



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

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

Volume 3, Issue 1

March 2015

A Grandmothers Story

Spring is my favorite time of year. All of nature is coming back to life after winter and with all the colors of the flowers, trees and the green grass waking up! To me one can't help but be happy during the spring. Plus this spring I was extra happy as in a few weeks, my third grandchild would be born!

It was Thursday morning May 10th and I was on my way to work when my cell phone rang. "Come home quick, they can't find the baby's heartbeat." The first thing I thought of was "how could this be, why, what in the heck is going on, there has to be a mistake."

My heart was breaking for two reasons. One because of the baby but second as a parent you always want to protect your children and take away any hurt or pain they might have. After all that is what a mom is supposed to do, protect her children. However there was no protecting them or taking away the hurt this time. There was nothing I could do to make it "alright".

After doing additional tests and further examining Jessica, they did in fact determined that the baby had indeed died. Jess was at 36 ½ weeks gestation. Since her body hadn't started the process of preparing for the birth, they recommended she carry the baby through the weekend and they would start inducing labor Sunday night. At first I thought this was a terrible idea, however looking back on it now, I can see why they recommended it. One, it gives the body a chance to start preparing for labor but more importantly, it gives the mom a chance to say good-bye to the baby. It gives the mom some special time to share with her unborn child. The special time that only a mom and child can share together.

We were all planning on leaving Friday to go camping, with the entire family coming on Sunday to celebrate Mother's Day. To keep busy and to help pass the time (days), we continued with the camping trip. We tried to keep it as happy as possible but under the circumstances how could you. Just looking at Jess I could see a sadness in her eyes that pierced the soul.

On Sunday afternoon, after the mother day celebration was over and everyone left. Jess and Brian left to go to the hospital. We all cried as we knew what was ahead of us. Brian and Jess entered the hospital Sunday evening to start the labor process. On Monday afternoon Brianna was born into the arms of Jesus. She was beautiful! Looking at her and holding her, she looked like she was just sleeping.

The weeks and months that followed were extremely hard and I am not sure how we all got through it, especially Brian and Jess. Again every time I looked at Brian and Jess I just wanted to make everything Ok. But I couldn't. Time does pass and the tears aren't as frequent, but they are always still there, when you least expect it, they come crashing out. I do know that we got through this by leaning on our faith, together as a family and with the support from our friends.

My wish and prayer is that no one has to ever experience this terrible pain. However I do know that if a baby is born as a stillbirth, by you just giving a hug to the mom and dad or anyone else in the family, it lets them know that you care. Words don't ever seem to be enough and we never know to say, so give them a hug and let them know you are there, to share their pain and to listen if they want to talk.

To all parents/grandparents, know that you are loved and that you are in the hearts and thoughts of others that have also experienced this pain. Remember that my (our) prayers are with you. And if and when we meet or see each other, I have a very big hug for you!!

Linda Miller

In Loving Memory of

Remembering Your Angel

If you are interested in honoring or remembering your little Angel, please submit your story to us at:

Brianna Lee Foundation

P.O. Box 212

Jenison Mi. 49429

We will be honored to tell your story and honor your child!

Welcome to our Family

The Brianna Lee Foundation is very excited to welcome 7 new hospitals to our family this quarter. We are so exciting that more moms are being supported and that they will be not leaving these hospitals empty armed.

That they will know they are in the thoughts of others that have also shared in this tragedy.

We welcome:

Henry Ford Macomb Hospital in Clinton Township

St Joseph Regional Medical Center in Mishawaka Indiana

Munson Health Care in Grayling Michigan

Lakeland Health Care of St Joseph Michigan

St Johns Hospital Macomb in Warren Michigan

Community Hospital North in Indianapolis Indiana

St Catherine's Hospital in East Chicago Indiana

To all our hospitals, thank you for allowing us to help you support these moms!

Contact Information

Address:

P.O. Box 212 Jenison, MI 49426

Phone # (616) 481-3727

Web site:

WWW.Briannaleefoundation.org

Like us on Facebook: Brianna Lee Foundation or

Follow us on twitter: @BriannaLeeFound

Thank -You

Thank you to our donors this quarter:

Eric and Kristi Jensen

Stephanie and Evan Wildey In Memory of Georgia Evalyn Wildey

Jodi Vanderwood

Dave and Deb Bales

Nancy and James Roelofs In Memory of Donna DeWeerd

Charlene Swrand and Doug Carsen In Memory of Donna DeWeerd

Kristi Roelofs In Memory of Donna DeWeerd

Greg and Judith DeWeerd In Memory of Donna DeWeerd

Jennifer and Aaron Peterson

Kay LeFurge In Memory of Georgia Evalyn Wildey

Greg and Christine Suchecki In

Memory of Caroline Joy Mulder, Georgia Evalyn Wildey and Baby Suchecki

Dave and Jerrie Garvin in memory of Jase Betser

Daniel and Corene D'Addena

William and Joan Dykhous

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that according to the March of Dimes 1 in every 160 births results in a Stillbirth?

Did you know that in Kent and Ottawa County (one of the county's that is home to the Brianna Lee Foundation) the average is 1 in every 140?

Did you know that there are 26,000 Stillbirths a year? That averages to one Stillbirth every 20 minutes.

Did you know that NO ONE on the Brianna Lee Foundation board (or anyone else that helps out and works with the Foundation) takes a paycheck? All the work that is done for the Foundation is Volunteer!!

Did you know that all donations are used to purchase teddy bears to help supply more hospitals and keep our current hospitals supplied? A small percent of donations are used for mailing the teddy bears as well as sending out our newsletter.

Did you know all donations to the Brianna Lee Foundation are tax deductible?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION!

