



JUNE 27, 2024
GUILFORD YACHT CLUB



OUR MISSION

TO SUPPORT THOSE WHO EXPERIENCE PREGNANCY AND/OR INFANT LOSS BY PROVIDING A COMMUNITY OF CONNECTIONS, COMFORT, AND COMPASSION.

OUR BELIEF

GUIDED BY OUR VALUES OF COMPASSION, EMPATHY, ACCEPTANCE, AND RESPECT, WE REACH OUR HANDS OUT TO ALL THOSE WHO GRIEVE THE LOSS OF A PREGNANCY AND/OR INFANT AND WALK OUT OF THE DARKNESS TOGETHER.





LETTER FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



On behalf of the Hope After Loss Board of Directors, it is my privilege to welcome you to the 2024 Hope Gala! We are looking forward to an evening of honoring some very special people in our community.

The 2024 Compassionate Care Award Recipients are all caregivers who went above and beyond in their compassion while caring for their patients and families. As caregiving professionals, they have each helped to make someone's tragic experience less terrible, and for that, we are forever grateful. We are honored that you are all here to help us celebrate these amazing humans and hope their work will educate and inspire others.

Hope After Loss helps those who experience pregnancy or infant loss to find strength and inspiration by providing connections, comfort, and care. Hope After Loss offers burial support, outreach and education, and peer-to-peer support groups. Support group facilitators have all experienced their own loss, each with their own story, yet each has been there. Bereaved parents can connect with each other, and be with others who "get it." The model of support offered by Hope After Loss works. I can say this with certainty because Hope After Loss helped me when my son, Samuel, was born still.



LETTER FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONTINUED

I know I would not be where I am today without Hope After Loss, this is why I'm so passionate about helping others who walk this path today. Bereaved parents do not have to grieve alone, Hope After Loss can sit with them while the waves of grief crash down.

A very special thank you to our Circle of Hope members, sponsors, and donors for making the work of Hope After Loss possible, including our long time Annual Sponsors - Diamond Sponsor, Bartlett Legal Group and Gold Sponsor, Whitney Donuts. It is because of your strong support that we can continue to spread Hope throughout our community. Because with your help, there is no limit to the amount of Hope that can be spread to those who need it.

Thank you for joining us in hope,

Katie Christenson

Chair, Board of Directors



ORDER OF EVENTS

INTRODUCTION OF THE MASTER OF CEREMONIES

STEPHANIE BYRD, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WELCOME ADDRESSES

KATIE CHRISTENSON, CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS
FRANK BARTLETT, DIAMOND SPONSOR

PERINATAL BEREAVEMENT SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

LORI BURNS-GALDENZI, BOARD OF DIRECTORS
CLAUDIA ESPOSITO, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

COMPASSIONATE CARE AWARD RECIPIENTS

RACHEL STEIGLEDER, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ACELLERON COMMUNITY CARE AWARD

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RAFFLE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SILENT AUCTION INFORMATION

STEPHANIE BYRD, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CLOSING REMARKS

CHRISTINA MAILHOS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



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HOPE AFTER LOSS STAFF

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OLIVIA ROONEY & GINNY MCPARLAND



2024 RTS BEREAVEMENT TRAINING SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Hope After Loss was able to award six full scholarships to applicants who wished to take the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric & Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN) Perinatal Bereavement Certificate Program:

Ashley Pastor
Rachel Demers
Alexis Watcke
Kelly Kline
Shaiona Williams
Hannah Dahlke

*Hope After Loss was also able to fund three scholarships for the Resolve Through Sharing (RTS) Perinatal Bereavement Course.
These recipients are:*

Marisa Merlo
Cara Delaney
Jilian Mulqueen



2024 COMPASSIONATE CARE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Hannah Dahlke, RN Stamford Hospital

Jennifer Tyrseck nominated Hannah Dahlke, who is a nurse at Stamford Hospital. Jennifer suffered a cord accident at 37 weeks, 5 days in June 2020 at the height of pandemic. "When we lost our Cameron, she was the assigned nurse to our labor & delivery, and quickly became a close confidant as we navigated all of the stages of grief. Hannah was a source of light for us in our darkest days. I credit her compassion tremendously with our ability to find our feet again and even stay on them most days." says Jennifer.

Christina Bierwirth, LPC Women's Wellness

Katherine Moses nominated Christina Bierwirth who is a Licensed Professional Counselor & Co-Owner of Women's Wellness. Katherine and her husband lost their son Michael Charles Giambra Jr. to preterm labor. Katherine shares, "Christina has shown me compassion and strength and given me hope that I can continue to survive this grief in a healthy way. I have also learned that grief and joy can co-exist. I would not be where I am today without her help and encouragement. The second I walk into her office, I feel safe and cared for- and that means so much to me and my recovery."

Ashley Minihan, CD (DONA) Empowered Beginnings

Amy and Michelle Rodriguez nominated Ashley Minihan, who is a doula and owner of Empowered Beginnings. Michelle lost her son Christian in February 2024. Ashley was a source of comfort not only to Michelle, but to her whole family, especially her sister Amy. Amy shared, "Ashley played such a wonderful role in our lives and we are so grateful for everything she did for each and every one of us." Michelle echoed that sentiment by saying, "Ashley is such an amazing person, she never left my side, always asked if I'm doing okay, always reminded me that I'm a great mother and how my son is so lucky to have me as a mother." Ashley was also nominated for the Compassionate Care Award in 2019 by Annie Kearns. Ashley was Annie's doula when her son Finnegan was stillborn in 2018. Annie shared, "That was her first experience with a stillbirth family, which if you had told me at the time I wouldn't have believed. She has the largest heart and the most compassionate soul of anyone I've ever met."



