



# IRIS INFANTS REMEMBERED IN SILENCE

## Whispers of the Heart Newsletter

3rd Annual

*Heaven's Angels Bike Run & Show*



Infants Remembered In Silence - I.R.I.S.

**FOOD TRUCKS**  
**BANDS**  
**VENDORS**  
**SILENT AUCTION**  
**BIKE SHOW**  
**CUSTOM TROPHIES**

Hosted by...  
**FARIBAULT HARLEY-DAVIDSON**

Ride guided by...  
**HOG**

**IRIS** INFANTS REMEMBERED IN SILENCE  
**Saturday June 9, 2018**  
at Faribault Harley-Davidson

9:00AM - 11:00AM Ride Registration  
11:00AM - 2:00PM I.R.I.S. Ride Event  
**RAIN OR SHINE**  
3:00PM - 4:00PM FHD Performance Dyno Shootout  
Bands  
2:00PM Harley & The Butcher  
5:00PM ANNEX

Ride Registration at:  
[www.irisremembers.com](http://www.irisremembers.com)

### This Mothers Day, This Fathers Day

By Lisa Weber

I have a son.  
I have a daughter.  
I am a mother.  
I am a father.

I do not take my child to the park like some parents do ~  
but I take my baby everywhere in my heart.  
She was denied this earthly existence.

I don't know why.  
He will play catch in the stars, not on the ball field.  
She will never shop for a prom dress at the mall,  
and he will never ask for the keys to my car.  
But they are our children, nonetheless.  
I will wear her birthstone around my neck.

I will think of him every day.  
Acknowledge me on Mother's Day.  
Wish me a pleasant Father's Day.  
I need that support and acceptance as much as you.

I am a parent.  
Mother's Day is to honor all mothers.  
Father's Day is to honor all fathers.  
As spring brings forth new life following the quiet healing of winter,  
let us welcome a rebirth of hope in our own lives.

In recognition of childless parents,  
and those who have loving children,  
but also have felt the heartache of the death of a child,

this Mother's Day and Father's Day.  
My wish for you is one of peace, love, and to call to mind the dignity of parenthood.



Mother's Day is a day of appreciation and respect. I can think of no mothers who deserve it more than those who had to give a child back. ~Erma Bombeck

#### IRIS

218 NW 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. Faribault, MN 55021  
Phone: (507) 334-4748 support@irisRemembers.com  
[www.irisRemembers.org](http://www.irisRemembers.org)

Offering parents, families, friends and professionals support, education and resources on the death of a child in early pregnancy, or from premature birth, stillbirth, neo-natal death, birth defects, sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS/SUID), illness, accidents, and all other types of infant and early childhood death.

#### 2018 Board Members

Leif & Natalie Crooks - Faribault  
Anna Kettering - Faribault  
Michele Priebe - Waseca  
Denise Gillen - Northfield  
Chris Petricka - Kenyon

**Founder and Executive Director**  
Diana Kelley

Founded in 1987



3<sup>rd</sup> Annual  
**Heaven's Angels Bike Run & Show**  
**Early Registration Form**  
 June 9, 2018

**Pricing good through May 24, 2018**

**Rider Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**City/State/Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Emergency Contact:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Passenger Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**City/State/Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Emergency Contact:** \_\_\_\_\_

**RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT**

In consideration of the acceptance of my entry in this event, I do for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, hereby give up, RELEASE, and forever DISCHARGE in advance my right to sue or make any claim for damages due to negligence or carelessness against Officers, members, and agents; other promoters, sponsors, and their employees; and all organizations and their employees conducting or connected with Infants Remembered in Silence, Inc. (IRIS) for injury to person that I may suffer, including crippling injury or death, while participating in this event and while upon event premises.

I AM AWARE THAT MOTORCYCLING CARRIES A SIGNIFICANT RISK OF SERIOUS PERSONAL INJURY, DEATH, AND PROPERTY DAMAGE. I know the risks of danger to myself, my minor child (if present), and my property while participating in the event and while upon the event premises and, relying upon my own judgment and ability, I ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS OF LOSS and hereby agree to reimburse all costs to, and to forever HOLD HARMLESS and INDEMNIFY, all persons and entities identified above, generally and specifically, from any and all liability for death and/or personal injury or property damage in any way from my participation in this event.

**Rider Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Passenger Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Optional T-Shirt Order - \$10 each</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>XL</b>	<b>2XL</b>	<b>3XL</b>	<b>4XL</b>	<b>5XL</b>
Quantity								

Item	Cost	Qty	Total
Rider	\$25	1	
Passenger	\$15	1	
Shirt Total	\$10		
<b>Total Due</b>			

Make Checks Payable to: IRIS  
 Mail To: IRIS 218 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. NW, Faribault MN 55021

**Or Register online at [www.irisRemembers.org](http://www.irisRemembers.org)**

## IRIS Calendar

### May

- 9th: Midday Support Group Meeting  
11am - 1 pm  
 22nd: Evening Support Group 7- 8:30 pm

### June

- 9th: Heaven's Angels Bike Ride and Show  
Harley-Davidson  
 13th: Midday Support Group 11am - 1 pm  
 26th: Evening Support Group 7- 8:30 pm

### July

- 10th: IRIS Board Meeting  
7 pm  
 11th: Midday Support Group Meeting  
11am - 1 pm  
 24th: Evening Support Group 7- 8:30 pm

### August

- 8th: Midday Support Group Meeting  
11am - 1 pm  
 18th: Water Lantern Release 4-9:30 pm  
 28th: Evening Support Group 7- 8:30 pm

*Please watch our website and facebook for more info*



## Happy Mother's Day to You

*Unknown*

Happy Mother's Day to you, and may peace fill your heart; as you and your sweet baby spend this mother's day apart.

