

# Forever Angels



Hello Everyone,

Do you ever feel overwhelmed by your messy home office? How about those "important" papers that seem to collect everywhere? I think they must multiply when the lights go out at night. There could be numerous recipes that you were quite sure you would try, cards, letters or notes from loved ones or maybe they really are important papers: insurance, mortgage, house deed, wills and such. Well having had that "overwhelmed" feeling very recently, I decided to go through two old filing cabinets and a desk organizer (there's an oxymoron!). I recycled, burned or reorganized lots of paper (despite computers supposedly making us paper free). It was a great feeling after all was said, done and reorganized.

What really was thrilling was finding lots of treasures: a few old photographs, loving notes from cherished friends, the old Ah-Ha moment when I pounced on a trinket and declared, "so that's where you have been hiding!" What is good about cleaning out, especially in the back, in the corner, in the dark, is the history we come across. I was so pleased to find all of the back issues of *Forever Angels*. I knew I had them, but where?

Here's some of the history I found: MBC (formerly Parents of Multiple Birth Association of Canada [POMBA]) began providing bereavement support in about 1978 when Sheryl McInness (our Founder) wrote three Loss booklets: *Loss of a Child: Miscarriage, Stillbirth, Infancy*; *Loss of a Child: Childhood, Teens*; and *Loss of a Child: Chapter Support*.

In the late 1980s, with agreement from MBC/POMBA, I updated the booklets and began offering support to bereaved families who inquired through our Business Office. Shortly thereafter, the Loss Support Network was created and in April, 1994 the first issue of *Forever Angels* was mailed to Loss members. Over the next few years more than a dozen Fact Sheets on different aspects of grief were created to better support families in their time of need. These were brought together as a Bereavement Support Kit for parents, grandparents, healthcare professionals, funeral homes and anyone else providing support to bereaved multiple birth families. With the rising costs of postage and photocopying, coupled with the increase in Loss membership and the rise in home computer users, *Forever Angels* went virtual in 2002. It was a huge step forward and MBC went from publishing *Forever Angels* as a quarterly newsletter to monthly or more. Going virtual further allowed us to reach out to grieving families in New Zealand, Australia, France, United States, United Kingdom and, of course, Canada.

Because I hadn't done my cleaning yet....I missed the fact that in *July, 2007, the 100th Issue of Forever Angels* made its way to our special families. I have to say that even though I missed this fabulous occasion, even in retrospect, it is very exciting. I believe I am safe in saying Multiple Births Canada is the only worldwide multiple birth organization which has been providing support for bereaved multiple births parents for this length of time, i.e. some 30 years! MBC was the first to recognize that bereaved multiple birth families face special challenges, create especially designed resources addressing some of those challenges and actively reach out and support bereaved families at every possible occasion.

I hope each and every one of you have found companionship, comfort, solace, safety, understanding, a caring shoulder, a soft place to fall as well as place to share your sorrow. We are all parents of multiples, it is just that we aren't all parents of multiples in the same way.

*If you would like to share your story or photos with us, please feel free to write in about anything at all. We love to hear from you.*

*Wishing you all peace, comfort and joy,  
Thinking of you,*

*Lynda*

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***Psalm of Life, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow***

***Lives of great men all reminders  
We can make our lives sublime,  
And departing leave behind us  
Footprints in the sands of time.***

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***GOOD NEWS ON TWO ACCOUNTS....***

*Readers may remember one family's account of trying to receive hospital acknowledgment that their surviving son had a twin on their surviving son's birth certificate. I am pleased to report that perseverance has paid off and they received good news just prior to Christmas and Brooke's note is below.*

*And the good news keeps on coming.....they will soon be welcoming a baby daughter into the family!  
This is indeed wonderful news, on two accounts!*

Hi Lynda! I wanted to write you and wish you a happy holiday! Also I wanted to update you. So far, this pregnancy is going smoothly, we just found out that we are having a girl! About a month ago my sister called the hospital for me to ask about Walker's birth certificate and why it could not say that he was a twin, and the lady in charge of the medical records called me back. She said that she was sorry that the birth certificate was not right in the first place and that it must have been a misunderstanding with whoever was doing Walker's birth certificate. She wrote to the state capital to issue another one, that said he was a twin. We got it a few days ago, and it was the most wonderful Christmas present I could have gotten.

Brooke

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***BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT.....***

**Hailey Madison** was born in September of 2007. She was welcomed by Big Sister Tessa and Hailey is also the sister of identical Angel Sisters, Abigail Grace and Emma Rose who died in Feb., 2006.

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There's a special kind of feeling,  
That is meant for you alone.  
A place within our hearts,  
That only you can own.  
There will always be a heartache,  
And often silent tears,  
But always precious memories  
Of the days when you were here.

~ *from an obituary*

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There are two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.

~ Albert Einstein

***NOW ON LINE.....***

Back issues of *Forever Angels*. If you would like to read some back issues of *Forever Angels*, please check them out at the Loss Support Network section of MBC's website at <http://www.multiplebirthscanada.org/english/ForeverAngels.php>.