

Pathways

Support for child, infant and pregnancy loss

Volume 11, Issue 2

From Regina's Desk

I'm sure I don't need to remind you that the holiday season is here. For some of us, we have been through several or many of these seasons since our child died, for others, this is the first. For all of us, there are reminders around every corner, in every event or gathering, that our child is not with us.

As always, you have a network of friendship and understanding in the families of The Sadie Rose Foundation. We have volunteers who are available to talk at any time.

But reaching out for support can be difficult. I remember the first December after Sadie died, we received an invitation to a Candlelight Remembrance Ceremony. As much as I liked the thought of honoring her memory with other bereaved families, I could not bring myself to go.

It all felt wrong. We were supposed to be adjusting to life as parents and instead we were left with broken hearts and empty arms. During that time, my grief was deeply personal.

Lee and I lit a candle at home at 7 p.m. the evening of that ceremony. It was the best we could do.

The following year, people were asking

The Sadie Rose Foundation to host a candlelight ceremony since the previous group was no longer meeting. I had never been to a formal remembrance ceremony and had no idea where to start.

With the help of some friends, we pulled a little ceremony together. The first one was held in the fellowship hall of Grottoes Church of the Brethren.

Since then, we have held this annual ceremony at Otterbein United Methodist Church in Harrisonburg. The sanctuary has a lovely atmosphere for this special occasion. The program includes special music, readings and an opportunity for families to say their child's name if they choose to do so. This event is open to families who have lost children of all ages and is to remember children, siblings and grandchildren.

If you would like to read something for this program, please contact me by Dec 5th. Meanwhile, please share this information with everyone who might benefit from this ceremony. We want everyone to have the opportunity to honor their child's memory in this way. "...because the path of grief after losing a child should never be walked alone."



December 2012						
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Miss our last newsletter?
All our newsletters can be viewed on our website or you may contact our office for a hard copy.

Remembering together...

Starting in 2013, we want to include the names and dates of the children we are remembering that month in our newsletter. For the month of January, we will print the names of all the children who either had a date of birth or date of death in that month.

For example, June's newsletter would include, Sadie Rose Harlow, daughter of Lee and Regina Harlow, DOB 6/20/2007 DOD 6/20/2007.

This is a unique way to offer support to each family as they remember their child on

those special and difficult days.

If you would like your child's name and date of birth and death to be printed in our newsletter, please email regina@sadierosefoundation.org or call 540-810-4351.

If you prefer that we do not print your child's information, please let us know that as well.

We look forward to "remembering together."

Inside

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Thank You

We want to start thanking all our volunteers and sponsors in this way. Please specify if you want to remain anonymous either as a volunteer or a donor, otherwise we will include your name in the newsletter.

We would like to thank the following sponsors for our Thanksgiving meal; **Cracker Barrel** of Harrisonburg for providing delicious pies and **Perdue** in Bridgewater for providing the turkeys.

Thanks to **Jessica Lokey-Smith** for being our Perdue connection and **Shannon and Rachel Bolton**, for the Cracker Barrel connection.

Thanks to **Joy Seal** for sponsoring our newsletter for December as well as the candles for our upcoming candlelight ceremony in loving memory of her son, **John Douglas**.

We want to thank **Wes and Stephanie Rhodes, Daniel and Naomi Lambert and family, Cassandra Lambert, Chris Galloway and Andrew and Sherry Thompson**, for helping out before and after the Thanksgiving meal.

Thanks to Walmart employee **Frank Bennett**, for turning in your volunteer hours with the SRF to Walmart's "Volunteerism Always Pays" program. And thanks to **Walmart**, for the generous donation on Frank's behalf. Thanks to **Tanya Bennett and Zena Debyan**, for your continued volunteering and support.

Thanks to the **Beaver Creek Church of the Brethren Women's Fellowship**, and **Beaver Creek Church of the Brethren, Karl and Angie Magenhofer and Dale Whetzel** for your generous support.

Thanks to **Stephanie Rhodes**, for helping fold, label, and mail the newsletters.

If we have missed anyone, please let us know. Your contributions do not go unnoticed. It is only because of our volunteers and financial supporters that we can continue providing this much-needed support.

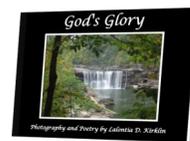


At our regular monthly support meetings, we often have families attend with young children. While this is helpful for those particular families, we recognize and are sensitive to the fact that not everyone is ready to be around other children after theirs has died. Because of that, if you are interested in an adult-only support meeting or one specifically for the death of children within a certain age group, please contact our office.

Fundraisers, sponsorships and updates

Book Sale

God's Glory is a book filled with delightful scenery and captioned by a poetic essence that speaks to the awesomeness of God's creation. Readers embark on a photographic journey of the Eastern United States with photographs from Virginia, North Carolina, Kentucky and West Virginia, accompanied by genuine words of praise and prayer to God, the Creator.



