerome Alexander Brown Chevanne Marie Camp Joey Cusick Jordan Lee Daniel Caitlin Rose Davis Joseph Laurence Devore Caden DeVries Parker G. Donaldson Gavin Eli Gratz Devon James Hayes-Jones Steven Michael Jeneary Carson David Phillips Thomas Jay Fallon Robinson Tara Beth Schroeder Justin Ryker Swick **Dawson Thomas Vandello** Jessica Lane VanMeighem Caleb Richard Williams

September

Mason James Bauer Johnathon Oscar Danner Landon Davis Alana P. Gonzales Mattilynn ElizabethJade Goodner Evan Dean Klemme **Ethan Troy Livingston** Steling Grayson McFerren **Benjamin Scott Meints** Carly Ann Mordock Hope ElizaRae Ohrt Kaleb J. Peverill Aarie Jai Richardson Phoenix Isabelle Shank-Weaver Jacoby James Sickels **Emily Rose Studer** Billie Jo Thul Bryton Thompson

Andrew Jay "A.J." VanDerSchaaf Zachary Richard VanVleet

Easton Allin Werner **Keaton James Wirtz Emmet Lee Woodyard**

October

Braxton Timothy Charles Bell Zoey Kaye Bestland Ariana Marie Bunch Lane Kurt Carter Thaddeus Charles Ernzen **Christopher Scott Evans** Bentley Earl Ewoldt-Jacobsen Teagon Lee Fowler

Kingston Richard Hronik Hattie Jo Jenkins Zarena Rayne Jennings Samaya Sue Lochner James Allen Magruder Noah Oliver Martinez Jaxon Matt

Huxley Maytum Ethan Daniel McDermott Brenden Meinecke Danielle Rose Noggle Darian Bea O'Connell Biorn Kai Packard **Aaron Postel** Joshwa Izaiah Rivera Mario Franisico Robles Jaycee Marie Schilling Sawyer Reign Springsteen **Hunter Dean Stevens** Jordyn N. Thompson Oakley Joe Van Patten Alec Robert Wagner Sophia Halas Welch

Kyler Lon Wilcox

Federal Government Changes Likely to Impact National Safe Sleep Education



This past April, the Communications Office at the National Institute for Children's Health and Development (NICHD) was suddenly terminated. This office has been responsible for overseeing safe sleep education since the National "Back to Sleep" Campaign began in the early 90's. Shortly after the start of the Back to Sleep Campaign, the rate of SIDS in the United States was decreased more than 50% from 7,500 to 3,500 yearly. This campaign quickly proved to be successful in savings the lives of the most vulnerable.

The program was later renamed "Safe to Sleep" and continued to work to distribute safe sleep education continuing with the back to sleep recommendation that has

remained unchanged since the beginning. Unfortunately, now the United States is seeing the rates of sleep related infant deaths rise again. And despite these increases, now due to the termination of the Communications Office, there will no longer be any safe sleep education support coming from the NICHD. Less education means the potential of more infant deaths. Despite these changes at the federal level, the Iowa SIDS Foundation stays committed to providing safe sleep education and support to all Iowa families, caregivers, and professionals.

Additional concerning news involves the CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. This organization is slated for potential elimination in the president's budget, threatening essential programs that help prevent injuries including sleep related accidents and protect the public's safety. One specific critical program at risk is the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS). This system helps the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) identify hazardous products, including infant products and set safety standards.

If you feel passionate about these concerns, we invite you to reach out to your members of Congress and urge them to restore funding for the Safe to Sleep campaign and maintain current programs that help protect the lives of the smallest, most vulnerable Americans.

2025 Principal Charity Classic Birdies for Charity

The Principal Charity Classic (PCC) Birdies For Charity program is a matching fund program that supplements individual donations to Iowa Children's charities like the Iowa SIDS Foundation. The Iowa SIDS Foundation has participated as a benefiting charity for many years and has been grateful for the support of our donors and the support of Principal, Sammons Financial Group and Wells Fargo for making this all possible.

From June 2024 through May of this year fundraising efforts resulted in a total over \$6,000 of funds raised.

The Iowa SIDS Foundation will receive every penny donated and will also be provided with a match at no extra cost to donors that helps further support our mission. We want to thank all those who donated online or by mailing in a check this past year. Thank you to: Christiana Foster, Gerry Krienert, Gary Marker Sr., Jill Matthias, Paula Poli, and Dennis Smith.

The Foundation would like to send a special thank you to Gary Marker for his role as the Principal Charity Classic Birdies for Charity Champion. Each year Gary makes numerous generous donations to the PCC program and works as a volunteer reaching out to other potential donors to ask for support. The success of our yearly PCC Campaign can largely be contributed to Gary and his efforts. The Foundation is grateful for Gary and all our donors!

You can start contributing now to next year's campaign! If you plan to make a donation, just let the Foundation know you would like it added to the 2025-2026 PCC program!





Principal Charity Classic Wells Fargo Sammons Financial Group **Thank You...** The Iowa SIDS Foundation wishes to thank the following donors for their generous gifts.