My thoughts and prayers are with you on this Mothers Day; for you have seen your hopes and dreams softly slip away.

Happy Mother's Day to you, you deserve nothing less; for you have borne the burden of loss and emptiness.

You have earned the right to roses or daisies in chubby hands; but all I can offer to you is a friend who understands.

There's so much pain and sorrow when things turn out this way; but we share a special bond on this special day.

So happy Mother's Day, my friend may it bring some joy to you; for you have loved that special way that only mothers do.

## Private Tears

*By Pastor Jim Donald*

They called and asked if I would do a memorial service for their baby that died through miscarriage. It was so important for them to do "something" as they tried to deal with their grief and loss. There were just three of us at the service - the parents and me. The words, the silence, and the tears all found their way to God. The service was a deeply moving experience for all of us. It was a sign of hope and trust in the living God who loves and embraces all children. It also was a way to say goodbye and begin the journey towards wholeness and healing. We can never underestimate the importance of "ritual" in our lives. It reaches deep into our heart and spirit with its healing touch.

## 2017 IRIS Turkey Trot

Thank you so much for supporting IRIS at the 9th Annual IRIS Turkey Trot.  
We had over 1,600 paid Participants



### Thank You To:

- ❖ **Derek Hoffman** - Our MC and Warm-up Guru
- ❖ **Laura O'Connor** - who sang the National Anthem
- ❖ **Boy Scout Troop 306** - Set up, 1st Aid, Water Stop, & Clean up
- ❖ **National Honor Society Members, STOPS, ALC, and other groups** from BA & Faribault High School

### Thank You to the 2017 Trot Committee:

Jennifer Vargo - Chairperson, Jeff Anderson, Stacy Chmelik, Tom Helgeson, Sue Jandro, Meredith Johnson, Diana Kelley, Renee Kleeberger, Lori Mickelson, Holly Moullin, Angie Sundwall, Ben Wegner, and Jon Zimprich.

### Thank You to our Top Sponsors

#### Diamond - \$2,500+

- ❖ ABC Bus
- ❖ Crossroads Professional Building
- ❖ Gopher Sport
- ❖ Southern MN Scene

#### Platinum - \$1,500+

- ❖ Faribault Rent-N-Save

#### Gold - \$1,000+

- ❖ Boldt Funeral Home
- ❖ City of Faribault
- ❖ Dahle Enterprises
- ❖ Faribault Foods
- ❖ Fette Electronics
- ❖ Parker Kohl Funeral Home
- ❖ Poly Pak Plastics
- ❖ Treadway Graphics
- ❖ Z-techs

### Join us at the 10th Annual IRIS Turkey Trot November 22, 2018

- ❖ The 2018 Planning Committee would love to hear your ideas and suggestions.
- ❖ New Committee Members welcome! Meetings are held on the 2nd Wed of each month, 6 pm, at the IRIS Office. Join Us!



## 2018 Little Black Dress - Mad Hatter Flair Affair

Thank you to our sponsors, donors, and all attendees.



### Thank You To:

- ❖ DJ for the night: Johnee D'Shea
- ❖ Photo Booth: Laura Knopik, Images 4 Life Photography
- ❖ Graphic Designer: Jasmine Kai
- ❖ Owatonna Country Club
- ❖ Balanced Boutique - FB

### Sponsors

- ❖ **Alice - \$1,500**
- ❖ Gopher Sport
- ❖ **Mad Hatter - \$500**
- ❖ Owatonna Granite & Monument
- ❖ **White Rabbit - \$250**
- ❖ Kim Cosens - Edward Jones
- ❖ El Tequila Mexican Restaurant
- ❖ Hometown Credit Union - Owatonna
- ❖ Wenger Corporation
- ❖ **Teapot - \$100**
- ❖ Block Plumbing & Heating
- ❖ Prairie Ridge Orthodontics

### Thank You For The Desserts

- ❖ Arna Farmer Catering & Cakes (Faribault)
- ❖ B's Bakes and Cakes (Mankato)
- ❖ Connie DeGrood/Kathy Hallinger (Faribault)
- ❖ Homemade by Holly Medin (Northfield)
- ❖ International Bake Shoppe (La Crosse WI)
- ❖ Jessie Donahue (Faribault)
- ❖ Laura O'Connor (Faribault)
- ❖ Martha's Eats & Treats (Dundas)
- ❖ Miss Sara's Cakery (Hastings)
- ❖ Misty Como (Mankato)
- ❖ Quality Bakery & Coffee Shop (Northfield)
- ❖ Sprinkle Street Cakes (Albert Lea)
- ❖ Sugar Chic Cake Designs (Albert Lea)
- ❖ Sweet Treats by Holly (Owatonna MN)

### Thank You to the LBD Committee

Kelly Cummiskey - Chairperson (Mankato), Jamie Archibald (Jordan), Nicole Christian (Shakopee), Ciera Federly (Neilsville, WI), Maja Hansen (Faribault), Diana Kelley (Faribault), Brandi Petricka (Kenyon), Sonja Sigler Harris (Owatonna), Mikaela Silkey Henderson (Atlanta GA), Angie Sundwall (LaCrosse WI), & Caitlin Sundwall (Faribault).



# *In Loving Memory*

Families and friends have the opportunity to make a donation to IRIS "In Memory Of" a child or children they have lost. We honor and remember the names and lives of the children listed below.

