



## Our Mission Statement

To diligently work with local, state and national leaders to obtain a National Day of Remembrance recognizing the need for community education and awareness when a family loses a child to miscarriage, stillbirth, and/or neonatal death. While promoting the need for openness, understanding and compassion during a family's time of grief and most importantly, allowing those who wish, to remember these children who we now hold dear.

## Goals of Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day

To have information and support available to families who suffer from pregnancy and infant loss, to help them cope.

- To inform and educate the public about pregnancy and infant loss so they can better learn how to respond with compassion to affected families.
- To enable professionals, physicians, clergy, emergency medical technicians, funeral directors, police officers, public health nurses, and employers, to better serve families if they have special training and better knowledge of pregnancy and infant loss.
- To set aside a day to remember all pregnancies and infants lost in order to heal and be comforted in a time of pain and heartache, and to have hope for the future.



## Objectives:

- Encourage Doctor's offices, Churches, Hospitals, Funeral Homes, etc. to give to patients at the time of their loss pamphlets that would include books, websites, persons to contact, local and national support groups, resource centers.
- Inform parents of their rights at time of loss; burial, cremation, naming the child.
- Promote Public speaking outline for parents wanting to share their loss.
- A list "Do's and Don'ts" for well meaning family and friends.
- Encourage media to feature stories on perinatal loss and the healing involved.
- Network with National and Local Organizations.
- Talk to professionals; find out how they deal with feelings related to loss in their work. Explain to them how critical their care and compassion is during this time.
- Develop presentation to H. R. departments for information sessions on this type of bereavement.
- Have October 15th leaders be liaison for those wanting to plan/attend services in



- their state. An outline will be developed and available on the website.
- Encourage community activities, outreach.
- Give parents one day to openly remember, as parents NEVER forget.
- Provide this healing opportunity so that families can look towards the future.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### *What is Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day?*

A day of remembrance for all babies who have died to soon, from early pregnancy loss thru infant death.

### *When is Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day?*

October 15th of every year

### *Why have a day of remembrance for Pregnancy and Infant Loss?*

Because EVERY life, even the tiniest and shortest lived deserves to be acknowledged and remembered. The parents of these children never forget, we would just like one day of the year for everyone else to remember them too.

In October 1988, President Ronald Reagan Proclaimed October as National Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month. "When a child loses his parent, they are called an orphan. When a spouse loses her or his partner, they are called a widow or widower. When parents lose their child, there isn't a word to describe them. This month recognizes the loss so many parents experience across the United States and around the world. It is also meant to inform and provide resources for parents who have lost children due to miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, molar pregnancy, stillbirths, birth defects, SIDS, and other causes."

- Blue Mountain Arts, [www.1.bluemountainarts.com](http://www.1.bluemountainarts.com)

Robyn Bear, founder of [www.october15th.com](http://www.october15th.com) envisioned a day when all grieving parents could come together and be surrounded by love and support from their friends and families, a day where the community could better understand their pain and learn how to reach out to those grieving. This would be a day to reflect on the loss yet embrace the love. While our babies' lives were so brief, they were also very meaningful. Yet, there was not a time to talk about them. Our society seemed to forget or perhaps, simply didn't know how to reach out. Since October had been proclaimed "Awareness Month", she chose a day, in the middle of the month to become, "Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day". We are asking everyone in all times zones, worldwide, to join us in a candle lighting ceremony at 7pm on October 15th. For more information, please visit <http://www.october15th.com>

## Ideas for October 15th

- Light candles and display them in your windows.
- Contact local Radio and News stations and have them announce that it is October 15th, Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day.
- Drive with your headlights on. Also, ask that radio and news stations announce this as well.

- Leave your porch lights on. Have radio and news stations announce this as well.
- Release butterflies (Can be expensive, but is very beautiful, Use a search engine such as yahoo and type in butterfly release)
- Release Doves (You can rent doves that are trained to fly back to the owner)
- Sponsor a candle lighting ceremony in a park, church, or local hospital.
- Send off a pink or blue balloon with your Angel's name and/or picture. (Warning Please: If you do this, only send one balloon per child. This is very dangerous for birds and wildlife. The animals can eat the remnants of a balloon and die) (As beautiful and wonderful as it is, I can't personally recommend it due to my love for animals)

## Ideas for all of the Month of October

- Tying pink or blue ribbons around trees in yards, neighborhoods, and parks.
- Place signs and banners in your yard, neighborhoods, and parks.
- Contact your local radio stations and television news stations to have them announce that October is Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month.
- Write an article and submit it to your local newspapers.
- Sponsor flowers in memory of your baby in a church service or hospital.
- Have a t-shirt made that says I have an Angel, and have your child's name put on it.



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[www.october15th.com](http://www.october15th.com)  
or  
[www.rememberingourbabies.net](http://www.rememberingourbabies.net)