



AgapéCare Cradle, Inc.
126 N. Emporia Street
P.O. Box 704
Wichita, KS 67201-0704
316-263-4673
www.agapecarecradle.org

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
WICHITA KS
PERMIT NO. 386

Return Service Requested

MISSION

Created to honor and serve God by providing compassionate funeral services for families suffering through the loss of a baby family member.

AgapéCare Cradle is a 501 (c) 3 organization. Services we provide are made possible through charitable contributions. To Donate online go to www.agapecarecradle.org

INSIDE THIS EDITION

Remembering Kollin

Our Blessing Our Baby

Nathan, Jessica & Noah Walker

Cradled in Community

Embracing Invisible Loss

Shannon S. Barnes

Never the Same

A Pastor Meets AgapéCare

Pastor Abraham Arevalo

Volunteers & Ambassadors

AgapéCare and YOU!

Steve & Beth Mayer

NEWS for You

Activities & Coming Events

AgapéCare Cradle



Bringing HOPE to the Brokenhearted

*Each year in Sedgwick county, Kansas, stillbirth & infant losses impact approximately 200 mothers and fathers and about 150 brothers & sisters of babies who unfortunately die during pregnancy or infancy.**

* Kansas Department of Health and Environment reports nearly 100 families lose an infant or stillborn baby each year in Sedgwick County.



AgapéCare Cradle, Inc.

Bringing Hope to the Brokenhearted

Remembering Kollin *Our Blessing Our Baby*

Nathan & Jessica Walker were thrilled last summer to learn they were expecting another baby. Shortly after finding out their son Noah would soon be a big brother, Jessica's dad passed away unexpectedly. "Unbeknownst to us, this was the start of a journey God would be taking us through."

Jessica was seventeen weeks pregnant when she went for a routine sonogram. "Our little baby was curled into a ball and would not show us whatever it was that the doctors needed to see". Jessica sensed then that something wasn't quite right. More sonograms and five weeks later, their doctor diagnosed their baby boy as having Potter's syndrome, explaining that the baby's kidneys would not develop. As a result his lungs would also be underdeveloped and his heart would fail. The baby would not survive after birth. "Even as we started to tell people the truth about the pregnancy, the doctor explained we didn't have to go through this pain. We could end the pregnancy, wait a few months then try again . . . how could this be happening to us?"

In spite of the bad news, the couple made an appointment at Choices Medical Clinic to learn about Perinatal Hospice. At Choices they described the sea of emotions they were swimming in

now. "In our hearts we believed God put this baby into our lives and that his life had a purpose. We believed God already knew Kollin and all about his dire situation. After talking with Choices, we started feeling alive again. The devastating news about what precious little time we would have with Kollin made it even more important to cherish every minute we had with him while he was alive and as we awaited



his birth and death. We read books to Kollin, sang songs to him, and told him secrets about life that we thought he should know. We reassured him to not be scared of what lay ahead, that God is amazing and could be trusted to wrap His arms around ALL of us when the time came, and that everything would be okay."

Choices' staff talked with Nathan and Jessica about plans for a funeral, and explained AgapéCare Cradle was an option in the community, but also explained that the organization could not always receive every family who needed services. Nathan and Jessica chose to

make an appointment anyway to learn more.

"When we arrived at AgapéCare we immediately felt at ease. We were greeted with gentleness and kindness, sensing an attitude immediately that our baby was not only important to us, but important to others too. We were affirmed that the things we were doing to get to know Kollin better before the inevitable were not weird at all but actually acts showing love for this child we cherished. We felt that our unborn baby was deeply loved and respected by everyone working in this special place. It was such a relief to talk openly about honoring Kollin's life even though he would be with us only briefly on earth. We prayed hard during the days leading up to Kollin's birth".

Kollin Levi arrived on March 18, 2010, several days after the meeting at AgapéCare. Kollin lived one hour and forty-one minutes and a lifetime. He taught his parents that God really does "wrap His arms around ALL of us" through people ministering to them before during and after Kollin's funeral. "We truly love Choices and AgapéCare Cradle. They will be a part of our family forever".



Photo Courtesy of Michael Bankston

Board of Directors

President
Bonnie Stephenson

Secretary
Aurora Hynes

Treasurer
Teresa Carter, CPA

Amanda Bowers
Rev. Brad Cooper
Sandy Culver
Rob Dusenbery
John Flynn
Myron Huxman
Tracy Liggett
Cheri Liggett
Brandon Whipple

Executive Director
Shannon Barnes

General Counsel
Rick E. Bailey

NEWS for You

❖ **July 30: Heartbreak & Hope Conference**



Chaplain Intern Larry Catlett with Board member Amanda Bowers

for nurses, chaplains and funeral directors at Wesley Medical Center, featured our new booth & a presentation by Shannon Barnes, Exec. Dir.