2024 COMPASSIONATE CARE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Desirae Whittle, CD Empowered Births

Lauren McCool nominated Desirae Whittle, who is a doula at Harmony Births. Lauren lost her son Theo at 18 weeks on 8/19/2023. Lauren noted, "Desirae came and was truly the greatest gift to me and my family during the most tragic experience. The atmosphere in the room immediately changed when she walked in the room. She held me, cried with me, and helped my husband and I navigate the most heartbreaking days of our life. Desirae sat next to my bedside even when my husband and mother had fallen asleep during the long labor process. She helped me have the best possible labor experience despite the impossibly tough circumstances. I always call her my earth angel and she was honestly the perfect person to help me through this unimaginable loss."

SPECIAL RECOGNITION & TWO TIME RECIPIENT

Dr. Steven Peterec, MD Yale New Haven Hospital, NICU

Corilyn and Edward Rafferty nominated Dr. Steven Peterec, who is a NICU Doctor at Yale. Dr. Peterec will receive special recognition because this is the second time he has been nominated for the Compassionate Care Award. Corilyn and Edward's daughter, Makenna, passed away on Oct 10, 2022. "Dr. Peterec informed us, supported us, cared for us, and our 3 year old son without even realizing he did it. The impact he had on our family was so profound, I can't even begin to describe. The night she was taking a turn he was leaving and was not on duty. He promised that he would be there if we needed anything. He got home (over an hour away), heard what was happening, turned around and arrived 15 minutes after she had passed to be there with us and say good-byes with us. He is the epitome of a doctor and we are so grateful to have had him."

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*Circle of Hope Members have either donated or raised over \$1,000 in the past fiscal year.

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SPECIAL THANKS



IN ADDITION TO OUR CIRCLE OF HOPE MEMBERS, GENEROUS SPONSORS, DONORS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS, THE GALA COMMITTEE EXTENDS A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO...

NICOLE NALEPA

JOSH LIDSKY, DJ (MR. MUSIC MAN)

ANGEL STARR, PHOTOGRAPHER

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NICOLE BAJWA (CENTERPIECES)

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The Christenson Family

This month you would be turning 8 years old, and we still can't believe you are gone. Your short life has touched so many people and brought so many grieving families together. We will always be grateful that you are a part of our family, even if you aren't physically here with us. We say your name each and every day and are waiting patiently until we can be together again. You are loved beyond measure and our hearts ache for you. We will love you always! Love, Mom, Dad, Gunnar, Annika and Anders

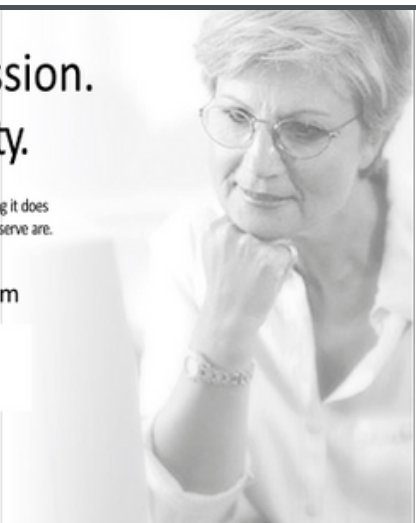
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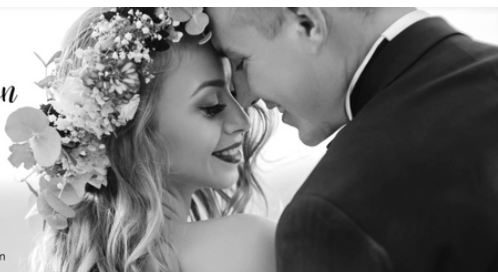
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The McParland Family

Our sweet Emily, we miss you everyday and will always wish we had more time with you. While you have not been here with us physically, you have had an incredibly positive impact on our lives. We are grateful to Hope After Loss for always being here for us in honoring you and helping other families who experience their own devastating losses and heartbreak.

Love you, Mom, Dad, Liam, JJ and Camryn



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"A person's a person, no matter how small"

Veronica 12/20/03, Jaxen 4/23/13, and Klara Gail 7/8/18



The Friends and Family of
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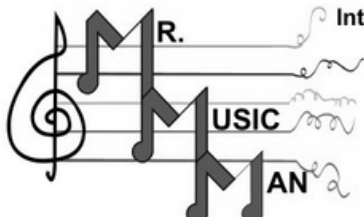
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2024 Hope After Loss Gala

An advertisement for Vicky & Team at William Raveis Real Estate. It features two women, Jen Tucker and Vicky Welch, smiling. The text includes "W VICKY & TEAM AT WILLIAM RAVEIS REAL ESTATE", "SUPPORTS Hope After Loss TOGETHER, WE DO MORE.", and "WILLIAM RAVEIS 203.215.4990 | VICKY.WELCH.COM 1080 MAIN ST | BRANFORD | CT 06405". There are also blue butterfly graphics.

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Gus,
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were
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with us.
Love,
Mom, Dad,
Sophia &
Richie



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HELP US IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF CARE FOR BEREAVED FAMILIES

Loss families & care providers, we want your feedback!

We are working towards endorsing a "Pregnancy and Infant Loss Standard of Care" that we would recommend that all hospitals and practices use as they develop their perinatal bereavement policies and procedures.

A first step towards developing this Standard of Care are these surveys where we can collect insights from those who have experienced the devastating loss of a pregnancy or infant and those who have cared for them.



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-Frank Bartlett

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