



NEWSLETTER

Your source of information for *Spring-for-SIDS*, the national SIDS awareness and fundraising campaign.
Editor: Melissa Todd, *Spring-for-SIDS* Committee Member

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A Message from Betty McEntire, PhD, Executive Director, American SIDS Institute

As we approach *Spring-for-SIDS* Day on May 6, I want all the teams to know how incredibly important your efforts are in the fight against sudden infant death. Critical research is needed and funds are scarce.

However, in addition to being a fundraising campaign, *SFS* is a way we have to remember and honor the many precious babies lost too soon and the huge impact their short lives had on this world. On May 6 join with us around the country to celebrate the lives of these infants.

On *SFS* Day I plan to do a balloon release and have a moment of silence to think about all these babies. And I will renew my commitment to do everything in my power to end sudden infant death within my lifetime!



FEATURED TEAM STORIES

Team: Kenley Scott

On July 14th 2008 I was blessed with identical twin boys, Kaleb & Kenley. On September 15th 2008 I woke to find Kenley not breathing and immediately my world was turned upside down. After the loss of Kenley I was angry and sad but I knew I needed to find a way to turn my experience into something positive and proactive. I needed to raise my son Kaleb with an understanding that we must not allow the loss of Kenley to define our lives. I started to reach out to SIDS groups online and started to discover just how common SIDS really was. It was then that I realized that I was not alone and I set out to make sure no SIDS parent ever felt alone.



In 2010 I discovered the American SIDS Institute and *Spring-for-SIDS* Campaign. I knew it was something I had to get involved in. In the spring of 2010, Team Kenley Scott was born! With the constant support of my closest family and friends Team Kenley Scott has spread awareness and raised money every year to help find a cause for this horrible tragedy. Jessica DeMello, who has been my dearest friend and greatest supporter has helped me through the hardest of times and is always available to make sure that Team Kenley Scott is a success each year. Wild Wade's BBQ has also been a huge support throughout the years, and the owner, Wade Janes, has even donated his time to cooking large BBQ events in which he has donated all proceeds to Team Kenley Scott. This year with me being 6 months pregnant I have taken to the internet for support as well as Retail Pro International, my current employer. This year with the help of Retail Pro International LLC, Big Hairy Dog Info Systems, and my huge support group of family, friends, and colleagues we have already raise \$1,000!

I feel blessed and proud to be doing my 6th consecutive year of fundraising in 2016. I know that every penny we raise is going to an amazing organization that is dedicated to finding a cause and cure for Sudden Infant Death.

Captain: Jennifer Lacey

Team: Colby's Crusade

Chris and Kandice Brault have been raising money for SIDS research since 2012. The Braults lost their first born son, Colby, in December of 2011 when he passed away in his sleep at 5 ½ months old.



That first year they held a small online fundraiser with family and friends. The second year, Kandice was expecting her second son, Christian, and ran another small online fundraiser with the Thirty-One company but also added a t-shirt sale to raise more funds. The third year the Braults wanted to go bigger and added a Bowling Night fundraiser at Vista Lanes in Oscoda along with the t-shirt sales. The night was a huge success with raffles, door prizes and many different bowling challenges during the night. Last year to go along with the t-shirt sales, they added the two pallet mixers. The mixers were such a huge success that they immediately scheduled again for this year.



This year they also added hoodies to go along with the t-shirt sale and have already raised close to \$500. Colby's Crusade is mostly organized by Chris and Kandice but Kandice's father and close family friends help as well.



Captain: Kandi Brault

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Team: Little Beans Buddies

My name is Loretta Ellingsworth captain of Little Beans Buddies from Milford Delaware and we are having a fundraiser for the *Spring-for-SIDS* campaign at Painting with a Twist in Lewes, DE. The fundraiser is called Painting with a Purpose. I am an instructor there and will be teaching the class. My bosses and I collaborated on this for our very first Painting with a Purpose fundraiser and I'm extremely excited about it. We will be raffling off gift cards and prizes.

My daughter Harper passed away in January of 2014 from SIDS and ever since I have tried to make it my job to find ways of bringing awareness to the community and trying to help fund research as much



as possible. Every year we do a memory walk in October at Cape Henlopen State Park and we sell T-shirts. So when I heard about the *Spring-for-SIDS* campaign I jumped at the chance to participate.



So far I've been interviewed on our local news radio station (102.5 WBOC), and I have been using my personal business Facebook page (Little Bean Designs) as a platform to advertise. Also, Painting with a Twist is spreading the word about the fundraiser. We will be painting "Posh Poppies" and 50% of all ticket sales will be going to the American SIDS institute as well as 100% of all raffle money. The event is April 28th from 7pm-9pm.