- ♥ **Kimberly Arnold**  
Jamie Lynn Hackett
- ♥ **Jazmyn Ashpole**  
Janet Bontreger
- ♥ **Peter John Barten**  
Rachel & John Barten
- ♥ **Ava Grace Bell**  
Jennifer Bryson
- ♥ **Braydon Andrew Bell**  
Annderia Farley
- ♥ **Olivia Joy Brittain**  
Myrtle & Scott Brittain  
Sandra & Jeff Boss  
Diane Droog  
Jody & Roger Ruehling
- ♥ **James Brown IV**  
William Brown
- ♥ **Alex Michael Buenger**  
Lori & Bob Mickelson
- ♥ **Baby David**  
Melissa & Nicholas David
- ♥ **Shannon Davis**  
Jamie Lynn Hackett
- ♥ **Aubrey Dozark**  
Lori & Peter Dozark  
Margaret Dozark
- ♥ **Carolyn Ann Dozark**  
Lori & Peter Dozark
- ♥ **Baby Geyer-Sobota**  
Kathleen Schafer
- ♥ **Arlo Gustafson**  
Mary & Ryan Gustafson
- ♥ **Job Gustafson**  
Mary & Ryan Gustafson

- ♥ **Justice Corrin Hackett**  
Dwayne Hackett
- ♥ **Baby Havumaki**  
Christina & Bryson Havumaki
- ♥ **Hope Iris**  
UNUM Group Employees
- ♥ **Baby Howie**  
Betty & Joel Weber
- ♥ **Andrew Hughes**  
Gina Cibuzar
- ♥ **Michael Lee Hughes**  
Gina Cibuzar
- ♥ **Curtis Holter**  
Patricia Holter
- ♥ **Jessica Jandro**  
Katherine St. Clair
- ♥ **Our Babies In Heaven**  
Laura & Nick Jewison
- ♥ **Christian Kriesel**  
Julie & Larry Kriesel
- ♥ **Erin Grace Kriesel**  
Julie & Larry Kriesel
- ♥ **Hope Kuennen**  
Lori Shook
- ♥ **Augustus Kuennen**  
Lori Shook
- ♥ **Korbin Allan LeMieux**  
Becky & Allan Baker
- ♥ **Joseph Thomas Markman**  
Lori Jo & Todd Markman
- ♥ **Alicia McCoy**  
J.T. McCoy
- ♥ **Merissa Mueller**  
Gladys Barsness

- ♥ **Sara Jane Murray**  
Lori Jo & Todd Markman
- ♥ **Joshuah Neubauer**  
Angie & Dan Neubauer  
Ellie LaMont
- ♥ **Catherine Olson**  
Cassandra Olson
- ♥ **Trevor Richard Pint**  
Mary Kotek
- ♥ **Lynnaya Lou Perrizo**  
Bonnie & Steve Oborn
- ♥ **Baby Reinitz**  
Jen & Steve Baxa
- ♥ **Grace Marden Reker**  
Anonymous
- ♥ **Hope Ryals**  
Jamie Lynn Hackett
- ♥ **Stella Grace Sauerbrey**  
Christenson Family Charitable  
Fund
- ♥ **Maren Elise Schieck**  
Jacquee & Tanner Schieck
- ♥ **Addison Sommers**  
Bonnie Sommers  
Kathleen Roehl
- ♥ **April Spence**  
Jessica Burison Molina
- ♥ **Blake Robert Stadler**  
Cheryl Fleck
- ♥ **Sabrina Strouth**  
Lori Strouth
- ♥ **Kelly Jean Vandereide**  
Marianne & Jay Vandereide
- ♥ **Erica Kay Vandereide**  
Marianne & Jay Vandereide

♥ **William Thomas Wagner**  
Sheri & Tim Wagner

♥ **JJ Wolf**  
Amy & James Wolf

♥ **Anthony Michael Zimprich**  
Vanessa & Jon Zimprich  
Jean & Dennis McBride



### The Duluth Bench

In Duluth Minnesota there is a memorial bench positioned with a wonderful view of Lake Superior. The bench is a memorial for a baby who lived for a few months. For many, these few words hold endless emotions.

**"A little life... a lasting love."**

### Adult Memorials

Families and friends have the opportunity to make a donation to IRIS in memory of an adult they have lost. We honor and remember the names and lives of the adults listed below.

♥ **Larry Dozark**  
Margaret Dozark  
Diana Kelley

♥ **Darlene Francis**  
Valerie Pommeranz

♥ **Barb Larson**  
Diana Kelley

♥ **Jessica Karasch**  
Altendorf Family  
Janet Bontreger  
Decker Family  
Dunn Family  
Nadine Holbert  
Sandra Knutson  
Debbie & David Krohn  
Ashley McKenna  
Mary & Mel Sanborn  
Securitas Security Services  
Thomas Family

♥ **Dolly & Otis Lingenfelter**  
Diana Kelley

♥ **Dr. Ben & Pat Tuma**  
Diana Kelley



### Kite

By Dale Miller

As I fly my kite  
I think of you  
It's one of the things  
Together we would do

In that mindless moment  
I wonder why  
As I watch that kite  
Dance in the sky

Why can't you be  
Here with me  
The reason for this  
I just can't see

Or why can't I go  
To where you are  
It really doesn't matter  
If it's near or far

It would seem to me  
To be hard to see  
That kite in the sky  
With tears in my eyes

If I fly that kite  
As high as it will go  
Could you write a note  
On it to let me know

If I kissed that kite  
And set it to flight  
Would it reach you on your cloud?  
Or would that not be allowed?

