



Ben's Buddies Newsletter

February 2009 Volume 5

Ben's Buddies is a non profit, 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to raising money for the Benjamin Walker Hanson Neonatology Fund - a perpetually endowed fund supporting research and education in the Neonatology Division (newborn medicine) of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Minnesota

Ben's Buddies mission is to empower and support families and friends who have suffered the loss of a child while raising funds for newborn research and education.

Spotlight

Ben's Buddies 3rd Annual Birthday Bash

What: Celebrate the birthdays of little loved ones lost and the imprint they have left on our hearts

When: Saturday, March 28th, 2009

Where: Kierans Irish Pub, 2nd Ave S & 4th St

Time: 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door

**children 12 and under free*

Includes: Live Music
Complimentary Appetizers
Raffle and Silent Auction

To purchase advance tickets go to our website

www.bensbuddies.org

or call Barb at 612-845-2837

This event provides a safe environment for families to remember their little ones and share their memories with others. With the loss of an infant there are few opportunities to celebrate your child and the impact they have had in our lives. No matter how short a time we had with our children they have profoundly shaped who we are today.

If you or someone you know would like to celebrate an infant at this year's Birthday Bash, please contact

Kate Hanson at 651-493-4826 or email her at info@bensbuddies.org. We look forward to hearing from you and celebrating with you at this year's Birthday Bash.

We are in need of donations for our silent auction & raffle. Donations can be single items or themed baskets. **Sponsorships** to cover event costs are also available. To donate, please contact us at info@bensbuddies.org or call Barb at 612-845-2837.

We hope to see you all at the Birthday Bash!

A Story of Love & Generosity

In 2008, **Ben Winchester and Tara Schmidt** decided they wanted to get married. They wanted their day to be meaningful and simple, a true testament to their love for each other. Although the ceremony was private, they knew that friends and family would want to send well wishes and gifts. Selflessly, they asked friends and families to give donations to Ben's Buddies in lieu of wedding gifts to the Winchesters. Ben and Tara married in December of 2008 and donations in honor of their marriage have totaled over **\$2,000 for Ben's Fund**. Congratulations Ben and Tara and thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity! Ben's Buddies is truly blessed and honored to have you as friends!

A Special Thank You To

Al Farmes of **Coldwell Banker Burnet Realty** for his sponsorship of Ben's Buddies events. Al has generously offered to donate to Ben's Buddies 20% of his commission from any completed real estate transaction where his *client mentions Ben's Buddies*. To date Al has sold 2 homes resulting in significant donations to Ben's fund.

Contact Al at **763-412-1262**

Email: AEFarmes@CBBurnet.com

Maria Jondahl of **Lakeland Mortgage Corporation**. Maria has generously agreed to donate to Ben's Buddies 20% of her commission from any closed loan transaction where the *client mentions Ben's Buddies*. Maria has recently completed a transaction that will result in a generous Ben's Buddies donation

Contact Maria at **763-422-0888**

Email: mjondahl@lakelandmortgage.com

Chris Hickman of **Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.** for his sponsorship of Ben's Buddies. Chris has generously offered to donate \$25 if a prospective client meets with him and *mentions Ben's Buddies*.

Contact Chris at **651-635-1721**

Email: christopher.j.hickman@ampf.com

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Messages from the Board

Dear Ben's Buddies Community Members,

2008 was an incredible year for Ben's Buddies! We have become a true non-profit organization obtaining our 501(c)3 status from the IRS which opens many doors from a fund raising perspective. Although that is an incredible milestone, what is more poignant is that in a year with a significantly declining economy we managed to raise over \$16,000. We have seen incredible generosity and commitment to our mission despite challenging economic times which speaks to the caliber of people that comprise the Ben's Buddies community.

We have welcomed new families to the community this past year and hope to continue to meet more of Ben's Buddies in 2009 and celebrate the mark they have left on this world, however brief their stay.

We recognize that this year donations may be more difficult as the ever declining economy looms in people's lives. Please know that our thoughts are with you in this difficult year ahead, and we are grateful for your continued involvement in our mission in whatever form is possible for you. Furthering the Ben's Buddies mission can be done in many ways including bringing new families to the Ben's Buddies community, volunteering time and energy to our events, finding sponsors for events, just to name a few. We wish all of you the very best this year and thank you for your continued commitment to our mission.

Because of all of you, we will make difference and save families the heart breaking loss of a beautiful and precious baby. Everything is Possible!

Volunteers

Volunteers are vital to the success of all Ben's Buddies events. We would like to say a special thank you to everyone who has donated time and energy to our organization these past two years. If you or someone you know would like to volunteer for a 2009 Ben's Buddies event, please send an email to Barb at barb@bensbuddies.org or call Barb at 612-845-2837. Please include your contact information as well as any specific indications of interest. We look forward to working with you this year!

2009 Golf Tournament

Please join us for the

4th Annual Ben's Buddies Charity Golf Tournament

**Sunday, September 13th, 2009
Majestic Oaks Golf Club. Ham Lake**

Gather your family and friends and join us for a great day of golf and support this worthy cause.

Register by September 1st to secure your spot!

The individual golfer fee is **\$105** and includes a continental breakfast, greens fees, power cart, contests and prizes at many holes, including a hole-in-one contest, goody bag, and buffet lunch.

The fun starts at 7:30 a.m. with registration and a continental breakfast. The shotgun scramble start begins at 8:30 and is followed by a lunch buffet and events program.

Register by **April 1st 2009** for the early bird special price of **\$90**.

Go to www.bensbuddies.org

Cookbook

The Ben's Buddies Cookbook

containing over 350 recipes submitted by Ben's family and friends is now in its 2nd printing!

Cookbooks are available at Ben's Buddies events for \$10.00 or can be ordered by mail at \$13.00.

Please see our website for more details or mail your request and payment to

**Ben's Buddies
791 Carla Lane
Little Canada, MN 55109**