

Forever Angels



Hello Everyone,

There is a survey within and we would love to hear from you if you had infertility assistance to conceive your multiples. It won't take long to complete, perhaps 5 minutes, but the responses you share will be invaluable to MBC in learning about your experiences so that we can speak to improvements in support for families considering infertility assistance in the future. Thank you in advance for taking the time to respond.

Well Central Canada right through to the East Coast has been pummeled with snow this Winter and it isn't over yet! Every time I turn on the news, the Eastern Seaboard is getting another bashing. I think a prerequisite for coping with all of the white stuff is you gotta be a kid. I remember being thrilled when I'd see the piles of snow and now I know, I have to get shoveling. I think we need to send some of this stuff to Australia. It's only right to share (see Lynne's letter below). LOL

I do hope you are all well and contemplating your gardens.

Thinking of you,
Lynda

Letter to the Editor.....

Hi Lynda

Re: Forever Angels #08-01 -I always enjoy hearing your news and will often smile to myself when you are sharing your tale of woe over the huge amount of snow, when here in Australia we battle severe drought and blazing heat. But your newsletters remind me that although we are physically a long way apart, it's amazing how a computer keyboard can make the world seem much smaller and more practical in size for keeping up with friends and bereavement care colleagues such as yourself.

I enjoyed reading about your clean out and your story brought back memories of how our friendship has evolved. It was interesting to read how your twin loss kits got started, (I still remember receiving that one you sent me many years ago in the post), and of course how it inspired our partnership in creating an Australian version.*

Keep up the fantastic work that you and your team are doing in caring for twin loss families!

Kind regards
Lynne Schulz
Founder/Coordinator
Murraylands Twin Loss
www.murraylandstwinloss.org.au

*Lynda's Note: Lynne took MBC's Loss Support Kit and created an Australian version for use by healthcare professionals providing support to local bereaved multiple birth families. The Kit won a local award for quality of content. Well done!!

MBC's Research Survey....

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=y_2fbxve80lfcW_2fKQS8GQybQ_3d_3d

Multiple Births Canada has a new survey regarding infertility assistance and we need your feedback. If you had infertility treatments and they resulted in multiples even if you lost one, more or all, please go to the link above and give us feedback on your experience. Please forward the survey address to anyone else you feel might like to participate. Responses are confidential.

We greatly appreciate your feedback and know that the results from this survey will help make things go more smoothly for families seeking infertility assistance in the future.

Thanks for being a part of supporting Canadian multiple-birth families!

Losing Zachary.....

My husband's name is Leroy. We had identical triplet boys five years ago on February 12. I had a scheduled c-section at 30 weeks gestation. I didn't go into preterm labour. Zachary, one of our precious boys stopped growing at 26 weeks. At 30 weeks all of the boys were not growing anymore. I'm not exactly sure what caused this. The ultrasound technician thought that there was a cyst or something on Zach's umbilical cord at 26 weeks when he quit growing, and then noticed the same on Jeremy and Austin's cords at 30 weeks. But this was never confirmed after birth, so I'm not really sure why Zach stopped growing first. Anyway, the boys were born in this order: Jeremy Landon Goertzen 2lbs 2oz, Austin Riley Goertzen 2lbs 1/2oz, Zachary Wyatt Goertzen 1lb 4oz

Jeremy and Austin seemed to grow very slowly but surely and didn't have any setbacks at all. But Zach, I think had not been receiving enough nutrition for 4 weeks at least [before birth], so his body never learned to digest the food.

The next three months were a constant battle of trying to start up his feeds, but he wouldn't be able to tolerate the food We kept stopping and starting his feeds in he hopes he could manage something. His little body eventually started retaining fluid and his organs began shutting down. His body could never tolerate food the way it should have been able to. The damage I'm sure, occurred in utero.

Finally, my husband and I had to choose to take our angel off of the ventilator. This was the hardest choice I've ever had to make. I knew he was suffering but I didn't want to give up on him or let him go (I know this is selfish, but I still feel this way a lot). I still wish he could be here and of course be healthy, but that is not what happened. Exactly three months after he was born, he died in my arms on May 12, 2003. It was so hard, and what made it harder was that everyone started calling his two brothers twins! This hurt so much because I felt like everyone was forgetting Zachary.

Jeremy and Austin had come home on their due date, April 22, 2003; so they had been home for a few weeks when their brother died. Zach stayed in the NICU his whole life, and I had a hard time going to see him after Jeremy and Austin came home because I couldn't bring them back into NICU! [Hospital staff are afraid that the infants might bring infection into the unit with them causing problems for other babies. Adults can thoroughly wash, infants can't.]

My husband and I would just go in the evenings and take turns in NICU visiting Zach. I was totally in denial, I couldn't see how sick he really was. I wish now I would have spent all my time those last weeks with Zach because now I can't get that time back. But I had no one who could help with the other boys. I thought after Zach died that I would never be able to have any more children, but when Jeremy and Austin were 11 months old, I found out I was pregnant. I had no choice but to accept the idea and get used to it. My husband and I had not been even thinking about getting pregnant. We had a beautiful baby girl on November 2, 2004. The boys were 21 months old. Her name is Sonia Mckenzie Goertzen and she weighed 7lbs 15oz. She was born at term and I had her vaginally. It was such a good experience. I still have lots of days where I think about Zach and miss him more than words can say, but I know he's in heaven and I know I'll see him again. When my arms begin to ache for him I just have to remember this is the truth. I can't have him right now but ONE DAY I will.

Kathy, Mom to surviving triplets Jeremy and Austin (Zachary died aged 3 months) and younger sister, Sonia.

*Treasured memories keep you near
As time unfolds another year.
No need for words except to say,
Still loved, still missed in every way.
~from an obituary*

Beautiful Photo..... (if you can't open this photo, please let me know.)



Chasey, Mommy to Calley (surviving twin sister to Cayla), born 12/08/2000 and to Chayley, sibling born 02/09/2005 (and to three Angel Babies 02/03/04)

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>.