



Florida
SIDS



ALLIANCE

1-800-SIDS-FLA

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Peer Contact Training in West Palm Beach March 22nd

The Florida SIDS Alliance Board will host Peer Contact Training on March 22, 2009 in the West Palm Beach area in conjunction with the Walk-A-Thon that will be held on March 21st. All trainees will receive the training manual on a CD, and will receive a certificate of completion following the training. The training is free; in addition, the Florida SIDS Alliance will pay any travel expenses incurred to attend the training. Each participant will also receive a free thumb drive following the training.

***If you would like to
participate in this training,
please call
Lisa Sculley at 904-964-3352,
or email
flasidsalliance@yahoo.com
for more information
and to register.***

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President's Letter

by Roy Bagley, Florida SIDS Alliance

Who is picked? Are they from a particular culture? Is it an identified race? Does economic status make a difference? Does intelligence matter?

I have seen the strong, men like Paul Bunyan, the beautiful, like Michele Obama, and the dedicated experienced parent, as well as the novice, too young to understand. Yet each can experience the unbelievable. It just doesn't seem to matter who the parents are, where they live, or what they do in society — SIDS can strike any one at any time.

More than two thousand families each year in the United States experience the sudden death of their baby. A baby that most of the time seems healthy at the time of their death.

I remember the day so well, with more emotion than I could describe or remember, more pain and confusion than one could comprehend, and more wanting things to be different. Yet I knew that it would not matter what I did or how much I prayed, Lisa had died and there was no logical sense to any part of this nightmare.

My most vivid memory of that day was how alone I felt, how helpless I felt, how totally lost I was and no one seemed to be able to change things. Then we arrived home and Judy was there. I had never met her before yet it only took seconds to understand she was a friend like no one else had ever been. She had lost her son just a few months before and she had survived!

When I think back, Judy was no different than anyone else except she had experienced a similar loss. Every one else in my life was like me, my wife, my other children, my parents, my friends. All of them were just too shocked to offer much to me. Judy, by her presence, gave me some hope that our family just might survive this horror.

It has been twenty eight plus years since I met Judy, and today she remains a significant person in my life. Judy reached out to us knowing that it would take time out of her life and would sacrifice her personal comfort, yet she was willing to support our family. I will never forget her and will always be grateful for what she did for us.

The Florida SIDS Alliance is committed to providing support to families who experience the loss of a child, but the organization needs you. If you have experienced and survived the loss of a child, you can be a "Judy" to someone in need. Regardless of the direct cost you might incur, the Florida SIDS Alliance is prepared to cover those costs in support of providing you the opportunity to become trained as a peer contact. We and especially those families yet affected by SIDS and other infant deaths need YOU.

We have scheduled a peer contact training program on March 22, 2009 in the Palm Beach County area. Please let us know how we can assist you, so you can attend the training.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Seminole/Orange County Area March 20, 2009 Memorial Golf Classic 7 AM (registration) - 1:30

Alaqua Country Club, 3060 Players Point, Longwood, FL. Entry Fee: \$200 per golfer; Hole Sponsor: \$100. In addition, the tournament organizers would like to extend a very special invitation to those who would like to remember a special child. Their goal is to have at least one child remembered by the placement of a sign with their photograph at each hole. Those who wish to do so can send in a donation and a picture and name of their special child (with the acknowledgement information) and they will place a sign at one of the holes for that child. This is a great way to remember your child even if you cannot attend the tournament. For additional information, contact Bunny Hamer — Tournament Director — at bunny.hamer@gmail.com or 305-903-7124. The pamphlet for this event can be downloaded by following this link and downloading it from the website: <http://www.flasids.com/event.html>

Palm Beach County Area March 21, 2009 Kiara Dawn Walkathon 7 AM registration, walk begins at 8 AM

Jupiter River Walk, Jupiter, FL. Gather sponsors and walk to support the Florida SIDS Alliance. For



sponsor sheets or more information, please email Briana Price at KiaraDawnWalkathon@yahoo.com or call me (Lisa) at 904 964-3352.

March 22, 2009 Peer Contact Training Location TBA.

This is a free 8 hour training aimed at equipping SIDS families who are ready to reach out to other families at the time of need and follow up with those families for up to a year following the loss. If you are a parent, family member, or a professional who deals with families, this is a valuable tool to gain. Any expenses related to attending this training are reimbursed by the Florida SIDS Alliance. If you are interested in attending this training, please contact Lisa at 904-964-3352 or email at sidsloop@gmail.com. Further details will be forthcoming as we determine the level of interest.

