

The Angel Fund, . . . Helping Families Heal

Testimonials

“The loss of my daughter Kayla on July 29, 2001 at 42 weeks of pregnancy was both a shocking and horrifying experience. My beautiful box full of “memories” was the only thing I could take from the hospital that was part of my daughter. Being involved in the Angel Fund has helped me channel my grief into helping other families endure their own losses. It is a way for me to keep my daughter’s spirit alive within me.”

— *Tracie Candelora*

“In September 2001, my husband and I learned that our daughter, Peyron Alexandra, had died in utero at 33-1/2 weeks. Our dreams shattered around us with a deafening crash. We both mourned Peyron’s death, but I knew I needed to find a way to honor her life and to continue to nurture her spirit. I was introduced to the Angel Fund and found Peyron’s “Memory Box” to be a huge comfort.

The Angel Fund continues to play a significant and much welcome role for me to help cope with her death. I am proud to be affiliated with the organization and look forward to helping others who may need its generous services.”

— *Kristen M. Bocian*

“Our son Alexander died in May 2001, three days after his birth. We made our own Memory Box and take it down on special anniversaries and occasions to look at it. I wouldn’t trade one of our little personal items. They bring him back to me, even if just for a moment.”

— *Elaine Villano*

Angel Fund, Inc. 

Post Office Box 311
New Haven, Connecticut 06502

Angel Fund, Inc.



Making a difference in the lives
of families grieving the loss
of their stillborn baby
or baby who died in infancy

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Angel Fund, Inc. is a component fund of
The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven

“Sometimes love is for a moment, Sometimes love is for a lifetime,
Sometimes a moment is a lifetime.” — *Pamela S. Adams*

How the Angel Fund Started

Joe and Shelly Coggullo founded the Angel Fund in 2000 at Yale New Haven Hospital to provide funding to support enhancements to the hospital's existing Memory Box program. This endeavor grew out of experiences that personally affected their own lives.

On June 16, 1997, the Coggullo's second baby, Oliver, was born. He died seven weeks later. On what would have been his first birthday, the Coggullios learned the baby they were carrying in their second trimester had died. Lilla was born still on June 17, 1998. Joe chose to see Lilla, however Shelly met their daughter for the first time when they opened their Memory Box given to them before they left the hospital. Inside they found their daughter's blanket, pink hat, handprints and footprints, pictures of her and their hospital bracelets. Also tucked inside was the book *Empty Cradle, Broken Heart*. "She was so tiny and so real and so easy to love," recounts Shelly, "I framed her tiny footprints and carried her pink hat around with me for days." In May 1999, the Coggullios lost their third baby when Shelly had a miscarriage.

Knowing firsthand the importance of these precious mementos and how critical they were in easing the grieving process, the Coggullios launched Angel Fund, Inc. in 2002 to expand this type of program to other hospitals.

*"My babies are with me all the time.
I don't want to forget them. The Angel
Fund provides a positive "place" for me
to do this and reach out to other
families at the same time."*

— Shelly Coggullo, Angel Fund Founder

The Angel Fund Today

In 2003, Shelly partnered with Cathy Fritca to carry out the mission of the Angel Fund. Cathy's son Daniel was born still at 41 1/2 weeks on March 14, 1998. Cathy's passion to remember her son and reach out to other families inspired her to write the book "Tiny Hands Change the World."

The Angel Fund is backed by a growing constituency of families affected by the loss of an infant, physicians, nurses, perinatal bereavement coordinators and scores of compassionate individual and corporate sponsors.

*"If I had received a memory box with all its
comfort and informative materials, I would
not have felt as alone and my first few
months of grief would have been lighter."*

— Cathy Fritca

Angel Fund, Inc. is dedicated to advancing programs designed to comfort families grieving the loss of their stillborn baby or baby who died in infancy. To carry out its mission, the Angel Fund:

- Increases public awareness of and promotes the importance of Memory Boxes in comforting grieving families.
- Funds, purchases and distributes uniquely designed Memory Boxes to participating hospitals. The boxes include items such as a gold footprint pin, journal, linen paper for hand and footprints, a handmade receiving blanket and hat, the book *Empty Cradle, Broken Heart*, and information on local and national support groups and web sites.
- Partners with hospitals to develop program guidelines under which they personalize the Memory Boxes and distribute them to families.

How You Can Help

You can "give life" to the Angel Fund by teaming with us to:

- Donate** - I would like to donate \$ _____
- Make a **Memorial Donation** of \$ _____ in memory of _____
- Volunteer Opportunities** Please call me about:
 - Fundraising
 - Administrative Projects
 - Creating receiving blankets, hats or gowns
- Spread the Word** - please send me _____ copies of the Angel Fund brochure to distribute.
- Support the Angel Fund's Annual Golf Tournament**
 - Participant
 - Corporate Sponsor
 - Donate Gift Bag/Raffle/Auction Items

NAME _____

COMPANY _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Your donation is tax deductible. Please make your check payable to Angel Fund, Inc. and send to:

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