If I could climb  
Up that kite's string  
And stay there with you  
It would make my heart sing

But when I bring that kite down  
And it's lying on the ground  
There's no lipstick or letter  
Perhaps it's for the better

So I wrote on it "I love you"  
And tried to fly it up to you  
But I do know that message  
Is something you already knew.

### Angel Donations

IRIS continues to receive donations for the Bronze "I Knew You In The Womb" Angel Statue by sculptor Timothy P. Schmalz. The Angel is paid for & we continue raising funds for the two memorial gardens, lighting, etc. For a detail listing of all donations visit [www.gofundme.com](http://www.gofundme.com) and search: Infants Remembered In Silence.

### Children Angel Memorials

- ♥ Wyatt Michael Bauer
- ♥ William DeGrood
- ♥ Bethany DeGrood
- ♥ Joseph Thomas Markman
- ♥ Sara Jane Murray

### Adults Angel Memorials

- ♥ Lorena Holstad
- ♥ Carol Horstman
- ♥ Jimmy Schuldt

**Suzy's Smile Shines Golf Tournament in memory of Suzy and Baby Kaderlik - \$6,000**



### IRIS Peer Support Groups

- ❖ Midday Support Group Meetings are held on the 2nd Wed of the month from 11 am - 1 pm
- ❖ Evening Support Group Meetings are held on the 4th Tue of the month from 7 - 8:30 pm

All Support Group Meetings are held at the IRIS Office - 218 3rd Ave. NW, Faribault MN 55021

- ❖ No registration required
- ❖ Adult only meetings
- ❖ Free of charge
- ❖ Everyone is welcome to come and talk about their child, their feelings, frustrations, fears, and their memories.
- ❖ IRIS Support Group Meetings are Peer Support - parents talking to other parents who have also experienced the death of a child.



## Thank You

For Your Donations of Time,  
Talent, & Supplies

- ❖ **Baby blankets, Hats, Prayer Shawls, Yarn & Sewing** - Luanne Bayers, Renee Beissel, Bethel Ridge Activity Circle, Joyce Bohlen, Sharon Bonin, Kathy & Dave DuChene, the Family of Gayle Reineke, Jean Farr, Barbara Geyer, Jill Gore, Elda Krause, Nicole Matejcek, LeAnn Meyer, Nancy Moe, Ciana Neeley, Adrienne O'Rourke, Joan Pinske, Pam Porras, Maureen Rado, Rebecca Ramsey, Tammy Rischmiller, Share & Care - St. Mary of the Angels Parish, Judy Smith, Margie Stauffer, Libby Schmit, Angie Sundwall, Carol Underferth, and many Anonymous Donors
- ❖ **Youth Groups and Adults from: St. Patrick's Church in Shieldsville, Associated Church in Owatonna, Our Savior's Lutheran in Faribault, 1st English Lutheran in Faribault, and Metro YMCA Camp** - for yard cleanup, flower planting, office cleaning, & loaded trailer for events.
- ❖ **Brody Kucera and friends** - yard work
- ❖ **Michelle and Brett Martindale, Deb Greising, and Anonymous donors** - household and office supplies
- ❖ **Cedar Chiropractic** - copy paper
- ❖ **Dean Fahrendorf** - wooden step stool and lightbulbs
- ❖ **Pastor Janet White** - presiding over the IRIS Common Burial Service
- ❖ **Iris Bulbs** - June Donelan, Pat Johnson, Sharon Langerfeld, Kristen Scouton, and Anonymous Donors
- ❖ **Connie and Joe DeGroot** - Eco Lab Bug Spraying
- ❖ **Faribault Daily News, Gunnar Olson and Girlfriends Magazine** - For Angel Statue Stories and assistance
- ❖ **Connie DeGroot & Kathy Hallenger** - providing cookies at IRIS events
- ❖ **RainForest Alliance** - office furniture and supplies
- ❖ **Jim Trotman and family** - wooden Memorial boxes
- ❖ **Girl Scouts Troop #25422** - 28 boxes of cookies and flowers for the front of the IRIS House
- ❖ **Mortenson Fire & Safety, Craig Laughridge** - Fire Extinguishers
- ❖ **Ruth Ann Less** - hand made T-shirt Quilt from Turkey Trot shirts
- ❖ **Owatonna VFW Volunteers** - yarn, paper products, trash bags, computer ink
- ❖ **Maridy & Matt Helland** - Preemie outfits
- ❖ **In Memory of Precious Baby Anna** - Deluxe Paper Shredder
- ❖ **Victoria Moullin** - volunteer "Trot" for publicity photos
- ❖ **Tom Helgeson** - gas grill
- ❖ **Design Specialties** - IRIS Decals on Diana's personal vehicle
- ❖ **Faribault Fire Department - Captain Joel Hansen, Josh Bauer, Alex Hanson** - assembling kids' pedal car
- ❖ **Sharen/Arnie & Denise Gillen** - wicker baskets
- ❖ **Sharon Stadler** - bottles for event decorations
- ❖ **Boy Scouts Troop #306, Gordy Kosfeld, Thomas and Libby Schmidt, Chris Petricka, Brandi Petricka, Connie DeGroot, Denise Gillen, Dan Neubauer, Stacy Chmelik, Trent Churchill, Dick & Anna Kettering, Marc Hallin, and All those helping with the Breakfast Bash** - kitchen help, clearing tables, bake sale and silent auction, and Bingo helpers



## The Grief of Fathers

By Terry Jago

In the early days of my grief,  
a tear would well up in my eyes,  
a lump would form in my throat,  
but you would not know,  
I would hide it, and I am strong.

