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**Agape'Care Cradle, Inc.**  
*Bringing Hope to the Brokenhearted*

## Return Service Requested

### MISSION

**AgapéCare Cradle**  
a specialized mortuary reflects Christ's unconditional love by meeting funeral needs, and providing bereavement support to parent families who suffer the loss of a baby.

AGAPECARE CRADEL IS A 501(c)3 CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION

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## Reflections on a Name

*Son, brother and nephew*

It was the fourth day in October of last year that Nate and Trina learned the baby they were expecting was a boy. Nate smiled thinking about a small version of himself and the couple decided they would name this baby after dad. Although naming Nathaniel, Jr. was relatively easy, his middle name came with much deliberation and not a little emotion. Nate, Jr. was to have two middle names and one of them would be Jonathon in memory of Nate's fourteen year old brother. Just one month after they found out Trina was pregnant, young Jonathon was rushed to the emergency room. At the hospital he was diagnosed with Leukemia and gone within hours.

Grieving the loss of the baby's teenaged uncle was not easy for Nate. He also worried about Trina, who battled severe flu-like symptoms for the first five months of her pregnancy. Trina had also lost her nine year old son De'Vante eight years earlier due to asthma complications. Finally in the seventh month she felt well and both she and Nate started to enjoy and experience the wonder of the baby growing and developing while anticipating his birth.

Nate, Jr. according to his dad was an "acrobatic baby" aka: a very active boy! He seemed to share

Nate's love for jelly beans because whenever Trina ate jelly beans baby Nate Jr.'s kicking, flipping and turning was abundantly apparent. One day the baby's frequent kicks and bumps inside Trina suddenly stopped. Trina kept thinking he might move again, hoping even one little push would signal he was there. After she hadn't felt movement for over a day, she knew instinctively that something was terribly wrong. On a Wednesday in December she and Nate went to the hospital. There a technician searched for the baby's heartbeat and found....silence. No one seemed able to make eye contact while an ultrasound was performed, and it began sinking in that baby Nathaniel, Jr. would not be going home.

Heartbroken, Trina labored to give birth. Both she and Nate thought how that in just six short weeks they would have been on this same floor with these same nurses and doctors making phone calls to friends and family announcing their new arrival. Numb and holding hands now to comfort each other, they instead thumbed through a phone book looking for a mortuary. A friend told them about AgapéCare Cradle, a non-profit mortuary that was also a ministry helping families through the loss of a baby family member. Nate made the call and talked with a director who listened, answered his questions and kindly explained what to expect after the baby was born.

At 11:50 p.m. on December 11th

Nate and Trina said both hello and goodbye to Nathaniel Jonathon James Jr. who arrived stillborn weighing 3 lbs 3 oz. and measuring 17 1/2 inches long. He had thick beautiful curly dark hair, dad's feet and mom's hands. His grandma and her friend arrived and the family held him through the night. A photographer from "Now I Lay Me Down To Sleep", an organization of talented photographers who donate professional services to families in this situation, captured beautiful photos of Nate, Jr. with his family that they will treasure forever.

Baby Nate Jr. was laid to rest on a snowy winter day at Kechi Cemetery after the funeral honoring his memory was held at River Community Church. Nate and Trina continue to be comforted by their deep faith and personal relationship with God, although it is sometimes difficult to comprehend His will in the loss of their son. Even in the midst of tragedy however, they feel blessed because family, new friends and AgapéCare Cradle gathered alongside them in love, remembrance, and service to help them through the loss of their precious and beautiful baby boy.



