



STAR LEGACY FOUNDATION NY Metro Chapter

2019 Highlights	 STAR LEGACY FOUNDATION NY Metro Chapter	2020 Plans
40+ Hospital/OBGYN partnerships maintained, plus conducted 5 educational events for medical professionals, & spoke/exhibited at 9 conferences & community events		Promote Pregnancy Research Project enrollment & other national initiatives, including Oct Awareness Month & new Safer Pregnancy info cards 
Raised at events organized by NY Metro Chapter volunteers >\$190k		 Advocacy efforts continuing on Stillbirth Tax Credits in NY, NJ & CT
55+ SLF info packets & gift boxes distributed to healthcare professionals, public health partners, & bereavement support providers		Medical Committee expanding outreach targeting add'l area hospitals, OBGYN practices, doulas, & community partners  EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS • BROCHURES • FAMILY SUPPORT
Legislators co-sponsored bills in NY & NJ for the Stillbirth Tax Credit; built support with postcards/emails/calls to >20 >150 reps		4 Chapter events planned for 2020, including fundraisers & social/educational events
25+ New loss families supported by trained Peer Companions in the NY Metro area		New volunteers in training for Medical, Legislative, & Community Outreach, and as Peer Companion mentors 

Celebrating 2019, Driving Progress in 2020

Thanks to the hard work of our dedicated volunteers and the continued generosity of our donors, Star Legacy Foundation NY Metro Chapter has accomplished an enormous amount in just a few short years!

(Fun fact: Did you know that in 2015 we were the very first chapter established outside of the Minnesota headquarters? There are now over 25 chapters across the country!)

We are so excited to continue to build on this momentum and embark on our ambitious plans for the coming year. Here are just a few highlights we'd love to share with you:

In 2019, we --

- Maintained partnerships with **over 40 area hospitals & OBGYN practices** (including most major hospitals in NYC!)
- Conducted **5 educational workshops** for medical professionals
- Exhibited/spoke at **3 medical conferences & 6 community events** including regional ACOG & AWHONN conferences and 2 press conferences
- Raised **over \$190,000** at events organized by NY Metro Chapter volunteers to support stillbirth research, education, awareness, and prevention
- Distributed **55+ informational packets and boxes of gifts** for stillborn babies to healthcare professionals, public health partners, and bereavement support providers
- Garnered the support of **20 legislators** to co-sponsor the Stillbirth Tax Credit bills in NY and NJ, and advocated with postcards and calls/emails to >150 additional representatives
- Supported **over 25** new loss families across the NY Metro region through our Peer Companions program
- Maintained a roster of **>100 active volunteers** in our chapter
- Facilitated **SLF National efforts** including the launch of the game-changing **Pregnancy Research Project**, the bi-annual **Stillbirth Summit** conference (& 15th Anniversary Dinner!), the **#NeverBeStill October Awareness Campaign**, & collaborating with leadership at **25+ SLF chapters** across the US

In 2020, we're looking forward to --

- Promoting enrollment in the **Pregnancy Research Project** (www.pregnancyresearchproject.org) and supporting other national initiatives
- Continuing our advocacy efforts to pass the **Stillbirth Tax Credit** bills in NY & NJ, and introduce a bill in CT
- Expanding our hardworking **Medical Committee's** reach to more area hospitals, plus OBGYN practices (particularly high-risk), and other community partners
- Providing all our partners with our **new Safer Pregnancy materials** (*see below!*), as

well as educational events, brochures & family support resources

- Organizing 4 events through our tireless **Events Committee**, including fundraisers & an educational/social gathering for loss families (*save-the-dates below!*)

- Training new volunteers to serve as **Peer Companions** and on our **Legislative, Medical, Events, & Outreach Committees**

- Leveraging our rapidly growing recognition in our area to make an **even bigger impact!**

!! Save These Dates !!

Our Events Committee is hard at work planning several upcoming events.

Please mark your calendars - we hope to see you soon!

Jan 26th - Education Session & Social Gathering Featuring Dr. Harvey Kliman
(Elmsford, NY) - *see details below!*

May 2nd - Let's Not Be Still! NY Festival, 5K & Walk: Long Island (Port Washington, NY) - *registration link coming soon!*

June 22nd - Swing for the Stars Golf Outing (Town of Oyster Bay Golf Course) -
more info coming soon!

Oct 17th - Let's Not Be Still! NY Festival, 5K & Walk: Westchester (Rye, NY) -
please note the new location/date for 2020!

As always, watch our website and social media pages for more details!



Contribute to Research!

Your 30-min survey can help improve pregnancy outcomes! Enroll if currently 12+ weeks pregnant, or have given birth in last 5 years, or have ever had a stillbirth. [Learn more & participate here!](#)

1/26 Education Session & Social Gathering

Have you gotten an answer about why your baby died? We might be able to help!