In the middle days of my grief,  
I would look ahead and see that wall  
that I had attempted to go around  
as an ever-present reminder of a wall  
yet unscaled.

Yet I did not attempt to scale it  
for the strong will survive  
and I am strong.

In the later days of my grief,  
I learned to climb over that wall  
step by step remembering, crying,  
grieving, and the tears flowed steadily  
as I painstakingly went over.  
The way was long, but I did make it,  
for I am strong.

Near the resolution of my grief,  
a tear will well up in my eyes,  
a lump will form in my throat,  
but I will let that tear fall  
and you will see it.

Through it you will see  
that I still hurt and I care,  
for I am strong.

## wish list

- ❖ Baby Yarn in pastel colors
- ❖ Yarn for Prayer Shawls - All Colors
- ❖ Avery Labels 5160
- ❖ Printer Ink Cartridges HP 61 Color and Black
- ❖ Kleenex (non-lotion)
- ❖ Furnace Filters (16x25x1)
- ❖ Cleaning supplies
- ❖ Mulch for the gardens
- ❖ Volunteers

Volunteers of all kinds,  
with all levels of experience  
needed!

Volunteers are the  
heart and soul of IRIS.  
We welcome your help!

### Current Volunteer Needs

- ♥ General Maintenance
- ♥ Spring Yard Clean-up
- ♥ Spring House Cleaning
- ♥ Office work
- ♥ Assembly of Clothing Sets
- ♥ Assembly of Bereavement Support Packets
- ♥ Memorial Garden Committee
- ♥ Memorial Planting/Landscaping
- ♥ Electrical update for outside lighting
- ♥ Installation of new outdoor lights in front of the IRIS House
- ♥ Hang sheetrock in one basement room of the IRIS house
- ♥ Tape and mud 2 rooms in the basement of the IRIS House
- ♥ House Painting - Outside
- ♥ IRIS Board Members
- ♥ And Much More!



### A Father's Grief

By Eileen Knight Hagemeister

It must be very difficult  
To be a man in grief.

Since "men don't cry"  
and "men are strong"

No tears can bring relief.

It must be very difficult  
To stand up to the test.

And field calls and visitors

So that she can get some rest.

They always ask if she's alright

And what she's going through.

But seldom take his hand and ask,

"My friend, how are you?"

He hears her cry in the night

And thinks his heart will break.

And dries her tears & comforts her

But "stays strong" for her sake.

It must be very difficult

To start each day anew.

And try to be so very brave-

He lost his baby too.

## Thank You To Our Friends

Throughout the year IRIS receives many wonderful donation of cash and items. Thank  
You for your generosity and support of IRIS.

### Donations \$2,000 - \$4,999

- ❖ City of Faribault - charitable gambling
- ❖ I-Heart Media, Cities 97
- ❖ Northfield Hospitals & Clinics

### Donations \$1,000 - \$1,999

- ❖ Premier Banks
- ❖ Joshua Neubauer Memorial Golf Tournament
- ❖ MN Valley Electric Co-op
- ❖ Wings Grant - Northfield

### Donations \$500 - \$999

- ❖ DaVita Dialysis Center
- ❖ Insty Prints - Shine Grant
- ❖ Church of St. Dominic - Northfield

### Donations \$251 - \$499

- ❖ Network for Good—Anonymous through Facebook

### Donations up to \$250

- ❖ Amazon Smiles
- ❖ American Legion Auxiliary #228
- ❖ Bierman Funeral Home
- ❖ Blue Sky Mechanical
- ❖ Divine Mercy Church
- ❖ Eagles #2242
- ❖ Eagles Auxiliary #1791
- ❖ Faribault Knights of Columbus Auxiliary
- ❖ Josten's Youth Matter
- ❖ Monthly Awareness Nail Polish Box
- ❖ Moose Lodge #2098
- ❖ New Prague Chamber of Commerce
- ❖ North Waseca Women ELCA
- ❖ Northfield Hospital Auxiliary
- ❖ Quaker Hill Foundation
- ❖ St. Patrick's Shieldsville CCW
- ❖ St. Paul's Lutheran Church
- ❖ Sisters Salon, Owatonna
- ❖ Taco John's Ole Enterprises
- ❖ VFW Auxiliary #1642
- ❖ Waseca Lion's Club

### Personal Donations

- ❖ Anonymous Donations
- ❖ Lisa Bauer
- ❖ Donna Beatty
- ❖ Dr. Sarah & Dr. David Beckmann
- ❖ Michele Berg
- ❖ Kari & Scott Boldt
- ❖ Lynette Charlton-Rose
- ❖ Patti Ellingson
- ❖ Deb Greising
- ❖ Corrie Guggisberg
- ❖ Mary Gulbrandson
- ❖ Ellen & Brian Haefner
- ❖ Vicki & Kevin Haekenkamp
- ❖ Todd Johnson
- ❖ Kristi & David LeMieux
- ❖ Deborah Lenway
- ❖ Staci & Joseph Martin
- ❖ Mariana McDonald
- ❖ Heidi Meier
- ❖ Deanna Mosser
- ❖ Kristi Nordaas
- ❖ Margaret & David Paukert
- ❖ Susan & John Rau
- ❖ Laurie & Michael Ridgley
- ❖ Ann Schroeder
- ❖ Scot Shaft
- ❖ Brent Stevens
- ❖ Jennifer Vargo
- ❖ Robyn Wagner
- ❖ Margaret & JD Walker
- ❖ Tiffany Wentura