L.D. Kirklin, author and photographer of "God's Glory", is a resident of Rockingham County, Virginia in the heart of the Shenandoah Valley. When she started to put this project together, her goal was to find a way to show people some of the beauty she's been fortunate to encounter in her travels. Now, her hope is that the vibrant colors in the book will brighten someone's day and the heartfelt words will lift someone's spirit and soothe someone's soul.

"I can't truly speak to the pain people feel when they lose a child, but I've been there as family and friends have experienced such a loss and I wanted to find a way to help. By donating a portion of the sale price, I hope this book will be a benefit not only monetarily, but in encouragement as well." ~L.D. Kirklin~

Books are \$15.00. The Sadie Rose Foundation will receive \$5.00 for every book sold through the foundation. Orders can be placed through the Sadie Rose Foundation or by contacting L.D. Kirklin through www.ldkirklin.com.

Sponsorships

We have opportunities for sponsorships for the following items.

- Brochures
- Refreshments for Christmas Tea
- Newsletter printing and mailing for January—\$50

All sponsorships and donations can be in honor or memory of someone. The SRF sends a card to the family of the person being honored/remembered. Sponsorships and donations can also be kept anonymous if someone desires. Please state if you wish to remain anonymous. Please consider all of the above for yourself and others as you are filling your Christmas list. You are what allows there to be an us.

UPDATE: LEE HARLOW'S WALK365: Last December, Lee committed to walking a minimum of a mile a day for 365 consecutive days to raise awareness and funds for the SRF. Unfortunately, Lee was diagnosed with pneumonia the week of Thanksgiving. I walked for him for several days and then SRF board member, Daryl Brubaker, stepped in until Lee can get back in the game. Lee fulfills his commitment on Christmas day. We will have a full report in the next newsletter.

Special Events

You're invited to a **Bereaved Parents Memorial Tree Service**, Monday, December 3rd, at 7 p.m. in the RMH Main Lobby. Park in parking lot A. Please bring an ornament to place on the tree in memory of your child. Refreshments following the service. RSVP to RMH Healthsource at 564-7200.



Each year, on National Child Loss Awareness Day, we participate in the **Compassionate Friends Worldwide Candlelight Ceremony**. We invite you to join us, **Dec. 9th**, at 7 p.m. at Otterbein United Methodist Church.

The church address is 176 West Market Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22801.

We will take part in a special service of remembrance for our children and follow with refreshments. Drinks provided. Please bring a snack to share if you can.

Also feel free to bring photos or mementos for the remembrance table and submit photos for the slideshow. Details for that below.

We need multiple volunteers for this event, including general set-up, several greeters, someone to manage the refreshment table, someone to manage the memory table and two people to manage the registration table. If you can help, please contact Regina at 540-810-4351.

Calendar of Events

Dec 9: Candlelight Ceremony, See details at left.

Dec 20: Christmas Coffee, the Gathering Place 841 Mt Clinton Pike Harrisonburg (In the back, behind a Bowl of Good.) Come and go as you please from 7-9 p.m. If you need an extra boost to get through the holidays, join us in friendship and fellowship with other families who have experienced the death of a child. Refreshments provided.

Jan 10: Informal Coffee, at the Sadie Rose office, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Come-and-go-as-you-please. Coffee and light refreshments provided. For those looking for support as well as for those interested in learning more about the Sadie Rose Foundation.

Jan 25: Monthly Support Meeting, Dayton Church of the Brethren, 7 p.m. Park in the back of the building (directly across from Cargill) and enter the double glass doors. Go straight ahead to kitchen/fellowship hall. Childcare available.

Weekly Online Support Chat, Sundays, 9 p.m. EST. To participate, visit our website and click on the large "Support Group" button on the right sidebar.

Last Month: Lee Harlow's Walk365. Lee is counting down the days (22 days left) as he has committed to walk 365 consecutive days to raise funds and awareness for The Sadie Rose Foundation. You can sponsor Lee for \$1 a day, \$7 a week, \$30 a month, \$90 per quarter, \$180 per half-year or \$365 for the full year. He can have multiple sponsors per day/week. See update on page 2.

For more information about any of our events or to volunteer, please write, email or call us: P.O. Box 382 Dayton, VA 22821, 540-810-0307 or

info-assistance@sadierosefoundation.org.



Candlelight Ceremony Slideshow Submissions Due Now

As part of our annual candlelight ceremony, one of our group moms, Tanya Bennett, puts together a slideshow with pictures of our children. We invite you to email a photo (or a photo to represent your child such as an angel or a teddy bear) to Tanya at momy2_an_angel@comcast.net to be included in this year's slideshow. Please include your child's name, date of birth and date of death along with a jpeg file of the photo you wish to use. You can also mail the information to Tanya at 409 6th St., Grottoes, VA 24441. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us.

The Sadie Rose Foundation

P.O. Box 382
Dayton, VA 22821

Phone: 540-810-0307
Cell: 540-810-4351
E-mail: info-assistance@sadierosefoundation.org

Learn more at
www.sadierosefoundation.org

You're Not Alone!

The Sadie Rose Foundation is a non-profit organization that offers support to families that have lost a child. All our support and outreach is free of charge. For a complete list of our services, visit our website or contact our office.

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P.O. Box 382
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