I hope that even if not in my lifetime but the next that they find out why these babies are dying and are able to prevent it. Nothing has helped me handle the pain of losing my daughter as much as helping raise awareness and funds for research.

Captain: Loretta Ellingsworth

Team: Team Roo



Being a mom is the most amazing thing a woman can become. Losing a child is the worst thing that a woman or parent should go through. I want to create this article to tell and spread my son's story.

Rhett Sloan Garrett was born August 31, 2015. The other patients and doctors stop and starred at Rhett at how perfect he was. His color, shape, and character from the beginning was so angelic. From this moment I knew he was an angel sent from God. He was a happy baby and was a son to Stetson Garrett and Chelsea Garrett (me). Rhett was also a little brother to Ryder Gage Garrett. Ryder was so proud to be a big brother and have his brother home. We had Rhett for 4 months and 2 weeks.

On January 16th 2016 it was such a pretty morning. I can still remember the sounds coming from Rhett as he woke me up growling like a dinosaur to wake me for his morning bottle. That night was a stuffy night and I noticed his onesie was damp so his dad gave him a warm bath and dressed him. We all 3 were taking turns giggling and playing with Rhett to keep him from getting fussy. We were getting ready to have lunch at Chic-Fil-A and a trip to Lufkin Zoo. About 9:45 Rhett was fussy and ready for his 2nd morning bottle. I sat and talked to him singing as he smiled drinking his bottle. He watched me very closely and listened with all his attention focusing on me. "Momma's Rhett Roo, Momma's Punkin, Momma's Baby, That's Momma's Sweet baby, Momma's Rhett, Momma's Roo". He loved me singing that and it gave me such joy. I sang until he finished and drifted off to sleep. I rocked him just a little longer lay him down.

About 42 mins later Stetson and I walked into the bedroom to wake up Rhett with smiling faces. We both stood there frozen as we noticed how lifeless he looked and immediately started screaming. I flipped Rhett over and began CPR as Stetson called 911 and pulled Ryder away. The ambulance got there and began to revive Rhett but still nothing. They quickly pulled him away to take him to Nacogdoches Memorial and we followed. I can remember waiting for hours and not getting to see Rhett. The Chaplin came in and told us Rhett had a heartbeat and held it for 7minutes. It gave us hope. They explained they would be sending Rhett to Cook's Childrens in Fort Worth by plane. I was able to ride with Rhett. It was the worst hour of my life. I had to just sit there wondering and I was terrified. The medic on board would pray over Rhett and kiss him. I knew in that moment my baby was really gone. We got to Cook's and the doctors worked on him and still couldn't get his heartbeat back and explained he was gone. That if they kept on he would be a vegetable and they were only hurting him. They couldn't get his heartbeat back. My baby was gone. We each held him and said our goodbyes. He was still so beautiful and angelic. I sang our song to him one last time. "Look he's sleeping, He's only sleeping."



I'm writing this to share my son's story, to help moms and dads be aware of what can happen at any moment. To always take every chance you can to hold your babies. And always say I love you. SIDS is something that is hidden from us because it is such a painful hurt no one can explain it. There's no answer, no reason to why, and no one to blame, I write this to say become aware and not just of what can happen, But aware that any moment that moment can be taken. For no reason. Share Rhett's story. Share your story if your little has been taking by SIDS. I will use SFS to help keep my son's memory alive.

Rhett Sloan Garrett "Roo", your wings were ready but my heart was not. You are my saving grace.

Captain: Chelsea Parten

Team: SIDS.Causes.Heartache.

WOW! Each & every year I am even more amazed by the amount of support & love we experience through SIDS Causes Heartache. And for those of you who don't know, my husband actually came up with that name because it is also Sky's initials. - S.C.H., Sky Charles Hipp and SIDS.Causes.Heartache.

This year for our 2016 fundraiser events we started with a Valentine's Day Bake Sale. Then we had our 7th Annual Arkansas S.C.H. Event, and ended last weekend with our 5th Annual Texas S.C.H. Event! It seems like our circle of amazing people we have surrounding us just continues to grow bigger & bigger each year. It's so hard for me to speak at our events & say what's REALLY on my mind. Every time I try I just get choked up & can't get out exactly what I really want to say.

SO, let me say THANK YOU to each & every person! Family, friends, & strangers who make these events possible. These events for me are so important for a few different reasons. One is to raise awareness so that hopefully we can spread the word to keep other families from going through what we have been through & what we continue to go through. Another reason is to reach out to other families who are unfortunately going through the same tragedy we've been through. To give them an outlet of some sort to know that we are here if & when they are ready or need someone to talk to. And last but most definitely not least, this is the big one for me. For me, as a mom - as both Lakyn's & Sky's Mom, this is what I can still do FOR HIM. It's all I have that I can do FOR HIM. Which is why I pour every ounce of myself, my energy, & my LOVE for him into these events.