### Donations in Honor of....

- ❖ Theresa Flintrop
- ❖ Aaron K's Birthday
- ❖ Margaret Walker
- ❖ Heather Stortz
- ❖ Annie Watts
- ❖ Sheila Breisler
- ❖ Barb and Mike Case

### United Way Contributions



2017 Dodge County -  
\$5,000

2018 Dodge County -  
\$2,500

Faribault - \$1,875  
Northfield - (Donor  
Designated) \$90

### Give MN Donors

- ❖ Anonymous
- ❖ Kris & Matt Drevlow
- ❖ Jill & Scott Finstuen
- ❖ Megan & John Parker
- ❖ Amy & Brad Sillanpa - In Memory of John William Sillanpa
- ❖ Linda & Dan Stader



## Grief Is

© By Dale Miller



Grief is ~ Feeling great joy and unbelievable sadness in the same moment.  
Grief is ~ Feeling like you're breaking apart but knowing you can't – you're already broken  
Grief is ~ Realizing you don't go to hell from here, you're already there  
Grief is ~ Waking in the morning and crying because you did  
Grief is ~ Fake plastic smiles and sad puffy eyes  
Grief is ~ Hiding yourself away so no-one else need suffer  
Grief is ~ Going through the motions and not knowing why

Grief is ~ Not knowing how to explain anything  
Grief is ~ Listening to people say they understand but knowing they don't  
Grief is ~ Feeling absolutely alone and smaller than small  
Grief is ~ A hole inside that no-one can see exactly the shape of her  
Grief is ~ Never ending  
Grief is ~ Not wanting to eat, sleep, work, dream, or face today  
Grief is ~ Feeling like you're going insane, and realizing you already did that last week, and the week before, and the week before that  
Grief is ~ The worst feeling ever - sadness far beyond sad  
Grief is ~ Visiting a grave to try to feel better trudging through knee deep snow to clean off a headstone and have a talk  
Grief is ~ Trying to figure out why you're still here doing everything you can think of so you'll finally be allowed to go be with her  
Grief is ~ Getting it out only for it to fill back up and doing it over and over and over  
Grief is ~ Dreading the holidays, birthdays, anniversaries, and tomorrow  
Grief is ~ Friends leaving your life and you not knowing why - you ought to see them run  
Grief is ~ Feeling guilty for things you didn't do, wrongs you didn't commit, and for not being able to save her  
Grief is ~ Counselors and medications that don't really help  
Grief is ~ Anything but peaceful  
Grief is ~ Learning to drive and cry at the same time  
Grief is ~ Being told to get over it or suck it up buttercup  
Grief is ~ Shaking uncontrollably for no apparent reason  
Grief is ~ Not being able to enter a room or the bedroom  
Grief is ~ The willingness to do absolutely anything to try to feel better  
Grief is ~ Being kicked while you're down people can be so cruel  
Grief is ~ Being taken advantage of  
Grief is ~ Having to hang up the phone because you're crying too hard to be understood  
Grief is ~ Writing stupid poems that no-one will ever read  
Grief is ~ Memories both painful and good  
Grief is ~ Packing up her belongings to send them to the vultures that are circling  
Grief is ~ Layout her coat on a table and watching as the cats fight over who gets to lay on it – it still smelled like her  
Grief is ~ Being angry at God  
Grief is ~ Picking up the pieces of your life just to put them down again  
Grief is ~ Trying to figure out what grief is  
Grief is ~ Trying to learn about grief from people who have never felt it  
Grief is ~ Crying in your sleep, grief is hurting this bad and still being alive  
Grief is ~ Having to explaining to someone who hadn't heard she was gone  
Grief is ~ Being told to remember the good times and knowing those are the memories that hurt the worst  
Grief is ~ Crying so hard you throw up  
Grief is ~ Having to fight with family members for her last wishes to be kept  
Grief is ~ Finding a trinket that once made her smile  
Grief is ~ Feeling like you did a week after she passed four years later  
Grief is ~ Love doesn't die just because she did



### **Tears of Love**

By Jesse & Stacy Pike

In memory of Makayla Lynn Pike, April 8, 2001 - May 4, 2003  
Died of complications of Krabbe Disease

Listen, listen, over here  
I have a little secret for you to hear.  
Take a moment and look around,  
My mommy and daddy are flooding the ground.  
Their tears are real; their tears are true,  
for I have broken their heart into two.

I know it's not fair, I know it's not right,  
that God the Father has chosen me tonight.  
For my time was short and all too fast,  
I guess it simply was not meant to last.

So, I'm very sorry that I could not stay  
to carry out your hopes, and dreams of today.  
For your love for me was so very strong  
It is what kept me going each daylong.

But no matter when, no matter where  
I will be available, just look up here  
For my spirit is strong, my spirit is wide  
Amongst all the clouds up in the sky.

So mommy and daddy please don't cry,  
for I took your advice to fly higher than the sky.  
Just look at me now I am very much at peace  
As an Angel I have no more pain to release.

### **A Mother's Day Poem**

*Kim Maycock*

*In memory of her son, Darius Andrew Maycock*

So many months I carried you  
And I couldn't wait to see  
What a wonderful little person  
You would turn out to be.  
I had my dreams of how it would be  
Just to watch you grow  
But now those dreams have faded  
Because I shall never know.  
For God in His great wisdom  
Carried you away with love  
Now the rocking chair sits silent  
And the lullabies won't be quiet.  
They flow like the river roars  
And I know my life is forever changed  
To be the same no more  
I must be a special mother.  
Because I have been set apart  
Some mothers carry their children in their arms –  
but I carry you in my heart.