Come grab a Captain Lawrence craft brew & meet Dr. Harvey Kliman of Yale, as well as several loss families from our area!

Sun 1/26, 12 pm. [Details & RSVP](#)



NEW! Safer Pregnancy

Know someone who's expecting? Grab your FREE copies of our new Safer Pregnancy infographics & updated Parenting in Pregnancy materials!

[Daily Actions Card](#) & [Safer Pregnancy Infographic Refrigerator Magnet](#)

Parenting in Pregnancy: [Brochure](#) & [Card](#)

Peer Companions Needed

Our [Peer Companions](#) mentoring program is busier than ever. We need your help! No one should walk this difficult path alone. **Would you like to give back to other families in our area?**

Parents & grandparents needed. Online training provided. [Email us to sign up!](#)



Support the Stillbirth Tax Credit Bill in Your State

Did you know that - unlike other babies who sadly die in their first year of life - **stillborn babies are not currently eligible for ANY dependent tax benefits** in NY, NJ, or CT?

We believe that ALL babies deserve acknowledgement from our states, and that all families should be entitled to tax benefits to help defray the costs of bringing a child into the world, *especially* families who are facing **thousands of dollars in unexpected expenses** which no parent should ever have to pay for, like

We need your help! It only takes two minutes to call/email your reps to urge them to pass the bill. Instructions including sample email/call script below:

- [For NY residents](#)
- [For NJ residents](#)
- CT coming soon! [Contact us](#) to help get a bill off the ground in this state

New Yorkers, are you able to travel to Albany THIS TUESDAY, Jan 21st?

Join us for a Day of Advocacy in support of the NY Stillbirth Tax Credit bill! We'll

autopsy, funeral, burial/cremation, and grief counseling.

Our Legislative Team is hard at work trying to change this. Volunteers are reaching out to our state representatives to ask them to pass the Stillbirth Tax Credit bill, which would provide a **one-time \$2000 tax credit** to parents in the year that their child's Certificate of Stillbirth is issued.

supply you with everything you need to advocate for loss families in NY. Please [email us](#) if you're interested!

Have you requested your baby's Certificate of Stillbirth?

Visit our website (under Helpful Information at the bottom) for links to forms and instructions for your state: www.starlegacyfoundation.org/nymetro



A Note of Thanks

We are thrilled to announce that several of our chapter volunteers have recently stepped up into new leadership roles! Please join us in giving the following individuals a warm welcome in their new (or newly re-appointed) positions:

Samantha Banerjee - Chairperson

Christine Chang - Medical Chair

Amanda Donohue - Events Co-Chair

Kristin Ferriggi - Events Co-Chair

Jeanine Sabatino - Outreach Chair

Elaina Vietz - Legislation Chair

Kathy Gardener - Peer Companion Coordinator

Laura Forer - Medical Liaison for Manhattan/Bronx
Domenique Rice - Medical Liaison for Brooklyn
Kaitlin Iannelli - Medical Liaison for Long Island
Maggie Goodwin - Legislative Liaison for NY
Maureen Schwartz - Legislative Liaison for NJ
Kristin Ferriggi and Amanda & Mark Donohue - Event Leads, LNBS Long Island
Adam & Arianna Siepiola - Event Leads, LNBS Westchester
Mark Terjesen & Carolyn Waldecker - Event Leads, Swing for the Stars Golf Outing
Jeanine Sabatino - Event Lead, Social Events

We are so grateful for your passion and dedication, and that of our 100+ other active volunteers, who all contribute every day in ways large and small to our success! We could not do any of this without you!

We also would like to take a moment to acknowledge the immense contributions of our founding members, without whom our chapter - and the incredible progress we have achieved together - would not exist.

Thank you for your time, your vision, your blood, sweat, and tears. No matter how your roles evolve over time, please know that our entire community is indebted to you. We are so grateful to you for your contributions and to all of our babies for bringing us together.

Star Legacy NY Metro Chapter Founding Members:

Hilary & Tyler Hughes, Bobbie & Rick Cohan, Eleni Michailidis, Theresa Juva, Amanda & Mark Donohue, Samantha Banerjee

Thank you again to all of our supporters and volunteers. Together, we can change the devastating statistics and eradicate preventable stillbirth, in honor of all babies amongst the stars. **Because every pregnancy deserves a happy ending.**



NY Metro Chapter Founding Members with Star Legacy Executive Director Lindsey Wimmer at Let's Not Be Still! New York 2016



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You are receiving this email because you indicated you would like to keep up with the progress of the NY Metro Chapter of the Star Legacy Foundation in our mission to drive stillbirth research and education. We would love to stay in touch, but you can opt out at any time!

Our mailing address is:

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