

October 27, 2017



Lydie's Loop raises \$18,000 for stillbirth awareness & prevention



Celebrating the second annual Lydie's Loop: Steps Against Stillbirth

They came to honor their children, to wear their names on their T-shirts and hear their names read aloud: Lincoln, Lydia, Eloise, Emma, Mac, Noah.

Fifty-one babies, honored by 232 family members and friends who came to Gahanna's Woodside Green Park for the second annual Lydie's Loop: Steps Against Stillbirth. They ran a 5K or walked a mile to raise money for the Star Legacy Foundation, to raise stillbirth awareness, encourage research and support bereaved families.

Ohio Chapter Chair Heather Johnston Welliver and her husband, Justin Welliver, founded the event last year to honor their daughter Lydia Joanne, who was stillborn in November 2014.

Kids got balloon backpacks made by Erica Carlson Entertainment and raced in a kids dash. Families posed for team photos next to a star poster with names of each of the 50 babies being honored.

Participants also bid on a plethora of silent auction items, from gym memberships to Indians tickets, and bought tickets for raffle prizes, including an American Girl doll and memory chest.

And afterward, they gathered at 101 Beer Kitchen to share drinks, and camaraderie.

All together, the Ohio Chapter raised more than \$15,300 from registrations and team donations, \$1,745 from the silent auction and \$825 from the raffle. 156 people donated to event.

"THANK YOU so much to the family and friends who support my family, honor Lydie, and help us to prevent other senseless tragedies," said Johnston Welliver. "So wonderful to see so many of you yesterday and have so many others contribute via donations, raffle donations, and virtual registration. We appreciate you so very much."

Check out photos from the big day. And for more, [check out our Facebook page.](#)







Join us for an Ohio Chapter board meeting

Come meet the Ohio board of the Star Legacy Foundation -- drink some coffee, share stories and hash out future plans over Thanksgiving weekend.

We're holding an open meeting at 1:30 p.m. at the Panera bread on West Market Street in Fairlawn. You can **RSVP on Facebook**.

- Heather Johnston Welliver, chair
- Sabrina Cali, event chair
- Kati Smith, Northeast Ohio representative
- Justin Welliver, secretary
- Kelli Stewart, family support chair
- Laura Johnston, media chair

Can't make it but want to get more involved? Email us at ohiochapter@starlegacyfoundation.org. We especially need help in the Toledo, Dayton, Cincinnati and Marietta areas.

Stillbirth in the news

Event shines light on the challenge of stillbirths: Let's Not Be Still Tampa. [Tampa Bay Times](#)

Volunteer photographers' pictures of babies who die give families lasting memory: Ohio Chapter President Heather Johnston Welliver and her husband, chapter Secretary Justin Welliver, were interviewed for a story on Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep. [Columbus Dispatch](#)

Letter to the editor: The Wellivers' response to the article. [Columbus Dispatch](#)

Gift of love will help other families: How a Cuddle Cot (donated by the Wellivers, in honor of Lydie!) comforted one Ohio family. [Delaware Gazette](#)

A Mother's Fight: Breaking the Silence of Stillbirth: Starting a Wisconsin Star Legacy Foundation. [Patch.com](#)

Shoalhaven community take stigma out of infant loss: [South Coast Register](#).