

29 November, 2011

Friends of bereaved mum raise funds for Sands, the stillbirth and neonatal death charity

Friends of Ellen Wickes, of Clutton, near Bristol, are on a mission to raise much needed funds for Sands, the stillbirth and neonatal death charity.

Ellen's daughter, Angel, was stillborn on 3 June this year and Ellen and her friends are now determined to raise funds for Sands, the charity that provided much support to Ellen in the months following Angel's stillbirth.

Cate Biggs and friends will be carol singing at the Bath Christmas Market on 7 (5.30 pm-6.30pm) and 10 December (4pm-5pm). They will also be bag packing in Waitrose in Bath City Centre on Christmas Eve (between 9.30 am – 5.30pm). However, the main fundraiser is the 'Pretty in Pink' charity ball, which is planned for Saturday 28 January at the Marriott Royal Hotel in Bristol.

Cate says: 'When Angel died we were all devastated as we never thought it possible that Ellen's baby would be anything but healthy and beautiful.

'Sands has been such a great help to Ellen and we all want to raise as much money as possible to help the charity that has helped her so much. We hope that the carol singing and bag packing in Bath will raise awareness of stillbirth and that people will then be keen to come along for a great night out at our 'Pretty in Pink' ball in January.'

Ellen says: 'Sands is extremely close to my heart and all the money raised in memory of Angel will help fund research into why 17 babies die a day in the UK. I want to prevent or stop completely other families having to go through what I have. I also want to be able to fund more memory boxes for hospitals to give to families whose babies have died. But, most importantly, I want to do it to let my little girl know she hasn't gone unnoticed and never will.'

For further information about the 'Pretty in Pink' charity ball please contact Cate Biggs at catebiggs@gmail.com or telephone: 07738 270602. Tickets cost £45 per person before 25 December or £50 after Christmas.

Through Ellen's Justgiving page over £1,500 has already been raised for Sands. For further information, or to donate, please visit www.justgiving.com/angelwickesgreen

-ends-

For further information, please contact Sands press office:

Lisa Wardle – 07554 454 309
Katie Duff - 0845 6520 442

Key Information about Sands:

Sands, the stillbirth and neonatal death charity, was established by bereaved parents in 1978 and obtained charity status in 1981.

Sands core aims are to:

- Support anyone affected by the death of a baby;
- To work in partnership with health professionals to improve the quality of care and services offered to bereaved families; and

- To promote research and changes in practice that could help to reduce the loss of babies' lives

Sands is a national organisation, with over 100 regional support groups across the UK.

Helpline: 020 7436 5881

Office: 020 7436 7940

Web: www.uk-sands.org

E mail: info@uk-sands.org

For further information about Sands, please visit www.uk-sands.org