❖ **Sept. 25: Live Well Event** sponsored by Aldersgate UMC (Flier Enclosed)

❖ **Oct. 21: 2nd Annual "AgapéCare Affair"** Luncheon for clergy & advocates

❖ **Dec. 3: 3rd Annual Remembrance Service** at Faith Christian Centre

NOTE: If your church, business, or social group would like a presentation or desires to host a Labor of Love fundraiser for AgapéCare Cradle, please call 263-4673 or email Chelsea at info@agapecarecradle.org & ask for LOL guidelines.

Cradled in Community

Embracing Invisible Loss

Shannon Barnes

Executive Director



A former police officer once asked me,

"Why would anybody in their worst nightmare want to handle the funerals of kids?"

We choose to handle the funerals of kids because:

- (1) Kids specifically babies who die during pregnancy or shortly after birth are seldom acknowledged as important members lost to our community
 - (2) Bereaved parents are often discouraged from openly grieving their loss as significant and life changing
 - (3) Pregnancy loss and infant death are difficult and troubling topics that can have devastating social impacts due to unreconciled grief.
- (1) Young families often cannot afford a funeral which is an important ritual to help them through mourning death of their child.

Thoughtful acts such as sending flowers, taking meals to families and attending funerals are common social courtesies showing love toward someone suffering loss. Communities who don't understand that parents whose baby has died are often denied these simple acts of kindness, can't be faulted for indifference.

AgapéCare Cradle has introduced a conversation about this important matter into the Wichita community.

Families tell us over and over again that the compassionate funeral services AgapéCare Cradle provides do in fact help them heal emotionally and move forward.

Few people understand that parents whose baby dies may have had only a few brief hours in a hospital room with their small son or daughter before the baby was taken away. Your support for AgapéCare is one way to encourage these parents as legitimate mothers and fathers during the awkwardness and loneliness of mourning a child not known by others. Thank you for bringing visibility through high quality funeral services to each beloved baby family member lost to our community.

Volunteers & Ambassadors

Steve & Beth Mayer

"We think AgapéCare Cradle provides a very caring and necessary service to families that may not have an opportunity anywhere else. We were quite impressed on our first evening of volunteering that so much attention was paid to even the smallest of detail. We feel blessed to be a part of this.

We look forward to future opportunities, perhaps more now than ever before as we feel this is an honorable form of giving back to our community. We look forward to learning more about becoming Community Ambassadors."

Steve and Beth Mayer recently joined AgapéCare Cradle's pool of dedicated volunteers. Steve & Beth learned about volunteer opportunities through their church, Cross Road Fellowship Bible Church. If your church or ministry group would like to arrange an AgapéCare presentation, please call Chelsea Whipple at 263-4673 or email info@agapecarecradle.org



Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

Never the Same

A Pastor Meets AgapéCare

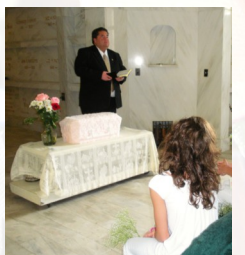
Pastor Abraham Arevalo



Baby Angela's health was so fragile that doctors did not expect her to leave the hospital. Against all odds, Felipe and Maria Ornelas had the joy of taking Angela home and loving her for four months. When she passed away, I was called to minister to the family. I was introduced to AgapéCare Cradle when their staff director came to the family's home after Angela died. The care and love shown for the baby and for the whole family caught my attention immediately.

As a pastor I rarely have had opportunity to minister to a family in these circumstances. The support AgapéCare provided greatly enhanced my own ministry, and my admiration for the professionalism and dedication of this beautiful ministry grew in the days that followed when I observed everyone welcomed into a perfect setting they provided for the family to grieve and be comforted by friends, family and church.

If anyone had talked to me about AgapéCare before this, I may have been interested in knowing more, however it became a totally different experience when I worked with them and actually witnessed their commitment to this family mourning the loss of their infant. I thank God for AgapéCare and invite everyone to continue supporting the unique services they provide to our community that are such great blessing to families.



WANTED

AgapéCare Ambassadors

Volunteers who enjoy meeting people. Must have reliable transportation and be available some daytime hours during the week. Training provided.

Call 263-4673 or email Chelsea at info@agapecarecradle.org to inquire about this opportunity.