

KIDS Safety Net



Kansas Infant Death and SIDS Network, Inc.

May the Fourth be with You at the 16th Annual Step Up for KIDS Event, May 4, 2019!

Step Up for KIDS, presented by [Craig HomeCare](#), is the signature fundraising event for the Kansas Infant Death and SIDS Network. Step Up is a timed 5K run and Memorial Walk. The annual event takes place at Wichita's Old Cowtown Museum, 1865 W. Museum Blvd. Registration includes a T-shirt, lunch, children's fair, memorial balloon release and admission to Cowtown, a living history museum of 1870s Victorian Wichita. [Sign up now!](#)

Meet the 2019 Step Up for KIDS Ambassador Family, Ashley Pepper and Jordan Sasser with their children, Ashton, Hayley and Willow. The Pepper Sassers are participating in memory of their daughter and sister, Alyx Jordan Sasser, who was born October 5, 2011. Ashley recalls being pregnant with Alyx the summer that it was triple digits for three best months and that their son, Ashton, played about 30 baseball games that summer. Alyx's birth was one of the best days of Ashley's life. Alyx changed everything; she seems to solidify their little family with Ashton and Hayley becoming big bro and sis. Alyx was very talkative, she loved being with her brother and sister. They went on all sorts of family outings: the circus, Illuminations at Botanica and were fortunate to have one Christmas with her.

March 27, 2012 was a nice, warm spring day. The family had planned to go bowling and have dinner together to celebrate Hayley's 4th birthday. Alyx was at child care that day when Ashley received a call at work from a police officer. Ashley was instructed to go to the hospital and that her daughter, Alyx, was not doing well. Ashley remembers feeling as if everything was a blur and that it couldn't be that bad; however, feeling that deep down something was terribly wrong. When they arrived at the hospital healthcare providers were still working on her. They learned there was no more to be done, but that they could go in and hold her one last time. Ashley remembers how respectful and helpful the staff were as they learned about the next steps and the opportunity to have last rites performed. As she remembers that day, Ashley recalls the earth shattering sadness, confusion and being so lost. She remembers sitting at her parents house for hours and how hard it was to go home.

When Alyx died, the Network delivered a grief packet and it was very helpful to them as they planned Alyx's funeral. Then they were invited to a grief support meeting and ultimately to Step Up 2012. Ashley states, "People say that it gets easier, that is not entirely true, we learn to cope and we learn how to manage our grief and sadness. We do this by creating rituals to remember and keep Alyx's memory alive and relevant in our daily lives." Ashley has learned how much strength is required to get up everyday and live life without Alyx. Not only to be alive, but to live a meaningful life.

Ashley and Jordan remember Alyx by talking about her, and by being involved with Step Up and on the board of the KIDS Network. For Ashley, being on the board has made it so that she can do something tangible to honor her daughter, to hopefully make a difference for another family. In the beginning, Ashley reports, "The Network was a place to grieve and remember, it still is, but it is also a place that we can honor Alyx. We raise awareness, we support other bereaved parents, we are part of a group that fight to provide healthy environments and education so our babies can live and thrive." Please join Alyx's family on May 4th for the 16th Annual Step Up for KIDS.

[Register by April 1 for the early bird rate.](#)

The poster features a purple background with a teal border. At the top is a logo of two footprints, one teal and one purple, with a heart shape between them. Below the logo, the text reads "STEP UP for KIDS" in white and teal. A horizontal line separates this from the main event title: "5K RUN & MEMORIAL WALK" in large white letters, followed by "OLD COWTOWN MUSEUM" in teal and "MAY 4, 2019" in large white letters. Below that is "REGISTER AT [KIDSKS.ORG](#)" in teal. At the bottom, it says "Benefiting Families Affected by Infant Death." in white, with "AWARENESS • BEREAVEMENT • RESEARCH" in teal below it.

Our Sponsors:

Presenting Sponsor: CRAIG HomeCare Kids: Our Specialty.

Gold Sponsors: KS92.3 COUNTRY, Flight 100.5 FM, BOB FM 97.1, 92.7 FM.

Silver Sponsors: Associates Women's Health, In Memory of Luke Steidle.

Bronze Sponsors: Cowtown Museum, Physicians Exchange, Blue Answering Exchange, KIDS.

Awareness

Community Baby Showers for Safe Sleep

A Community Baby Shower for Safe Sleep will be Saturday, March 23, at the Boys & Girls Clubs of South-Central Kansas. This 19th community baby shower is hosted by the Wichita Black Nurses Association, in collaboration with the KIDS Network.

The central focus of the Community Baby Showers for Safe Sleep is to teach all participants about infant safe sleep. This includes educating parents and their support people on the ABCs of Safe Sleep, which is that all babies should sleep Alone, on their Backs, and in a safety approved Clutter-free Crib. Participants will know the ABCs of safe sleep and will intend to follow the AAP guidelines for safe sleep utilizing the tools received. The events are interactive for new and expectant parents, their support people, and community service providers to get together for an educational "baby shower."

