



Meet the Star Legacy Ohio board!



Kati Smith, Heather Johnston Welliver, Kelli Stewart, Laura Johnston and Justin Welliver at last year's Lydie's Loop

Here's the crew working hard to prevent stillbirth in Ohio.

Chair – Heather Johnston Welliver

Heather Johnston Welliver is the mother of four children: Benjamin, Lydia, Josephine and a new baby who they hope will arrive safely this fall.

Lydia was stillborn, due to a cord accident, in November 2014, spurring Heather and her family to work for stillbirth awareness and prevention. In Columbus, Ohio, Heather has raised funds for a Cuddle Cot, served on perinatal loss panels at the local hospital, organized a lending library for the local support group, and spread awareness through NPR, the Columbus Dispatch, and other news sources. Heather plans the event Lydie's Loop: Steps against Stillbirth, a 5 k/1 mile event that also included a kids' dash, children's entertainment, and raffle. In its inaugural year, Lydie's Loop raised over \$21,000 to support Star Legacy Foundation with a total of 280 participants.

Heather has a Bachelor of Science in Middle Childhood Education and a Master of Science in College Student Personnel from the University of Dayton and currently works at Denison University. In her little spare time, Heather enjoys running and visiting the beach.

Secretary – Justin Welliver

Justin Welliver is Heather's husband and the proud father of their four children. Alongside Heather, he has assisted with the multiple activities to fundraise and spread awareness for stillbirth education and prevention. Justin is leading the Ohio Board in the passing the stillbirth tax credit legislation in Ohio. In addition, Justin shares pieces of his personal grief journey and life after loss as a regular contributor for the website Glow in the Woods, a community for babylost mothers and fathers.

Justin has a Bachelor of Science in Actuarial Science and Statistics from Purdue University and is employed by Hexion Inc. as the Procure to Pay Finance Manager. Justin travels with his discs in the trunk of his car, always prepared for those rare coincidences of spare time and good weather that allow him to play a round of disc golf.

Communications Chair - Laura Johnston

Laura Johnston, Heather's sister, is a news manager at cleveland.com, and the editor of RocktheLake.com. She has a bachelor's degree from Miami University and a master's degree in journalism from Columbia University. She lives in Rocky River, with her husband and two kids, and she misses her niece Lydie every day. When she's not working, folding laundry or doing home improvement projects, you can find her swimming, skiing, texting her sister or getting lost in a good novel.

Family Support Chair – Kelli Stewart

Kelli Stewart is the mother of two boys. JP Stewart was born still March 15, 2016 at 36 weeks from a cord accident. His little brother Patrick was born September 8, 2017 healthy and happy.

We're partnering with the Cleveland Clinic!



The Ohio Chapter of the Star Legacy Foundation is partnering with the Cleveland Clinic on its second perinatal bereavement conference for health professionals. We'll be presenting at Fairview Hospital July 30!

The daylong event is open to Cleveland Clinic nurses, throughout the system's hospitals.

Topics include:

- Emerging Research in Perinatal Loss
- Memory Making
- Understanding Perinatal Autopsy
- Pregnancy After Loss
- Parent panel

Fairview Hospitals's birthing center expanded its perinatal bereavement services in 2014, with the Families Experiencing Early Loss (F.E.E.L.) program.

If you know an Ohio hospital that would like to host a perinatal bereavement conference, at no cost to them, please email the Ohio chapter at ohiochapter@starlegacyfoundation.org.

Come see us at the Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep Remembrance Walk!



Kati Smith at the Cleveland Promise Walk for Preeclampsia

Ohio chapter board member Kati Smith will represent the Ohio Star Legacy Chapter at the [Remembrance Walk](#) on Saturday, June 23.

Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep is a nonprofit organization that trains, educates, and mobilizes photographers to take beautiful portraits of families and infants who have died.

"We believe these images serve as an important step in the family's healing process by honoring the child's legacy," the group says.

Here are the details:

Registration at 8:30 a.m. Walk at Genoa Park, [303 W. Broad St., Columbus](#)

Hope to see you there!

Kelli had the picture perfect pregnancy with JP, until she was blind-sided when she found out her perfect little boy she was going to meet in just a few weeks had passed away. Kelli would like to shed some light on stillbirth and help educate those who don't understand that it is real and tragic, that stillbirth does exist and can happen. And she would also love to support those who are trying to pick the pieces up afterwards.

