



2018 Year in Review



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

2018 was a big year for the Ohio Chapter of the Star Legacy Foundation. As we embark on 2019, take a look at our accomplishments last year.

1. Perinatal Bereavement Conference

In July, we presented a day-long Perinatal Bereavement Conference at the Cleveland Clinic. We taught more than 50 healthcare professionals from Akron and Cleveland about emerging research in perinatal loss, understanding autopsies, memory making, and pregnancy after loss. A parent panel -- 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 -- shared their stories and talked about the compassionate care they received.

2. Lydie's Loop

In September, the 3rd annual Lydie's Loop: Steps against Stillbirth had a record-breaking year, with 351 participants and more than \$26,000 raised. More than \$65,000 has been donated to the Star Legacy Foundation over the three years of events. And families have gathered to honor their children and speak their names with pride. Thanks to all who walked, ran, fundraised, donated, and participated!

3. House Bill 507

The Ohio chapter made a big push at the Ohio Statehouse in 2018 for a stillbirth tax credit, a one-time \$2,000 refundable personal income tax credit to recognize stillborn children and help with expenses after their deaths.

In March, Justin Welliver, Heather Johnston Welliver, Douglas Livingston and nurse Beth Swartz testified before the House Ways and Means Committee. Despite positive feedback and much community support using the Voter Voice tool, the bill remained in committee. It was never brought to vote.

We'll review whether we can try again in 2019. Please let us know if you'd like to help!

4. Chapter planning

Star Legacy is growing fast, with 20 chapters now nationwide. In December, Chapter Secretary Justin Welliver flew to Minnesota to spend a weekend brainstorming and planning with other SLF chapters.

5. Meet-ups and more

Stillbirth in the news

'We want to talk': Why the silence around stillbirth has to end. [Sydney Morning Herald, Australia](#)

Dear tech companies, I don't want to see pregnancy ads after my child was stillborn. [Washington Post](#)

To the nurses who helped me heal after my stillbirth. [Today.com](#)

Mobile app helps parents cope with stillbirths. [The Ledger](#)

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.

In between our major events, we worked to spread awareness of perinatal and neonatal loss through social media, newspaper articles, and attendance at community events, supporting organizations such as Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep. We also held chapter meetings and meet-ups, where loss parents could meet and connect.

Through it all, we missed our children.



Lydie's Loop 2018 volunteers