



#### 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 3, Issue 3

September 2015

The Foundation received this note from a mom that received a Brianna Lee teddy bear at Bronson hospital in Kalamazoo Michigan.

There is nothing that can help when you find out your baby has died. When you are supposed to be bringing home a healthy beautiful baby and instead you are planning a funeral. When the social worker at the hospital where I was waiting to give birth to my still born son brought a soft fluffy blue bear with little hearts on its feet and a tiny heart nose to me at first I was angry. 'What makes you think I want to hold this bear?' I thought, 'I want to be holding my son.' But at that moment I didn't have the energy to protest and took the bear and with my tear stained face attempted to smile in thanks. As I held the bear the soft fur comforted my soul and I began to sob into its soft belly. For the next several hours and for many times since this bear has been my crying pillow, my confidant and my friend as I hold and hug and sob and rant about the unfairness of not having a healthy child to hug and hold. I remember the social worker talking about 'empty arms syndrome' and telling me about the Brianna Lee foundation and how their goal was to never let a mother leave the hospital after the death of her child with empty arms. I just wanted to let you know how much this bear has meant to me and how much comfort it has given to me in the months since our stillbirth. My bear still lives on the bedside table next to my bed and the rocking chair I never got to rock my son in. Someday we hope to have other children but for now my blue Brianna Lee bear still gets rocked and talked to and cried with often. Thank you so much for your compassionate work to help grieving mothers and thank you for my blue bear.

#### Fund Raising Opportunities

If your work place or group is looking for a non profit to raise funds for this holiday season, please consider the Brianna Lee Foundation.

Here is an idea; purchase a paper teddy bear with a dollar donation and hang the bear in your work place or school. (We will supply the cut out bears).

There are a lot of other ways you can support the Foundation too. Any and all support is appreciated. Our continued growth is all because of you. So Thank you!!

An Infant Memorial Service is scheduled for October 25 at 5:30 at Hudsonville Reformed Church. If you would like to be a part of this service by sharing your story, reading a poem, or perhaps singing, please email Ruth Gifford at [ruthie32@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ruthie32@sbcglobal.net). Also, if you would like to share your little one(s) in our program and/or our slideshow, please email her as well. This is always a special night and we have a couple new things planned for this year's service. If you or someone you know has experienced a miscarriage, stillbirth, or infant death, we would love to have you join us as we celebrate these precious little angels.

Every Tuesday the Nylaan Dental Team on Plainfield Ave in Grand Rapids hosts a Zumba for a cause event. Each week a different non profit is selected to receive the funds from that night's event. The Brianna Lee Foundation was one of the non profits for the month of August. Thank you to the Nylaan Dental Team for allowing us to be one of the non profits and for your continued support.



Addyson's Angel Run  
Saturday October 10th, 2015  
at Hudsonville Reformed Church  
3950 Highland Dr.  
Hudsonville, Mi 49426

This is a 5K or 3.1 mile run/walk. For kids 3-10 there is a 100 yard fun run. Registration is 9 am with the kids run at 10 am. Addyson's angel run starts at 10:30. There is a team for the Brianna Le Foundation so if you want to register under the Foundation that would be great! For more information on this event please check out their website at <https://starlegacy.z2systems.com/np/clients/starlegacy/event.jsp?event=3867&title> Star Legacy is dedicated to stillbirth research and education

We would like to Thank these donors this quarter.  
Thank you so much for your support!!

Dan & Lorraine Beechak  
Grandville Family Dental of Grandville Mi.  
Larry Winch  
Women's Life Chapter # 839  
Tracey & Kevin Weberg

We would like to welcome The Henry Ford Hospital in Wyandotte to the Brianna Lee Foundation family.

#### In The News

Each week Bronson Hospital features a nonprofit or business that donates to the hospital Foundation. This brings both awareness of the donations as well as awareness to the group that is making the donation. This story is then featured in the Hospital newsletter. Attached is the you tube link to our article that ran in August. Thank you Bronson Hospital for allowing us to help your moms, and for featuring us in the newsletter.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qg9piDfZPVM>