Kelli was born and raised in Akron, Ohio. After getting a BA in Communications from Walsh University, she married her husband Pat and together, they bought their first house in Akron, Ohio. Kelli currently works in Marketing for KAPCO in Kent, is a sports fanatic and passionate about art and any moment she gets a chance to be creative.

Northeast Ohio Representative - Kati Smith

Kati Smith is mother to Eloise Margaret in her heart, and Finnegan Thomas and Llewyn William in her arms. Eloise was born still, June 25, 2015, due to clots in her placenta caused by Kati's clotting disorder, Antiphospholipid Syndrome (APS). Kati's pregnancy with Eloise was treated as low risk despite her doctor's awareness of the increased risk of stillbirth due to this clotting disorder. Kati hopes to help bring change to the way at risk pregnancies are treated, educate parents and health care workers, and help support families who have gone through the same devastating loss.

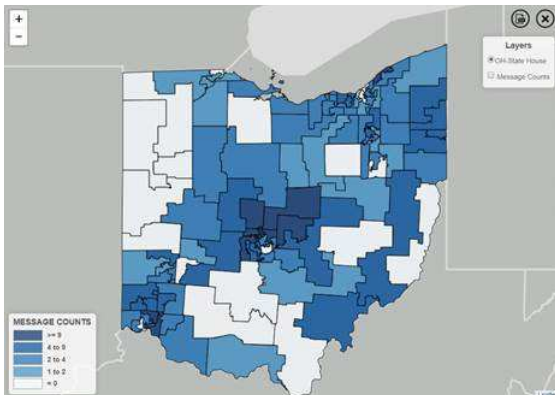
Kati grew up in Vermont, met her husband in Western New York, and now lives in Fairview Park. She worked as a professional nanny for many families over the course of ten years and is finally realizing her dream of being a stay at home mom.

Cincinnati Representative - Karie Kuns-Nguyen

Karie Kuns-Nguyen is the mother of Noah Alexander who was born still, October 12, 2017. After a perfect pregnancy, Karie was devastated to learn that at 38 weeks, her perfect little boy no longer had a heartbeat. She was shocked to learn that due to a lack of research, the cause of many stillbirths remains unknown, as is the case with Noah. Karie's goals are to educate families and health care providers about stillbirth and to help fund groundbreaking research on the causes/prevention of stillbirth so that no other family has to endure the same devastating loss.

Karie has a Master of Science in Accounting from the University of Kentucky and is a tax director with PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. She enjoys being outside as much as possible and doing art/craft projects like drawing, quilting and refinishing old furniture. She also enjoys spending time with her friends and family, including her fur babies, Milo and Tyler.

We still need support for Ohio House Bill 507, stillbirth tax credit legislation



No one from the Ohio House districts in white has contacted Ohio representatives about the stillbirth tax credit.

The Ohio House of Representatives is still considering a one-time, \$2,000 tax credit for stillborn babies, thanks to the work of the Ohio Chapter of the Star Legacy Foundation.

To get the tax credit passed, we need your help. Please tell your state representative that you support House Bill 507 and you'd like them to vote for it. We especially need help from people who live in the areas in white above.

The bill is still in committee.

Whether you are the parent of a stillborn child, a friend or family member or a citizen looking for an important cause, you can call or email your legislators, letting them know that this bill would help recognize stillborn children and grant some financial relief to grieving families.

To make it easy, use the Voter Voice tool. Just fill out your name and address, and it'll send emails to representatives for you.

Save the date for Lydie's Loop!



SEP 22 **Lydie's Loop: Steps against Stillbirth 2018**
Sat 8 AM
Helen, Kati and Jaime ✓ Going ▾

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The Ohio Chapter of the Star Legacy Foundation will host its biggest fundraiser, Lydie's Loop: Steps Against Stillbirth, in September.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, Sept. 22, 2018, for the third annual event, featuring 5K run, 1-mile walk, children's activities, raffle, silent auction and reading of baby names.

Lydie's Loop, named after Lydia Welliver, who was stillborn in November 2014, is a great opportunity for families to celebrate their children and meet other parents who have suffered perinatal loss.

To register, visit www.lydiesloop.org.

Want to volunteer? Contact Heather Johnston Welliver at ohiochapter@starlegacyfoundation.org.

Want more Star Legacy news?

Follow us on [Facebook](#) for news, links and upcoming events. Want to get more involved? We're always looking for volunteers! Email ohiochapter@starlegacyfoundation.org for more information.