

A year of growth



STAR LEGACY
FOUNDATION

ANNUAL ²⁰²¹ REPORT



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LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



Dear Friends of Star Legacy Foundation,

What a year of great teamwork! Living through another year of a pandemic, our volunteers, staff, and chapters all worked together to continue to advance the mission of Star Legacy. We saw an increase in support and resources to families, funding and results of research, and education for health care professionals and their patients.

Experts, healthcare professionals, families, and others all came together for the first-ever all-virtual Stillbirth Summit. This was the Xth Summit, but the first to ever be held completely virtual. While we didn't get the benefit of seeing each other in person, the virtual format provided an exciting opportunity for more people to attend globally.

Chapter members and leaders worked together to find ways to still safely host Champion events, some even in person. Generous volunteers donated to the events as well as through other means such as memorials and social media. We are so grateful for all the support!

When I see how everyone has come together this year to continue increasing awareness, supporting research, promoting education, encouraging advocacy, and supporting families regarding stillbirth, pregnancy loss, and neonatal death, I have so much hope to see how we may bring about change in 2022 and the years to come!

Thank you to everyone who contributed time, talent, or treasures to Star Legacy and ultimately to reducing pregnancy loss and neonatal death and improving care for families who experience such tragedies.

Andrea Lang

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



When my son was stillborn, I remember feeling very vulnerable. Not only was I heartbroken and devastated emotionally, but I had the harsh realization that life is unpredictable. All the precautions and planning could not promise that things would go as I thought.

Part of my healing process was accepting this uncertainty and finding ways to hope, love, trust, and even plan again while incorporating this new reality. Looking back on 2020 and 2021, I believe we have collectively had a similar experience.

The 'unprecedented times' have created the same emotions, fears, and thoughts for many of us. As we begin 2022, it can be overwhelming to think about what lies ahead. However, I am drawing inspiration from my grief experience and the healing I have witnessed in so many bereaved families. We know that we have to find a 'new normal'.

Our challenge is to take what we have learned and create a path forward that allows us to hope, love, trust, and plan again. Many things will look like they did before, and many things are new. But, that's OK!

At Star Legacy Foundation, I have been so grateful for our staff and volunteers' resilience, skill, and energy. In 2021, we welcomed three new staff members and four new Board members. We added a new support group facilitator and welcomed three new Chapters. We are continuing to grow and dream!

Our approaches have had to pivot on occasion, such as our first completely virtual Stillbirth Summit! But, our vision remains the same: to reduce perinatal death and improve bereavement care when prevention isn't possible.

We are excited to continue our programs and launch even more in 2022! I am embracing the lessons of the past as well as the unknowns of the future. The road may be bumpy at times, but I know it will be successful because our community has incredible strength and an important mission. Thank you for your continued support!

Lindsey Wimmer

2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Star Legacy Foundation

Hosted a successful virtual Stillbirth Summit! There were more than 1,100 participants with more than 500 of those being Healthcare Professionals. At the Summit, 27 of the world's experts in stillbirth presented on prevention and care. Mark your calendar for June of 2023 for the next Stillbirth Summit in San Diego, CA and virtually!

Our Team

Welcomed 3 Chapters to the Star Legacy Family!

Join us as we continue to welcome the Greater Kansas City Area Chapter, South Carolina Chapter, and the Mississippi Chapter! They are all off to great starts and making quite the impact in their communities.

Welcomed new staff and board members. We welcomed 3 new staff members (Kelly, Mikayla, and Colleen), a new Support Group Facilitator (Anna), and 4 new board members (Jacqueline, Jared, Shaylee, and Jenny). Learn more about our team here. Also THANK YOU to Dale Fuller who has completed his term as Board Chair. Andrea Lang is the new Chair for the next two years. Also - huge thanks to Mindy Mueller for her 10+ years on the Board of Directors.



2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Education

Completed DEI training as a team to ensure alignment of all projects. This is something we are working really hard towards and will be requiring all chapter leaders participate in DEI training as well. We know that pregnancy and infant loss occurs twice as often among black women as it does white women. Our goal is to learn more about this and other disparities and how we can work to reduce them. One way we do that is through our



Provided 23 Education Workshops for Health Care Professionals across the country. These sessions educate those who work with families on best practices in perinatal loss prevention and care. If you are interested in these sessions, email lindsey@starlegacyfoundation.org.



Awareness

Provided more than 75,000 brochures to more than 250 health care facilities (in 47 states). All materials are free of charge as it is the goal of Star Legacy to have the information available to anyone who needs it! Materials are available in English, Spanish, Hmong, and Somali! Safer Pregnancy cards are available in English, Spanish, Hmong, Somali, Arabic, French, and Turkish. Contact info@starlegacyfoundation.org to request a copy of our current resource catalog.



2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Support

More than 2,000 families were supported on the support line in 2021! Our support line is open 365 days a year, 24 hours in a day. If you ever find yourself needing support call 952-715-7731 ext. 1.