Sisters in the Darkest Way

by Kathleen Woolrich
mom to Rayan Mehdi Liam Yahiaoui
9/8/08 - 9/19/08

We are sisters in the darkest way
In that we share our broken hearts
Our cemeteries, urns and ashes
And grief beyond compare
If I tell you that nothing tastes the same
And I cannot go a day
without remembering him
You understand
You understand the depth
of my despair
My aching, my broken arms
The tears that seem endless
You see we are sisters
in the darkest way
Partners in a war,
soldiers trying to survive a loss
that no one seems to understand
And yet no one can reach us
But if I ask you about
your baby who died
And you ask me about mine
We become more than sisters
We begin to write our own book
And our babies are the chapters
I know if I am frightened
at five in the morning
I can come to you and tell you
I am hurting, I am broken,
I am scared
And you just know I miss my baby
And you miss yours too
You see we are sisters
in the darkest way
But funerals no longer scare us
Nor does death
Because we know
love goes on forever
In ways that people
who have never lost a baby
never understand
We know love transcends the soil,
it transcends a coffin,
it transcends a picture,
an ambulance ride,
a body with life no longer in it
We still are mothers to our babies
We still ache for them
So let me cry to you,
my sisters in the darkest way,
I miss my son, I miss my son,
I miss my son, I miss my son...
Let me scream at you and
cry in front of you because
I am inconsolable and I need
to know someone else is
beside herself as well.
That it isn't only me
haunting the cemetery and the streets
looking for solace
That somehow
you have gone crazy too.
I miss my son dear sisters,
I ache for him...
Time has not healed me...
it just makes things clearer.

Dreams and Changes

by Darlene Buth

In Loving Memory of Peter James-Alan Buth • July 23, 1995 - October 3, 1995

As we enter this New Year, we will face many changes as a nation. We have dreams as well as challenges ahead, as we prepare to inaugurate a new President. As with the beginning of any new presidency, we all dream that our government will help us to realize those dreams.

As parents who have faced the tragedy of SIDS, we can dream that this new administration will partner in our goal to uncover the mystery of SIDS, the stealer of our precious babies. We can dream that one day this tragedy will not happen to families. As far off and impossible as this reality seems today, we are encouraged. One hundred years ago, no one would have predicted that we would have an African American president. Today, we know that it is possible. Change is possible.

As we reflect today on these changes, I sit here and reflect on the changes and dreams of the past 13 years since our precious son, PJ, became an angel. I still have so many things to say to him.

We had many dreams and hopes for you, PJ. We dreamed of your future as a football star. You were such a strong kicker in the womb. We had strong hopes of who you would be when you grew up. All of these dreams and hopes were taken from us the afternoon you became an Angel.

Grief can glue your eyes shut to the incredible opportunities in front of you. It can glue your mouth shut to speaking the truth and asking for help. It can glue your heart shut to spiritual uplifting and to the warmth of human help. These past 13 years have gone on almost like my eyes have been glued shut.

How can it possible be that it has been almost 14 years since we held you in our arms? Yes, there was all the norms of WHY? WHY ME? WHY DID HE HAVE TO GO? WHY NOT ME INSTEAD OF HIM? HOW CAN I GO ON LIVING? How did I go on those past 13 years? I don't know.....

Yes, they say, "Time heals all wounds" Or, is it just that tomorrow is here before you know it? Changes take place whether you are ready for them or not.

When you born in 1995. Amanda was 10 and Kayla was only 2. Today is January 20, 2009. Amanda is now 23 and Kayla is now 15. The change in that time is your precious gift to us. Your sister, born on the same day as you, only 2 years later, is just one of those. Precious Victoria is now 11. Your baby brother Christopher is 9. They have never held you, yet proudly speak of their brother PJ. How they wish they could change things and bring you back to us so they could know you and love you.

How did we move on from your loss? I have no clue — it is still a fog to me. I would have to say, being blessed with 2 more children, along with everyday life just going on helped. Not that we missed you any less — we always wished you could have been with us.

The Dreams I have now are that no families will have to deal with a loss of a baby to SIDS. Today I am waiting on news of the birth of my niece's baby. I dream that she will be fine and that SIDS will not take her life away. We need Changes in the research for SIDS. We need answers.

FL SIDS Alliance Website to Add Memorial Links

Good news! The Florida SIDS Alliance is hard at work updating their website, and you can be a part of it. If you have a website you have created in memory of your child, please send a link to our email address, flasidsalliance@yahoo.com. We will be compiling these links as part of the website. We can honor our children in this way and know they will never be forgotten.

In the belief that every child should live,
Lisa Sculley, Secretary
Florida SIDS Alliance

Florida SIDS Website Gets Face Lift!

Have you visited the Florida SIDS Alliance website lately? You might be surprised. Although we still have some work to do, thanks to the work of George Lue, the website is now much more user-friendly. We are now able to provide regular updates on news, information, and events on the website. The address is www.flasids.com. Come and visit soon!

COUNTY OUTREACH

Alachua / Bradford / Union County

Lisa Sculley 904-964-3352

Brevard County

Helene Simon 321-725-1882

Clay / Duval Counties

Andree Headings 904-230-8749

Escambia County

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Kali Flemming 850-463-4116

Seminole County

Bunny Hamer 407-333-0670

Volusia County

Tammy Canatsey 386-668-1259

We Remember These...