Gifts Given In Memory of:

Danielle DavisCheryl Valentine

Alexa Jean Jonas Linda Jonas

Abigail Ilene Knoop Emily Truitt

Kristina Ann Krienert Gerry Sue Krienert

Lindsey Marie KrusemarkJoel and Krissa Krusemark

Ethan Troy LivingstonJennifer Meurer

Alex Thomas MarkerGary and Delaine Marker Sr.

Brandon and Joseph Milroy Maynard Siegel

Ryan Dennis Mougin Jane Gent Vivian Mougin Estate

Mariah Ann Pickering Christina Foster

Toby Daniel SejkoraGary and Pamela Sejkora

Beth Marie Stukerjurgen Jay Stukerjurgen

Zachary Richard VanVleet Diana VanVleet

Gifts Given in Memorial Honor of:

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Donald Darnell
Fr. Paul Hans Assembly 4th Degree
Knights of Columbus
John Garvey
Bob and Kathy Lickteig
Doug and Laveta Pfaltzgraff
Linda Warner
Patricia Ridenour

Memory of Samantha Alina Parks:

Anonymous
Cathy Bannick
Judy Debord
Kimerly DiMaria
Catherine Keller
Margo Kendrick
James Mitchell
Lynn Mitchell
Jane Robinette
Donna Sheil
Marjie Sieck

General Donations:

American Online Giving Fund
Anonymous Donors
Facebook /Meta
Fareway Coin Collection, Clive
Bill Parks
Orchard Place
PayPal Giving Fund
Larry Sauer
United Way of Atlanta
United Way of Central Iowa
Rebecca Wiederholt
Words Worth Repeating

Employer Pledges-Employer Match:

Mid-American Principal Financial Group Wells Fargo Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield

Principal Charity Classic:

Christiana Foster Gerry Krienert Gary Marker Sr. Jill Matthias Paula Poli Dennis Smith

You can get involved too! See below for the easy ways to make a donation today!

1. Mail a check to: 2963 100th St. Suite 2 Urbandale, IA 50322

2. Scan the QR code and donate online!



3. Host a Facebook Giving Campaign!

You can choose where you would like your funds to go. Indicate you donation either for General Operating Funds, Research, or Outreach and Family Services.

We promise to use your donation wisely to support families in Iowa and make a difference

Caffeine Proposed as a Potential Tool in Reducing Risk of SIDS

In June of 2025, the Journal of Perinatology released an article with a new hypothesis regarding reducing the risk of SIDS. This hypothesis, which does not currently involve any specific data set to examine but is rather an idea that warrants further investigation, involves the concept that SIDS is potentially due to intermittent hypoxia, or a periodic episodes of drops in oxygen level that may be treated with the use of caffeine as demonstrated in premature infants that are treated with caffeine for apnea of prematurity. The authors of the article also reference breastfeeding as a known contributor that decreases the risk of SIDS and hypothesize that this may be due to the higher caffeine content in breastmilk. It is important to note this remains a theory and further research is needed. If interested in learning more, you can read the full article here: https://www.contemporarypediatrics.com/view/caffeine-proposed-as-a-potential-tool-in-reducing-risk-of-sids

Social Media Makes an Impact

Social media is a great way to spread education on safe sleep and awareness on SIDS and SUID. Social media users who choose to host an online fundraiser to benefit our Foundation, such as a birthday fundraiser, or those that make an online donation through Facebook, help support the mission of the Iowa SIDS Foundation. We are so thankful for those who use their platforms for good and the support of our organization. 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: Shane Sievers, Ally Clay, and Brooke Zimmer. In addition, we appreciate your friends and family, listed below, that supported you in your campaigns.

We appreciate all the following individuals making a Facebook donation through 3/1/2025-6/30/2025:

Amy Kapustka Boyce Helene Donta
Angie Atkinson Kari Hilton Draeger
Bhupinder Brar Kellie Zimmer Steffenson
Carla Barnhart Kristin Birch
Daniel Schrad Lindsey Kane
Heather Shaull Manni Balignasay

Michael Kremer Philip Rigdon Shannon Wedding Susan Stewart-Pope Zach Pope



AAP Reminds Public: No Link Between Vaccines & SIDS

Vaccines have recently become a hot topic of discussion in national media and sometimes it can be difficult to separate fact from fiction, especially when fear is involved. The American Academy of Pediatrics recently released a reminder article that there is no link between vaccines and SIDS.



Many years of research have shown that vaccines do not cause SIDS, there is no increased risk of SIDS following vaccination and in fact, vaccinated babies may have a lower risk of SIDS. Science has also shown that immunizations protect against serious illness that can be fatal for babies such as whopping cough. If you have questions or concerns about your child's immunization schedule talk with your doctor, not the media.



lowa SIDS Foundation

2963 100th Street, Suite 2 Urbandale, IA 50322 www.iowasids.org 515-965-7655

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Cedar Rapids—Dubuque—Le Mars—Mount Ayr—Urbandale—Washington Registration now open! Register by July 28th

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Casey Manser

Administrative Assistant Ruth Arndt

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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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