Celebrating 2018, Looking Ahead to 2019

All of us at Star Legacy NY Metro Chapter are incredibly proud of all we’ve accomplished in just a few short years (with your help!) and are excited to embark on our ambitious plans for the coming year. Some highlights:

In 2018, we --
- Established partnerships with 12 area hospitals & OBGYN practices (including most major hospitals in Manhattan!)
- Conducted 5 educational seminars/retreats for medical professionals
- Exhibited at 4 medical conferences including regional ACOG & AWHONN events
- Raised over $169,000 at events organized by NY Metro Chapter volunteers to support stillbirth research, education, awareness, and prevention
- Distributed 85+ informational packets and boxes of gifts for stillborn babies to healthcare professionals, public health partners, and bereavement support providers
- Established partnerships with several legislators in NY and NJ to advocate for Stillbirth Tax Credits
- Supported new loss families across the NY Metro region with our Peer Companions
- Nearly doubled (!!) our chapter volunteer membership (welcome new members!!)
- Facilitated SLF National efforts including the #NeverBeStill October Awareness Campaign & collaborating with leadership at other SLF chapters across the US

In 2019, we’re looking forward to --
- 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 educational events & brochures (in English & Spanish!) and family support resources
- Organizing 5 events through our tireless Events Committee, including fundraisers & social gatherings for loss families (don’t miss our first event, Bowling for Babies NYC on 1/27 - more info below!)
- Working with legislators to introduce Stillbirth Tax Credit bills in NJ, NY, & CT (New Jersey we need your help NOW - see below!)
- Continuing to support SLF National’s many worthy initiatives, including the 2019 Stillbirth Summit conference, October #NeverBeStill Awareness Month campaign, launch of the Pregnancy Research Project registry, and more!
- Training dozens of new volunteers to serve as Peer Companions and on our Legislative Team and Medical/Outreach Committee
- Leveraging our rapidly expanding chapter membership and exploding recognition amongst area medical professionals to make an even bigger impact!
Bowling for Babies & 5K Save-The-Dates

-- Bowling for Babies NYC 1/27 --

For our family-friendly winter social gathering, we’re meeting up for a bowling outing in NYC!

Sunday, January 27th
11am to 1:30pm
Bowlmor Lanes Times Square
(222 W. 44th St, New York City)

$30/adult (14 years old and up)
$15/child (3-13 years old)
Kids under 3 are free!
Includes: rental shoes, unlimited games, and food/soda

Spots are limited - Register ASAP https://tinyurl.com/bowlingforbabiesnewyork
Kids and grandparents welcome!

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-- Save the Date: Spring 5Ks --

Family-friendly Festival, Run & Walk
2 Events on 2 Dates in 2 Locations

Saturday, May 4th
Port Washington, NY (Long Island)
9:00 am
5K Run & Walk
Awards, Raffle & BBQ to follow

Saturday, May 18th
South Salem, NY (Westchester)
9:00 am
5K Run & Walk
Awards, Raffle & Food to follow
Both events are stroller friendly!

Look for Early Bird Registration coming soon!

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-- 2019 Support Group Schedule --

National just released our Online Support Group Schedule for 2019 - be sure to double-check the schedule and register if you’re planning to attend!

Bereaved Parents of Perinatal Loss – 1st & 3rd Mondays of each month at 7:30 pm. Group facilitator is Debbie Fischer, LAMFT

Pregnancy After a Loss – Every Monday at 8:30 pm. Group facilitator is Joann O’Leary, PhD

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Get Involved in 2019

So many opportunities to honor your baby and make a difference!

-- 5 Min Action for NJ Residents --

Our Legislative Team is full steam ahead on the Stillbirth Tax Credit initiative! If you have 5 MINUTES and are a NJ resident, we could really use your help!

All you need to do is place a quick phone call and/or email to your state representatives asking them to support the bill (A4849/S1190 “Quinn Wilson’s Law”), which would provide a $2000 tax credit to families who suffer a stillbirth (more info below).

Step-by-step instructions (including rep lookup links, call script, and sample email) available here: https://tinyurl.com/njstillbirthtaxcredit

Why is this important?

The proposed legislation would provide a one-time $2000 dependent tax credit for families of stillborn babies in the year of their birth. While no amount of money can ease the heartbreak of losing a beloved child, this tax credit would help families to defray unexpected costs associated with hospital bills, autopsy/testing, funeral expenses, time away from work, and mental health support. In addition, this legislation would also serve the critical purpose of acknowledging and honoring stillborn babies on par with other children who sadly die in their first year of life, and drive awareness of stillbirth amongst our elected officials and the general public.

New York and Connecticut coming soon - keep an eye out for updates!

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-- Hospital/OBGYN Outreach --

In addition to maintaining our established relationships with Mount Sinai, NYP/Columbia, NYP/Weill Cornell, Lenox Hill, NYP/Lower Manhattan, Good Samaritan, Northern Westchester, White Plains, North Shore,
Parenting After a Loss – 1st Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm & 9:30 pm (2 sessions). Group facilitator is Joann O'Leary, PhD

Grandparents & Extended Family – 1st Wednesday of each month 8:30 pm. Group facilitator is Joann O'Leary, PhD

All groups are free and confidential and led by professional facilitators. More info [here](#).

REGISTER HERE for any of the above groups.

Follow us on Facebook to stay up-to-date with upcoming events and volunteer opportunities in our area!


Be sure to click Like and Follow in order to see our posts in your News Feed!

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**Winthrop, LIJ Katz, South Nassau, Huntington, Valley Health, Newark Beth Israel, Morristown, & Greenwich, and others (including multiple OBGYN practices) we are also looking to expand to new hospitals and doctors in our area including Harlem, Jacobi, Stony Brook, St. Barnabas, Staten Island University, Phelps, Bridgeport, & several others, along with OBs and local grief support organizations and community partners.**

We need your help! Training via videoconference is available for any chapter member who wants to assist with improving prevention and post-loss care in our area. [Sign up today](#)!

Would you like our team to meet with your hospital and/or OB? Email us their contact info and we will gladly reach out!

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**-- Peer Companions --**

Request a mentor [here](#), or become one yourself! Mom, Dad, Grandparent, & Extended Family Companions offer phone, text, email, and in-person support as needed.

3 hour videoconference training dates coming up soon. [Register via email](#)

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**Your Help Needed!**

If you haven't already, please take a moment to review Star Legacy Foundation at [Great Nonprofits](https://www.greatnonprofits.org). Our 5-star rating is incredibly important toward qualifying for grants to continue our life-saving work!

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Thanks for Making Diana's Hope a Success! A huge thank you to everyone who came out for Let's Not Be Still! Diana's Hope at Belmont State Park in November. The event beat its fundraising goal of $25k and was a heart-warming day in memory of Diana Hope and all babies amongst the stars!

**Driving Change in 2019**

Thank you so much to everyone who has supported our chapter's efforts in ways big and small. 2018 was a year of massive growth both for our chapter and the entire Star Legacy Foundation (we are now up to 20 chapters nationwide after we formed the very first chapter only 3.5 short years ago!). We're going into 2019 with an unprecedented level of momentum with many motivated new volunteers, enthusiastic medical partners, and growing recognition within the community.

We pledge to work tirelessly to move the needle on research, education, and prevention in...
As always, don't hesitate to email us with ideas, questions, or comments!

Best wishes,
Hilary, Samantha, Amanda, Christine & Bobbie
(Star Legacy Foundation NY Metro Chapter Chairs)