SIDS takes away so much more from you than anyone realizes. It took away our healthy baby boy. Our first born son. I was only 19 & Clint was 22 and our sweet Sky with his big blue eyes & the sweetest smiles was gone in the blink of an eye. It took away the entire lifetime of dreams, hopes, wishes, & plans that we had for him. It took away a little sister's big brother & all the precious moments and memories that would have been. A dad's dream of working on trucks & watching his son play baseball. And it takes away a piece of your life as a family & a piece of your heart that will never be whole again until the day comes when God calls us all home.



Thank you from the bottom of my heart to everyone who makes these events for our sweet SKY possible! To our amazing family who for

the last seven years has without any hesitation been right by our side asking "What can we do to help? We will be there!" As Clint & I decided to make this a huge part of our life, it has also become a huge part of their lives too & they have embraced it and made it just as important to them!

Thank you to our unbelievable friends who have supported us in more ways than I can name! And to all the businesses & sponsors who give so selflessly with their time & donations! And to all the strangers who come out just to support! And most definitely thank you to all of the families who are fighting against the same tragedy we are, but that find the strength to come out to our events in loving memory of their sweet babies. I wish so badly that it was under different circumstances



that we come together, but I thank God for giving us the courage in our hearts & eyes to see that we are not alone in this journey.

SIDS affects so many more families that anyone realizes, and my prayer is that we can continue to make that number smaller & smaller with time. But until then Raising Awareness & Funds for the continuation of research is all we can do. All the while remembering our sweet angels who were taken from us much too soon.



In Loving Memory of Sky Charles Hipp
November 24, 2008 - March 17, 2009



"YOU are the SKY. Everything else is just the weather."

The Hipp Family: Clint, Paige, Sky, & Lakyn

Captain: Paige Hipp



Team: Jaylee's Grace



WAGES and team Jaylee's Grace are proud to be a part of the Spring-For-SIDS campaign again this year. Eight years ago, Jamie and Ben O'Callaghan (Jamie is the cousin of the team captain, Jennifer Dupuis) awoke to the unspeakable tragedy of discovering their daughter, Jaylee Grace, unresponsive in her crib. Jaylee's death was ultimately ruled as caused by SIDS. Jaylee's passing shook her entire family to the core.



Ben and Jamie to do something to honor Jaylee, to spread awareness about SIDS, and to hopefully help they participate in *Spring-for-SIDS*. Jaylee's parents gain some peace in knowing that Jaylee's death was not in vain. Team Jaylee's Grace and WAGES strives to educate the public about SIDS. Jennifer Dupuis, the team captain felt that as Jamie's cousin, she wanted to find ways that SIDS can be prevented.

We are honored to be a part of such a worthy cause!

Captain: Jennifer Dupuis



Team: Joshua Molay



Ten years ago on February 15, 2006 our son Joshua passed away from SIDS. Josh was 5 ½ months old and never woke up from his afternoon nap. He was a big, happy baby boy who always had a smile on his face. Because his life was so short, our memories of him are a precious few. He had just started eating baby foods and enjoyed eating it as much as getting it all over his face and clothes. Josh liked when his big sister Madeline showed him books and played with him, and he lit up when his mom was in the room. Josh was in his father's arms when the Sox won the World Series in 2005, making that moment even sweeter.

Josh's sudden death was a shock and devastating to us and leaves us with so many unanswered questions. It is a parent's worst nightmare and puts you into a club that no one wants to be a part of. The impact and grief is not something that ever goes away as much as we have learned to deal with it.

To mark the 10 years since he's been gone, we wanted to do something to honor Josh's memory. We hope to raise some money for SIDS research so that no other family has to experience the loss of their baby and go through this nightmare. As our first time participating in *Spring-for-SIDS*, we have been holding an online event this year. We went into this with the intention of having our families and friends donate \$10 to mark the 10 years. Many people found out about Josh for the first time upon reading our email, as it is not often a subject that is easily brought up in everyday conversations or upon simply meeting someone. People have been extremely generous, truly exceeding our expectations. Our message was forwarded on to many people we do not even know and the donations have been steadily coming in. We are incredibly touched and hope that our efforts can help make a difference.

Captains: Julie and Matt Molay

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American SIDS Institute

www.sids.org

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If you would like your team featured in the next issue of the *Spring-for-SIDS Newsletter*, please contact Melissa Todd at melissa.todd@bxs.com