



Presenting at the Cleveland Clinic!



Star Legacy Executive Director Lindsey Wimmer presenting at the Cleveland Clinic.

You could hear the shock when Lindsey Wimmer stated the statistics: the 26,000 stillbirths each year in the United States is equal to a 747 crashing and killing everyone aboard -- every five days. Or a school bus crashing and killing all 72 child passengers every single day.

Yet stillbirth is the most understudied issue in modern medicine, Wimmer told more than 50 participants at the Cleveland Clinic Perinatal Bereavement Conference on July 30. Attendees came from Akron General, Hillcrest and Fairview Hospitals.

Wimmer, the executive director of the national Star Legacy Foundation, led sessions in emerging research, perinatal autopsy, pregnancy after loss to help improve care for families. Nurses from the Clinic's Fairview Hospital talked about care and memory making, and three Ohio couples spoke about their experiences and their stillborn children.

"Your children matter to us," one nurse said near the end of the day. "It is not just another night of work. It is almost sacred."



Registered nurse Morgan Ballantine shared donations Fairview Hospital staff gives to grieving families.

The conference is the Ohio chapter's second; it held an event last year for Columbus nurses, doulas, midwives and more at Mount Carmel St. Ann's Hospital in Westerville.

Wimmer encouraged health care workers to empower pregnant mothers to know their own babies' movements and to contact their doctors if the pattern changes. She quoted Australian professor Jane Warland: "You're not a bother. You're a mother."

The parent panel was made up of Lydie's parents, Heather Johnston Welliver and Justin Welliver; J.P.'s parents, Kelli and Pat Stewart; and Lucas's parents, Andrea and Burt Dolata. The couples shared their stories and talked about the compassionate care they received.

They encouraged nurses to include the dads in their care and give parents ideas of activities they might want to do with their children. For example, to help give their child a bath or dance their daughter around the room.

COMING SOON: Lydie's Loop!



The kids dash at Lydie's Loop 2017.

The Ohio Chapter of the Star Legacy Foundation is prepping for 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.

Sign up now! The last day for early registration, which allows you to include your baby's name on the event T-shirts, is Tuesday, Sept. 4.

Visit www.lydieloop.org.

Want to volunteer? You can sign up online, too!

Help us tell your story

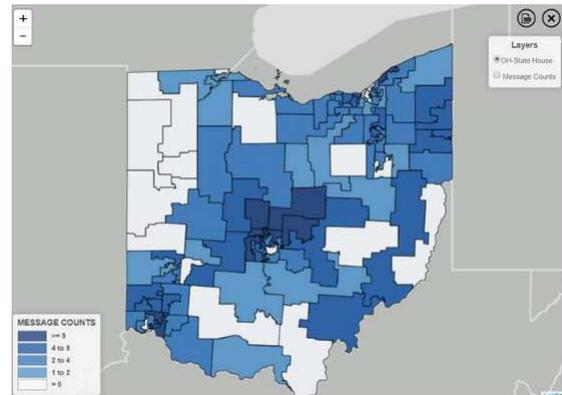


To encourage people to attend Lydie's Loop: Steps Against Stillbirth, the Ohio chapter would like to tell the stories behind the statistics.

You can share as much or as little as you'd like about your child, and your story. Include a photo, if you'd like. We'll share stories on Facebook in the weeks leading up to Lydie's Loop.

If you'd like to help, please contact Heather at ohiochapter@starlegacyfoundation.org.

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.



Pat and Kelli Stewart, Heather Johnston Welliver and Justin Welliver, Andrea and Burt Dolata

"For the average health care worker, parent panels are the best resource," said nurse Kathy Ballantine, who presented on memory making at Fairview Hospital. "It can change how you take care of the next person."

That's the goal, to help prevent stillbirth and help nurses care for grieving families.

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 [use the Voter Voice tool](#) to tell your representative that this bill would help recognize stillborn children and grant some financial relief to grieving families.

Just fill out your name and address, and Voter Voice will send emails to representatives for you.

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.