MARCH MEMORIALS

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

David Charles Burton	3/17/1985	Amy Krewson
David Charles Burton	3/18/1985	Albert & Gertrude Kehne
Kyle Edward Spiller	3/02/1989	Suzanne Spiller
Nicholas Shane Duncan	3/14/1991	John & Gina Duncan
Michelle Elizabeth Dickerson	3/28/1992	Lee & Denise Dickerson
		Phil & Julie Beaulieu
Michael Robert Brown	3/04/1993	Pat Brown
Bryce Taylor Cunningham	3/09/1994	Katrina Cunningham
Rose Michelle Massuh	3/20/1996	Michelle Massuh
Savon Giovanni Davis	3/12/1998	Ronnie Allen
Jacob Peter Koomen Jr	3/01/1999	Jacob & Kris Koomen
Evan Reed Dermer	3/30/1999	Scott & Heidi Dermer
Lyndria	3/11/2002	Digna Bayron, Yannine Camara
Kiara Dawn Price	3/12/2002	Briana Price
Lazarus Addison Jacobs	3/19/2002	Eddie & Jenny Jacobs
Curtis Leroy Sherrod, III	3/15/2008	Curtis & Akisha Sherrod

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Jerry Demetrius-White	3/18/1989	Connie White
Rian Paige Goldberg	3/09/1989	Lee Nossen
Deanna Johnson	3/07/1994	Edna & Darcelle Covert
Glenn Charles Lampke	3/22/1995	Mark & Laura Lampke
Justin Robert Bonwit	3/25/1996	Steve & Annette Bonwit
Trey Jakob Hall	3/21/1998	Melanie Manley, Homer Hall
Savon Giovanni Davis	3/31/1999	Ronnie Allen
Antonio Demark Jones Jr.	3/06/1999	Chaunecy & Antonio Jones
		Dannette Jones Whitley
Jacob Peter Koomen Jr.	3/23/1999	Jacob & Kris Koomen
Zoey White	3/18/2005	Maric White
Edward Burton	3/08/1995	Lisa Schroeder

APRIL MEMORIALS

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Renaee Anne Colby	4/06/1986	Sandy Colby
Milagros S. Perez	4/19/1989	Reinaldo Perez
Christopher Whitty	4/03/1990	Terry Stephenson
Anthony Michael Sauls	4/13/1990	Christie & Michael Pawlak
Chelsea Bischoff	4/25/1992	Myrna Grossman
Janelle Paragas-Aponte	4/07/1995	Miguel Aponte & Joanne Paragas
Christopher Madera	4/12/1996	Nicole Madera
Aiden Noriega	4/04/2001	Rick & Ethel Noriega
Jonah Pak	4/05/2004	Kyungjun Pak & Sophia Yu
Trinity Alexis Atkins	4/27/2005	Chris & Melissa Atkins
Collin Wolferts	4/10/2006	Melissa Wolferts
Shauna Faith Aicklen	4/26/2006	Kelley Aicklen
Sofia Go	4/05/2007	Raymond & Rebecca Go

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

Kyle Edward Spiller	4/16/1989	Suzanne Spiller
Nicholas Shane Duncan	4/04/1991	John & Gina Duncan
Chelsea Bischoff	4/11/1993	Myrna Grossman
Ashley Nicole Winslow	4/13/1993	Gregg & Renee Winslow
Michael Robert Brown	4/23/1993	Pat Brown
Zachary Bolton	4/14/1994	Terry & Evelyn Bolton
Erik Robert Young	4/24/1996	Bob & Pat Koons
Kaitlin Alexa Dial	4/01/1998	Donna D Smith
Samantha Grell	4/24/1999	Damian & Thalia Grell, Claire Smith
Taylor Marie Valenzano	4/17/2001	Donna & Tom Valenzano
Lyndria	4/26/2002	Digna Bayron, Yannine Camara
Chance Gabriel Goodman	4/27/2002	Melissa & Riley Goodman
Olivia Lee Savarino	4/07/2007	Christopher & Brandi Savarino
Curtis Leroy Sherrod, III	4/25/2008	Curtis & Akisha Sherrod



For publication in the memorial section,
 & for changes or corrections,
 please mail requests to:
 Florida SIDS Alliance, NEWSLETTER,
 4185 W. Lake Mary Blvd. #169, Lake Mary, FL 32746

***I want to help the Florida SIDS Alliance
win the fight against SIDS!***

Here's my gift to help save our babies:

\$15 \$25 \$50 \$ _____

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FLORIDA SIDS ALLIANCE**

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All Contributions are Tax Deductible

Florida SIDS Alliance is a non-profit,
charitable organization and has
501(c)(3) status granted by the IRS.

Please send me additional information about SIDS.

Please add my name to the mailing list for
your newsletter.

I would like to volunteer in my area to help the fight
against SIDS.

Please provide information about support of the Florida
SIDS Alliance by payroll deduction through the United
Way Contributor Choice / Donor Option.

Please acknowledge my gift

In Memory of _____

Date of Birth _____

Date of Death _____

In Honor of _____

Send separate note for acknowledgements to:

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Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip (+4) _____

Please send to:

**FLORIDA SIDS ALLIANCE,
4185 W. Lake Mary Blvd. #169, Lake Mary, FL 32746**

Florida SIDS Alliance

4185 W. Lake Mary Blvd. #169

Lake Mary, FL 32746

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