We have 113 peer companions that are equipped to help families after their loss all across the United States. Peer companions are matched by many different methods but most common is by location and/or similar loss situations. If you are in need of a peer companion or want to become one, please email kelly@starlegacyfoundation.org



Added a new Spanish Speaking Support Group in 2021. This group meets on Friday evenings and has been successful for its participants. To learn more about our support groups visit: <https://starlegacyfoundation.org/support-groups/>. We have also had more than 1,800 people attend our support groups. Support groups are a safe environment where one can tell their story and express themselves freely, knowing that the others will be supportive and non-judgmental. All support group facilitators are trained mental health professionals with first-hand experience and/or practice emphasis in perinatal loss.

2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Advocacy

The Washington State Chapter, with leadership from Karol & Terrill Hatzillas and assistance from The BeliEVE Foundation, was able to successfully make getting a Certificate of Birth Resulting in Stillbirth a reality for Washington State residents.



Events

Hosted 23 champion events across the United States in 13 states! The events went incredibly well over the last year. We are so thankful to so many for hosting these events in honor of Star Legacy Foundation. If you would like to host an event email amy@starlegacyfoundation.org for more info! Events range from walks/runs, galas, golf tournaments, photography sessions and so much more!

Participated in 12 Awareness Events. The main goal of these events were to share information about having a safer pregnancy and encourage participation in the Pregnancy Research Project. These events took place all across the United States and were incredibly successful.



Grants

Funded more than \$150,000 in research grants. Funding included: Sleep Behaviors in Pregnancy Study and Marketing Strategies to Help After Baby Loss. We also continue to track previously funded studies still in progress: Understanding Sleep Disordered Breathing, Stillbirth, and Placental Disfunction: A Study of Placental Morphology; and Reduced fetal movements Overnight Sleep Evaluation (ROSE Study). Research is important to prevent and reduce the instances of pregnancy and infant loss and a big reason for why our foundation was started.



2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Research

Enrolled more than 2,000 participants in the Pregnancy Research Project. Participants are from 49 states and 27 countries. We had a big push in Q4 and that showed positively in the reporting. We will continue encouraging others to participate so research can guide the next steps in improving pregnancy loss prevention and care. Research is the vital key to learning why stillbirth is still so prevalent and how to prevent more of these terrible tragedies in the future. To participate in the Pregnancy Research Project visit www.pregnancyresearchproject.org. Participation criteria includes 1) if you delivered a baby in the last 5 years OR 2) ever delivered a stillborn baby OR 3) are currently pregnant at 12 weeks or more gestational weeks. You can participate for EACH of your qualifying pregnancies.



Partnered with Ariadne Labs. Star Legacy Foundation was honored to partner with Ariadne Labs to consider adaptation of the UK's Saving Babies' Lives Care Bundle and Australia's Safer Baby Bundle for the US! Ariadne conducted 41 interviews with a combination of health professionals who have used the bundles, those who would be eligible to use the proposed bundle, and individuals who are currently or were recently pregnant. They also conducted two focus groups with pregnant/recently pregnant people. The conclusions and next steps will be coming soon!

The Ariadne Labs logo, featuring a stylized orange and grey geometric design above the text 'ARIADNE LABS' in a bold, sans-serif font.

A large, stylized version of the Ariadne Labs logo, with the text 'ARIADNE LABS' in a bold, grey, sans-serif font, overlaid on a light blue and grey abstract graphic.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

SHARE YOUR STORY

Let others know they are not alone and to erase the stigma of talking about our babies born among the stars. Visit <https://starlegacyfoundation.org/stars-stories/add-your-story/> for more info.

VOLUNTEER

Fill out of volunteer form to get more involved!

SUPPORT AS YOU SHOP

Use Amazon Smile and have a percentage of your amount spent donated to Star Legacy Foundation. Learn more at <https://starlegacyfoundation.org/support-as-you-shop/>

CHAMPION AN EVENT

Host a local event in your community. To learn more, email Amy at Amy@starlegacyfoundation.org to get started!

START A LOCAL CHAPTER

Want to start a local chapter to bring the mission of Star Legacy to your area? Email Laura at Laura@starlegacyfoundation.org.

DONATE

Every dollar helps make a difference! Here are how donations are used!

- ★ Send a sample pack of brochures - \$10
- ★ Pregnancy Research Project execution - \$300/pregnancy
- ★ Publish a podcast - \$1,250
- ★ Lead support group - \$1,500
- ★ Attend an awareness expo - \$3,000
- ★ Launch a chapter - \$4,000
- ★ Champion an event - \$5000
- ★ Plan a Healthcare Retreat - \$5,000
- ★ Supply an average size hospital with full set of brochures - \$11,200
- ★ Host Stillbirth Summit - \$75,000

INCOME AND EXPENSES