To find a baby shower near you, visit The KIDS Network, Inc. [Facebook Events Page](#).

Kingdom Jam 2019

A full slate of bands lined up for the Kingdom Jam 2019 SIDS fundraiser on January 13 at the Crossroads Church in Salina, KS. This year over \$5,500 was raised to provide bereavement support and safe sleep research in collaboration with the University of Kansas, Center for Research for Infant Birth and Survival (CRIBS). A HUGE thank you to all who hosted, participated and donated in memory of Zane Bowell.

Save The Date!

Haley's Annual SIDS Scramble, August 5, 2019

Haley's 19th Annual SIDS Scramble, presented by KU Wichita Pediatrics, is a memorial tournament for all babies who have died in Kansas. Funds remain in Kansas to provide bereavement services, community education and support research through the Center for Research for Infant Birth and Survival (CRIBS).

KIDS Network is a proud partner of Amazon.com. A small percentage of your purchase can be given to support our programs and services. It can be done in three easy steps:

1. Go to smile.amazon.com
2. Login to your account or create a new one
3. Select Kansas Infant Death And SIDS Network Inc. as your charity

For Kroger Community Rewards, visit www.kroger.com/topic/community-rewards-9 and select Kansas Infant Death And SIDS Network Inc. as your charity of choice.



MY BABY WILL ALWAYS SLEEP...
ALONE, ON THE BACK,
IN A CLUTTER- FREE CRIB!

#SAFESLEPMOM KIDSKS.ORG

KIDS
Kansas Infant Death and SIDS Network



Bereavement

Quarterly Infant Tributes

Each quarter we reflect on the infants who have touched our lives in miraculous ways. Help us honor and remember those infants by clicking on the below links.

[Birthday Babies \(Oct., Nov., & Dec.\)](#)

[Memorial Babies \(Jan., Feb., & March\)](#)

Peer Contact

A Peer Contact Volunteer is a parent, grandparent (or other relative), child care provider or foster parent who has experienced the death of a baby, and who contacts grieving families to offer support during their bereavement. The goal is to pair seasoned bereaved volunteer with newly bereaved Kansas individuals and families to provide compassionate and meaningful grief support to those who have suffered a pregnancy loss or infant death. If you are interested in becoming a peer support person or receiving peer contact, please contact Bereavement Specialist Libby at support@kidsks.org.

KIDS Support Meetings: Support meetings are open to adults who have experienced the death of an infant during pregnancy or before age one.

Making a Referral to the KIDS Network

Do you know anyone who has experienced an infant or pregnancy loss? If you know of anyone who may benefit from KIDS Network bereavement support, please complete the form here [KIDS Network website](#) or call anytime: 316-682-1301.

Research

Safe Sleep Research

In 2012, the KIDS Network began implementing the Statewide Safe Sleep Instructor (SSI) Project funded in part by Kansas Department of Health and Environment's Maternal Child Health Bureau. The SSI project includes Safe Sleep Instructor certification, Safe Sleep Community Baby Showers, Physician Safe Sleep Toolkits, and the Cribs for KIDS Safe Sleep Hospital Certification Program. With collaboration from our external evaluators, the KU Center for Research for Infant Birth and Survival (CRIBS) and the KIDS Network have been researching the outcomes of the SSI project. The Safe Sleep Team has been fortunate for the opportunity to present at the International Conference on Stillbirth, SIDS and Baby Survival since 2014 as well as several national conferences. [Research publications can be found here.](#)

How to Contact us

We want to hear from you. Whether you or someone you know needs services, or you want to volunteer with the KIDS Network, we look forward to hearing from you.

Click here to view the [KIDS Network Board of Directors.](#)

Volunteers

Courtney Bogart
Thuy Bui
Dianne Fleming
Ray Fleming
Nicole Fox Phillips

Karen Hahn
Cindy Henderson
George Mahon
Noah Massanari
Keria Mock

Ken Ratlief
Linda Ratlief
Emalyn Rogers
Luis Sauzamede
Kate Sebes

Kevin Sebes
Bob Sterbens
Meghan Stone
Duane Winters
Pamela Winters

Contributions

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Eric Massanari
Mealtime Partners, Inc
Sedgwick Medical Society Alliance
Justin Moore
Network for Good
Kevin & Christy Schunn-Sebes
Sleepsack sales
Rex Smith
Carrie & Eric Steinle

OUR MISSION:

The mission of the Kansas Infant Death and SIDS Network, Inc. (KIDS Network) is to serve those individuals who have been touched by the tragedy of infant death or SIDS and those individuals or organizations who strive to reduce the risk of infant deaths by providing supportive services, community education, professional training, and supporting associated research.