

Ohio Chapter of the Star Legacy Foundation

LYDIE'S LOOP RECAP!



## Lydie's Loop: Steps against Stillbirth!



The third annual Lydie's Loop was record-breaking, with 351 runners and walkers Stepping against Stillbirth!

Those participants, including virtual runners who completed their own routes throughout the United States, as well as Canada and New Zealand, raised \$25,859 for the Star Legacy Foundation. That's nearly 26,000 -- the number of babies born still in the United States each year.

The money raised by our participants, volunteers, sponsors and donors will help spread stillbirth awareness, fund research and hopefully change the world.

On a cool Saturday morning, families and friends took photos in our first-ever photo booth, writing their babies' names on white boards. They won raffle prizes and silent auction items. Kids lined up for balloon flowers, jet packs and alligators from Erica Carlson Children's Entertainment and raced in the kids dash. And everyone listened to the names of babies who were born still, who are loved and missed every day.

There were tears, applause and lots of hugs.

The event is so needed, and appreciated, by loss families, one mom said. It's a chance for fellowship and healing.

Ohio Star Legacy chapter chair Heather Johnston Welliver explained the reason for the event. She and her husband, Justin Welliver, founded the event in 2016 in honor of their daughter, Lydia Joanne, who was born still Nov. 6, 2014.

"That's why we are all gathered here together today," Johnston Welliver said in her speech. "To speak our children's names openly. To claim them as our own, with pride. To recognize that the moment we heard those chilling, heartbreaking words, 'I'm sorry,

there's no heartbeat,' our lives irrevocably changed but our love for our children did not. To carry that love and our children with us as we take steps forward in our lives."

Lydie's Loop 2018 by the numbers:

- 351 participants
- 247 donors
- \$22,425.62 in registrations and donations
- \$3,338.80 from the raffle and silent auction
- \$95 from the Swartz kids lemonade stand

Thank you, thank you, thank you for your support! You can see a list of sponsors and donors on the Lydie's Loop website.

*Check out the beautiful photos from Leigh Zeidner.*



The Star Legacy Ohio Chapter board: secretary Justin Welliver, media chair Laura Johnston, Cincinnati representative Karie Kuns-Nguyen, Northeast Ohio representative Kati Smith, family support chair Kelli Stewart and chair Heather Johnston Welliver, with national Star Legacy director of operations Shauna Libsack.



The Welliver family, who founded the event in honor of their daughter, Lydia Joanne.



Shirts with babies' names.



The kids dash!



Volunteer Kate Rechtsteiner and one of Lydie's nurses, Christi Reams.



The photo booth!

## Lydie's Loop in the news

Check out the write-up in This Week:

[House Bill 507: Wellivers seek tax credit to ease stillbirth pain](#)

[Did you catch us on Columbus Channel 10 news?](#)

## Want more Star Legacy Ohio news?

Find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/OhioStarLegacyFoundation](http://www.facebook.com/OhioStarLegacyFoundation). And consider joining our board. We're always looking for volunteers!