"There is no hand  
too small  
that it cannot leave an  
imprint  
on this world"

Agape'Care Cradle  
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## Board of Directors

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## How You Can Help Us

AgapéCare Cradle receives families regardless of their economic circumstances, based only on our capacity to provide comprehensive and compassionate funeral services. Please consider helping with one or more of the following:

1. Conduct a Holiday "Labor of Love" (see insert)
2. Help future families through:  
Financial giving  
Memorials

### Donate:

- ❖ Gift certificates to Hobby/Discount/Office Supply stores
- ❖ Used frost free refrigerator in good condition (visitation refreshments)
- ❖ Brochure folding machine (capable of half and tri-fold)
- ❖ Label maker
- ❖ Auto creeper

## A Season of Reflection

*The Faces of Agape Care*



Autumn coolness is closing out summer as I write this. Themes in this newsletter are not new: Faith... family...friends...service...seasons...cycles...circle of life.

AgapéCare Cradle received its first family just three short years ago when a

mother called from her hospital room having just delivered a stillborn baby boy. AgapéCare continues to receive families as we are able, even through these tough economic times. More and more people are aware, some for the first time perhaps reading this newsletter, of AgapéCare Cradle's model program and powerful life-changing ministry.

AgapéCare Cradle publicly esteems mothers and fathers having lost the most important person in their lives ~ a precious baby. AgapéCare highly values and objectively evidences through dignified funeral service that even the tiniest of children are loved and irreplaceable members of our community. This is our fourth newsletter, and shares perspectives written by people who interface with our families in various ways. The public we serve and the public who support AgapéCare Cradle share a common message now: AgapéCare makes a significant impact in the lives of everyone it touches. Thank you for your generous support for the mission and ministry of AgapéCare Cradle.

Sustained by grace,

*Shannon S. Barnes*  
*Executive Director*

## A Vital Resource

*Shara Young, MD*

The tragic loss of a baby is often met with so many emotions that the thought of making funeral arrangements for the little one whom parents had so many hopes and dreams for seems insurmountable. As an obstetrician, I have personally witnessed and can attest to the kindness and compassion AgapéCare Cradle shows to parents and the effect it had on them. It made such a terrible time more bearable.

The services provided by AgapéCare Cradle are a vital resource to patients in the community. There is a growing demand for these services. The continuation of these services depends on financial support from those who can freely give, to provide for those who have lost so much.

## Funeral Directors and AgapéCare

*Jason Arellano FD*

"Jason, there is someone on line one asking about funeral services for a baby."

No matter how hard I try to comfort a family in my work as a funeral director, I know there are no words I can say that are adequate in this situation. Even if the child never took a breath outside the womb, the family has lost their planned and hoped for future with their son or daughter. Even if the child is sixty and the parents are eighty, the death of a child is devastating.

When I heard about the concept of AgapéCare Cradle I could not imagine funeral homes reacting in any way other than support for a benevolent nonprofit mortuary serving families through the loss of a baby. Although competition tends to make me want to prove the benefit of using our funeral home, I think it is imperative funeral homes understand AgapéCare Cradle's work with families clearly demonstrates the importance, value and benefits of funeral service.

Funeral home owners and managers are often active in organizations that benefit their communities. Directly giving to AgapéCare Cradle or assisting a family making funeral arrangements to know and consider AgapéCare Cradle as a worthy memorial designation in remembrance of their loved one are two relatively easy ways that funeral homes can support Agape Care Cradle.

As a funeral director I know how easy it is to find fault with a competitor regardless of the truth of how they actually conduct business. The work that this wonderful organization does deserves our praise and support.

*O send out Your light and Your truth, let them lead me*  
*Psalm 43:3*

## Why I Volunteer

*Jayme Hays*

I began my sophomore year at Wichita State University several months after I started volunteering for AgapéCare Cradle. Because I am interested in going to Medical School and especially the OB/GYN specialty, I believed experience at AgapéCare Cradle would enrich my undergraduate education. I must admit however, at first I mostly considered that volunteering would look good on my resume'.

Volunteering has been one of the best decisions I ever made and is tremendously rewarding. I clean, help with office tasks, and whatever is needed. I sense that everything I do at AgapéCare Cradle is meaningful and intended to convey the peace, love and compassion of Jesus. It is not just a building that I leave when I go because I know whatever I did during the hours I was there in some way has positively impacted someone else's life.