ST. CHARLES FAMILY HONORS SON’S LEGACY TO SUPPORT OTHERS THIS OCTOBER

DJ and Annie Horton share how losing their son, Isaiah, born prematurely at 21 weeks, has motivated them to spread awareness and support other families who have suffered the loss of a baby. As the Chapter Coordinator at Share Pregnancy and Infant Loss Support, Annie draws from her own experience to honor Isaiah each day through her work.

READ MORE OF ISAIAH’S STORY

OCTOBER: PREGNANCY & INFANT LOSS AWARENESS MONTH

Share Pregnancy & Infant Loss Support is a community for anyone who experiences the tragic death of a baby. This year we are celebrating 40 years of serving parents, grandparents, siblings, and others in the family unit, as well as the professionals who care for grieving families. Share is a national organization with over 75 chapters in 29 states. Our services include bed-side companions, phone support, face-to-face support group meetings, resource packets, private online communities, memorial events, training for caregivers, and so much more.

MEDIA CONTACT: DEBRA COCHRAN, BSN, CPLC, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
636-947-6164 | DCOCHRAN@NATIONALSHARE.ORG
AWARENESS MONTH EVENT CALENDAR

Guest Speaker for Bereaved Parent Support Group:
Tuesday, October 10th at 7:00 pm Location: National Share office

Wave of Light:
Sunday, October 15th, 6:30 pm Location: National Share office

16th Annual Share Walk for Remembrance and Hope:
Saturday, October 21st at 10:00 am Location: Frontier Park in St. Charles, MO

Open House at National Share Office:
Wednesday, October 25th from 8:00 am - 10:00 am Location: National Share Office

Grandparents Event:
Wednesday, November 9th at 6:00 pm Location: St. John’s United Church of Christ

1 IN 4 women experience pregnancy or infant loss

MEDIA CONTACT: DEBRA COCHRAN, BSN, MA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
636-947-6164 | DCOCHRAN@NATIONALSHARE.ORG
HISTORY OF PREGNANCY & INFANT LOSS AWARENESS MONTH

In 1988, President Ronald Regan proclaimed October as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month [Proclamation 5890]. Tragically, approximately a million pregnancies yearly in the United States end in early pregnancy loss, stillbirth, or the death of the newborn child. In October, Share Pregnancy and Infant Loss Support will host several events to honor and remember all of the sweet babies that have gone far too soon. These events include the Wave of Light Remembrance Service, and the annual Share Walk for Remembrance & Hope in St. Louis, MO, along with several chapter walks across the nation.

The loss of a child stays with parents, friends, and family members forever, but it can be challenging for others to truly understand the emotional and physical impact. Events across the country take place each October and help people to better empathize and support parents on their journey to hope. Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month enables us to consider how, as individuals and communities, we can meet the needs of bereaved parents and family members and work to prevent causes of these problems.

#PregnancyandInfantLossAwareness #ShattertheStigma #BreaktheSilence #ShareWalk2017 #WOLF2017 #IAm1In4

1 IN 4 PREGNANCIES ENDS IN LOSS

Early Pregnancy Loss. Stillbirth. Infant Loss. Sadly, these are deeply painful experiences that many families face daily, but they receive little attention. It may be hard to talk about, but the more open we are, the better we can serve bereaved parents. Early pregnancy loss is the most common type of loss. According to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), studies reveal that anywhere from 10–25% of all clinically recognized pregnancies will end in early pregnancy loss. When fetal death occurs after 20 weeks of pregnancy, it is called stillbirth. These tragic deaths occur in about 1 in 160 pregnancies.

Millions of mothers and fathers do not know where to turn for grieving support after losing a child. Bereaved families long for ways to honor their deceased babies and October is nationally-recognized as Pregnancy & Infant Loss Awareness Month. While child loss may be a more common occurrence than people think, there are still far too many families that face the devastating moments alone, desperate for support before, during or after the loss of a baby. Who is there to help? Who is there to offer support?
FIRST RESPONSE
Share is the first point of contact for those experiencing pregnancy or infant loss. We receive 10,800 phone calls for support and referrals annually.

PRINTED RESOURCES
Share distributes more than 5,000 free informational packets and brochures yearly and a bi-monthly Sharing Magazine, to bereaved parents around the world.

HOSPITAL & COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS
Share provides partnering hospitals with grief resource packets in mother/baby units, emergency rooms, physicians offices, clinics, and community organizations. In addition, Share has established a Companion Program where peers offer bedside care at the time of a loss.

NATIONWIDE SHARE
Share partners with hospitals and other organizations nationwide to establish perinatal bereavement programs in their communities, known as Share Chapters. There are currently more than 75 Share Chapters in the United States.

COMPANION PROGRAM
The Share Companion program exists to provide peer support in the hospital at the time of a loss, through phone support and attending support groups and memorial events. Companions are trained by Share staff and are fully equipped to served bereaved families in this role.

SUPPORT GROUPS
Share serves approximately 20,000 individuals a year through support group programs dedicated to setting the standard of care for the perinatal bereavement programs.

ONLINE RESOURCES
Share maintains an interactive website that generates more than 1,400 visits a week and which provides an online magazine, and private Facebook support groups on various grief and loss issues. Share currently offers three Facebook pages for online support, including Share Bereaved Families Peer Support, Share Espanol: Esperanza, and Share Subsequent Pregnancy Peer Support.

TRAINING & EDUCATION
Share provides comprehensive perinatal bereavement care training for caregivers, healthcare professionals, bereaved families, Share Chapter leaders, and other caregivers.

ALL SERVICES ARE PROVIDED FREE OF CHARGE
MEASURING THE IMPACT

Share has been serving families across the country for the past 40 years. A few of these families have recounted their experience with Share caregivers, support groups, and life-long friendships formed with other bereaved parents.

BY: LAURA

What an empowering revelation... There are others out there who know! Share welcomed me into it’s arms, took me by the hand and led me to other moms who understood what I was feeling. Share support group is always a place that we can share our deepest feelings,... I have made some lifelong friends through Share. The death of my daughter has forever changed me and I feel so fortunate to have such wonderful friends to walk side by side with down this path. Our angels led us to each other... to help each other. When one is weak, the other is strong.

BY: KRISTA

I have been fortunate enough to never have lost a child, so I was very unprepared to help my daughter when our granddaughter Skye died right after she was born. I felt so helpless until a friend told me about Share. I called them, and what a Godsend! I kept in touch with one of the women who work there, and she was always so comforting. She is probably the only person who understood that grandparent’s grief is twofold—you want to help your child, but this is a hurt you cannot fix for them. You are also deeply saddened by the loss of your grandchild. I don’t know how I would ever have made it through this terrible and heartbreaking experience if not for Share.

BY: CHARLOTTE

The night I came home from the hospital without my son Sammy was the worst day of my life. Worse than finding out he had died. Worse than the quiet delivery room when he was born. Walking into our house that was so ready for a new baby was excruciating. I couldn’t sleep that night, so I opened my computer and scoured the internet for anything I could find. What I found was Share, and I called the next day. The woman I talked to was so kind. She listened to me cry; she was genuinely interested in hearing everything about my little boy. For over an hour, she gave me her undivided attention and I will forever be grateful for that angel who answered the phone that day. I feel like that was the beginning of my healing because I knew I wasn’t alone.

BY: MICHELLE