### **Dear Mommy: A letter from Heaven**

Dear Mommy,

I know you have a hard time facing each day without me, struggling to make sense of my death. I see you cry before bed each night and in your car on the way to work. I'm so sorry, Mommy.

I'm sorry I had to leave so soon. I didn't want to leave you, but please know that although you cannot see me, I am never far away.

Those chills you get when you are all alone, it's me giving you a hug. I'm still here, Mommy. I'm right here. Those beautiful rainbows that stop you in your tracks. It's me saying hello. Those butterflies that flutter around you. It's me reminding you you're not alone.

I hear you say goodnight to me as you drift to sleep each night. You can't hear me, but I whisper "goodnight" back. I wish you could hear me whisper "I love you" everyday.

I know you miss me with every breath you take. That every joyful moment is also filled with sadness and wonder. Wonder of what I would be like, what I would look like, what I would become. I wish you could see me now, Mommy. I'm happy. I'm free.

Mommy, I want you to know that I'm okay. I'm at peace now. I know it's not easy to get through the days, but you keep on going, bringing me with you every step of the way. Thank you, Mommy.

I know one of your biggest fears is that people will forget about me. They haven't forgotten, Mommy. You keep my memory alive. You say my name and tell my story. I live on through you.

I'm so proud that you are my Mommy. You are so brave, so kind, so loving. Although our time together was short, you always took care of me. Protected me. Loved me. You are such a good Mommy. Don't question if I knew how much you loved me, I knew. I can still feel your love, it reaches me all the way in heaven.

I know there are days that you think you can't keep going. Days that you can't wait to join me, just so you can hold me and kiss me one more time. I know how much you long for that day, but please keep living, Mommy. I want you to live, to smile, to feel joy. You don't need to feel guilty when you're happy. I like to see you smile. I love the sound of your laugh.

Please keep going. Keep carrying me with you in all that you do. I promise I'm here, Mommy. I'm waiting here for you. I will always be with you, sending my love from heaven, until you can hold me again.

Don't let go, Mommy. I live on through you. I'm a part of you. I love you.

# It's Not Just A Pregnancy

By Catherine Tomlinson



It's called the Miracle of Life for a reason. The journey through pregnancy and child birth is astounding when you think of how scientific the body actually works. Cells multiply and divide at tremendous rates and the female body adapts and creates the perfect host for its parasitic growth. When the time for birth comes, the body automatically reacts. It instinctively knows that the baby needs to be evicted. The perfect birth is textbook, wonderful and ends with the birth of a newborn baby.

To plan the perfect birth, most start by doing what I call "pregnancy math." Planning a pregnancy is not as simple as "I want to have my first child by \_\_\_\_ (insert year here.). In order to determine the "best" date or the "best" year, one starts by subtracting back 9 months from when one would hope they would deliver. Add a two month window for "trying." You are automatically at 11 months between the time you try to conceive a child to the time a child will be born. You may factor in things like the

weather when the child will be born, or in what months you don't want to be pregnant. Maybe your brother is going to be married, so you make decisions...do you want to be pregnant or do you want to be bringing two kids, the pack and play, and be breastfeeding while they both say "I do."

Pregnancy math is a handy little tool.

Miscarriage is the divisor in pregnancy math. Miscarriage takes your final calculation and cuts everything in half. Once you've found out that you've conceived, you immediately begin to plan out your year because of the math. You look at the due date and what commitments could interfere. You calculate prenatal care appointments and clothing options. Days of your life are planned for the next year, and are cut short the minute the miscarriage occurs. An entire year becomes empty, free and isolating.

You see, most people who haven't experienced loss do not understand that the pain of miscarriage follows the person throughout the entire year after. Because of the precise planning, the emptiness of days that were suppose to be consumed with swollen ankles and maternity clothes are now nothing but fat pants and sweatshirts. Time that was suppose to be spent caring for a child, that was calculated and accounted for, are now days that you will work. There is no extra time. Miscarriage does a very good job of dividing it all.

And then there is the final piece of time. It's haunting. After pregnancy math has been well and accounted for, there is another math that replaces it. Math so complicated, I don't think I can even name it. The minute you become pregnant, the minute you begin to plan out your future, you now have a child in the picture. You talk about future events, and it will not just be the two of you, or three of you, or four of you. You add another person to the mix.

"The car won't fit everyone next year for Christmas, maybe we should start planning to purchase another."

"We should start moving everything around to create the nursery. If it's another girl, they can share a room."

"What if it's twins?"

The future now includes the child that has begun to take shape within you. You begin to wonder who he or she will be. Who he or she will look like? How will his or her sibling react? How will you travel? Do daycare? The questions are endless and the planning is constant. When the loss occurs, everything disappears. There is no child. He or she has been taken. And, because scientifically you know that only that egg and that sperm created that child, there will be no child like the one you lost. The next child will be completely different.

Women who have lost a child have not just lost a pregnancy. It is so much more. Miscarriage initially robs women of the first year after the loss, and then it robs them of a lifetime of memories. Forever in their hearts will be the silent wondering of where the child they lost would be. What would they be doing if they had been born? How might life be different?

