



#### Mission Statement

Our Mission is to bring light in a time of sorrow. To provide a bear as a reminder of your little angel and that you are not alone, but accompanied by the thoughts and prayers of everyone who has shared in this emotion.

PO Box 212, Jenison, MI 49429 P.616.481.3727 [www.briannaleefoundation.org](http://www.briannaleefoundation.org)

Member of the Jenison - Grandville Chamber of Commerce, Michigan Non Profit, 501-c-3 federal non profit.

**Volume 6 Issue 1**

**February 2019**

We received a message from the Bereavement Director of one of the hospitals we supply teddy bears to. She wanted to share what a blessing the Brianna Lee Teddy Bears have been and are to their patients. Here is what she shared with us.

They had a mom who delivered a healthy baby and the day after the mom and baby were discharged, the baby died of SIDS. The mom had some health issues so she was re-admitted into the hospital. The Bereavement Director went up to her room to see her. She gave this mom one of the Brianna Lee teddy bears. Every time they checked on this mom after she received the teddy bear, she would find her cuddling the teddy bear. This bear was able to touch this mom's heart in a way nothing or no one else could.

She gives them to the moms to hold while they are in labor, knowing their baby will be still born.

They had a dad call two days after his wife was sent home, asking if he too could have a teddy bear, to help him in his time of grief.

They just recently had a couple who was facing some very tough decisions as their baby had a brain anomaly that wasn't conducive to life. She gave them a teddy bear to help them in their time of grief.

All of this support for all the moms and dads in all of our hospitals is due to your continued support. So thank you for allowing the Brianna Lee teddy bears to be a blessing to so many in a very tragic time.

#### Brianna Lee Foundation Board

Linda Miller - President

Jessica Miller - Vice President

Jennifer Wiersma - Secretary

Jim Miller - Treasurer

Board of Directors: Brian Miller, Jeff Miller, Raeann Miller, Jamie Wiersma, and Mackenzie Wiersma

A few months ago we received a beautiful card and note from this mom. She also sent pictures of Winston and their daughter Ainsley, holding the Winston bear. Thank you Kearstin for sharing the pictures and your story.

It has been over two years since the loss of my stillborn son, Winston Andrew. Winston was born on July 13, 2016 at Bronson Hospital in Kalamazoo Mi.

The pain of hearing “He didn’t make it”, after waking from an emergency C-section, will forever be burned in my mind. My son was placed on my chest, lifeless, blue and so small (4 lbs 6 oz).

Holding him after 36 weeks of pregnancy and the dream of being a mom to a living child were crushed in that moment.

After hours of holding him, we had to say goodbye. My arms ached for him. Lying in the hospital bed, a nurse came in with a bright blue teddy bear. As fast as I could, I squeezed the bear, so tight and I wept. This was the first time I didn’t feel completely alone.

I have sleep with this teddy bear every single night since receiving him. We have named him Winston bear.

This bear and your Foundation have done so much for me. Thank You!

Kearstin

Ms. Miller,

I just wanted to thank you for starting such an amazing organization. I just lost my little girl at 23 weeks gestation at Highland Hospital in Rochester, NY. Leaving the hospital without her was the most difficult thing I have ever had to do. When the hospital asked if I wanted a teddy bear, I honestly thought it was silly, but agreed to take one anyway. The bear turned out to be anything but silly. It has actually been one of the most helpful things for me since leaving the hospital on Friday. I especially like that the bears are weighted and gender specific. Please keep up this amazing work that you are doing.

Thanks again,

Laura

#### DONATIONS RECEIVED THIS QUARTER

Gina & Scott Clifford  
Jim & Nancy Richey  
Larry Winsch  
Dave & Jerrie Garvin  
John & Alison Hazzard  
David & Regina Billings

Thank you we cannot do it without you!

In memory of:

Alexander Beckett Macdonald-Smith,  
on behalf of Kelli Macdonald-Smith.  
Our stillborn who had a man’s courage.  
From Alex Macdonald-Smith.



To the Brianna Lee Foundation,

Our daughter, Lydia, was stillborn on 1/1/18 at IU Arnett Hospital in Lafayette IN.

Lydia was killed by the impact of a car accident on our way home from visiting family in Wisconsin.

We were in total shock and the months since have been a whirlwind of grief.

On the way home from the hospital to Cincinnati we hugged the Brianna Lee teddy bear that we received the whole time. That small comfort was most needed and will be remembered a lifetime.

Sincerely,  
Phyllis and Tim

In Memory of:

Lydia Jessie Williamson, on behalf of my sister's daughter, who was born still after a car accident on New Years Eve.  
From Thomas Chapman.



The Brianna Lee Foundation will be hosting our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf outing and Silent Auction on Saturday June 1, 2019 at the Meadows Golf Course.

The Golf Outing & Silent Auction is our biggest fundraiser for the foundation each year and your contribution will directly support our mission of supplying teddy bears to hospitals, who in turn supply them to grieving mothers and fathers who experience a stillbirth. Your support is essential to help us further our goal of being a nationally known foundation, so that parents who endure this tragic event can leave the hospital with something to comfort them.

There are many options for you to help sponsor our event

Tournament Sponsor \$1000

Practice Hole Sponsor \$250

Hole Sponsor \$150

Golf Cart Sponsor \$100

We also need companies and individuals to donate for the silent auction.

If you are interested in any of these options to help support The Brianna Lee Foundation please contact Linda Miller at (616) 481-3727