Herein lies the unspoken pain of pregnancy. The pain that drives women to suffer in silence, even to the point of wanting to take their own life. A miscarriage is the loss of a child. Scientifically, one can tell a grieving mother about it being simply tissue, or better because of chromosomal abnormalities. All of those words, all of the science, is simply the scientific building block for the child a woman carries. The "clump" of cells that was "evicted" from the uterus, that was a lifetime.

When women share this, the world can turn on them in an instant. Women who share their loss become “attention seekers.” They really need to just “move on.” It was “just cells” and they’re “better off because something was probably wrong with it.” In fact, they should be really happy for the child they do have. Continuously, I read and find women in support groups with nowhere to turn except for strangers who have been through the same experience. They share stories of people who tear them apart for sharing their story of miscarriage and loss. They are torn so far apart, that they become silent in the public world about the child they will never give birth too, take to the park or watch graduate. Their children become shadows in their lives.

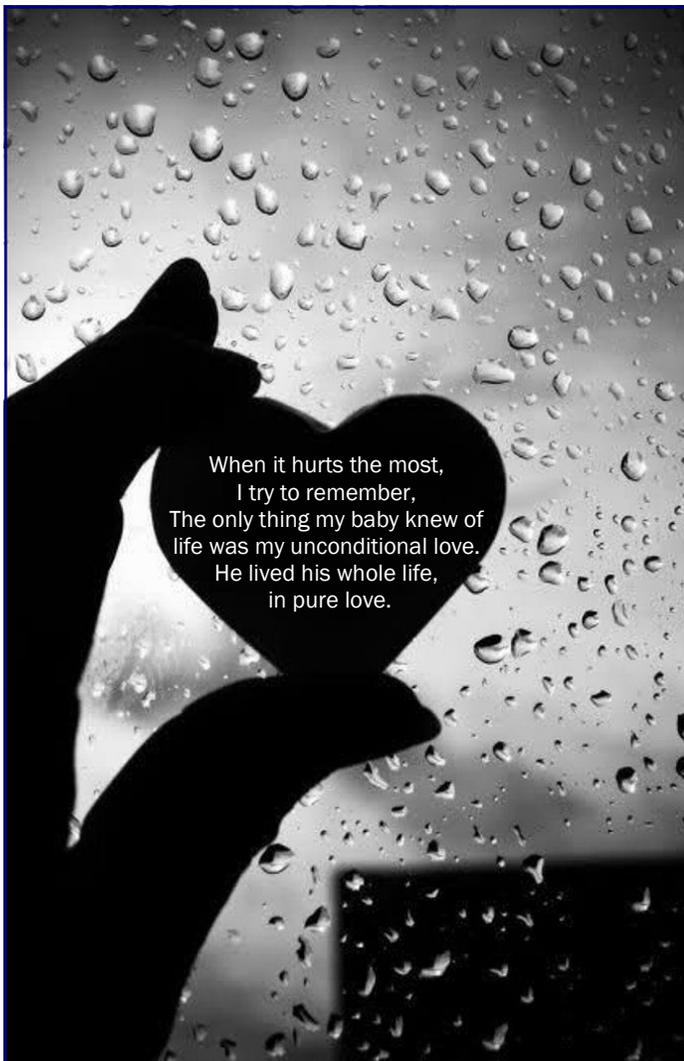
If you haven’t had a loss, I honestly don’t want you to be able to fully understand. I really don’t. When I hear of someone who has suffered a loss now, my entire body reacts. The phrase “gut-wrenching pain” is probably the closest I can describe. My stomach becomes sick. My world turns upside down, and I’m beyond sad for the woman I’ve learned has suffered loss. I would never wish the feeling on my worst enemy. It’s suffocating.

So, since not everyone can understand, and since I don’t want everyone to understand (for your sake), I simply ask this. Please, please, regardless of how you feel, or what you know, or how you believe, please know that many of us feel we lost a child for a lifetime. Please know that when we talk about pregnancy, birth, children and siblings with others a little part in many of us cries inside. Please know that when we plan vacations, events and our future we feel like someone is missing. Please know that in our families are holes that should be filled by children who never came.

We miss them.

We wish they were here.

We love our unborn miracles.



7th Annual  
IRIS  
Water Lantern  
Release  
Saturday August 18, 2018  
4 - 9:30 PM

Remembering loved ones by lighting a lantern and floating on water has been a ritual filled with emotion for generations. We hope that you will be able to join us as we continue this touching tradition. The 7th Annual IRIS Water Lantern Release will be held on Saturday August 18, 2018 at South Alexander Park, Shelter 2. The park is located at 7th Ave. NW and 14th St. NW in Faribault MN. Lanterns will be available to order online at [www.irisRemembers.org](http://www.irisRemembers.org) or you can stop in/call the IRIS office to make arrangements for your lantern. Personalization service available. Come early to decorate your lanterns or pick up and decorate it at home.

PLEASE NOTE that due to the heavy dew at the 2017 event the “Rice Paper Lanterns” melted and will not be usable this yr.

**Infants Remembered In Silence, Inc. (IRIS)**

218 3rd Ave. NW  
Faribault, MN 55021  
[www.irisRemembers.org](http://www.irisRemembers.org)

In This Newsletter:

- ♥ Heaven's Angels Motorcycle Run & Bike Show
- ♥ Poems
- ♥ Memorials
- ♥ Stories
- ♥ Water Lantern Release



*Twinkle, twinkle* little star, up in

*Heaven* is where *You* are.

*Flying* high & *twinkling* bright,

My guiding *Star*, my

*Shining* light.

Twinkle, twinkle little *Star*,

*My* perfect *Angel*

... is who *You* are.