

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

October is SIDS, Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month

The SIMON Project (The Sudden Infant & Child Mourning Outreach Network of Vermont & Northern New England) Partners with First Candle/SIDS Alliance to Help Save Infant Lives

On this day, in communities across America, expectant moms will feel their baby's first kick; parents will listen joyfully to their newborn's first cry; and families will celebrate their healthy baby's first birthday.

Also on this day, seven babies will be lost to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS); more than 70 new parents will have listened sadly to their stillborn baby's silence; and countless lives will be lost to miscarriage and other sudden, unexpected infant deaths.

[Eden, Vermont - **October 2006**] October is SIDS, Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness month, and The SIMON Project is teaming up with the nation's leading organization dedicated to infant health and survival to help increase awareness about these tragic causes of infant death. The SIMON Project of Vermont & Northern New England can help;

Vision Statement Of The SIMON Project

To provide bereavement support to parents and families coping with pregnancy loss or death of an infant or child.

We understand that the death of your child is unique and requires a tremendous amount of support. This is what we at The SIMON Project can do to support you and your family during this difficult time.

We provide:

- Peer-to-peer support through connecting parents & families who have experienced infant or child death or pregnancy loss.
- Informal meetings and support groups among parents & families.
- Information on helpful literature, resources, and professional supports.
- Helpful and practical information about the experience of death, planning memorial services, funerals, and coping in the days, weeks and months ahead.
- Local, statewide, and national resources located on our web site (www.simonproject.org)

October 15 has been designated "National Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day. On this day, in homes across our nation, families will light candles to celebrate the lives that have been lost, and will continue to be lost, until we reach our goal of a future where all babies survive and thrive.

To learn more about how you can help, or to make a donation, please call The SIMON Project at 802-635-7696. First Candle has established a 2006 Awareness Month Action Center on its website at www.firstcandle.org. Interested individuals can access

information on ways they can help create awareness and/or show support for families and babies in their local community. Bilingual crisis counselors are also available 24/7 by calling, toll free, 1-800-221-7437.

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First Candle/SIDS Alliance is a national, nonprofit, health organization dedicated to promoting infant health and survival during the prenatal period through age two with programs of advocacy, education and research; while at the same time providing compassionate grief support to those experiencing an infant death. For more information on helping babies survive and thrive, to access local support services or to make a donation, please call 1.800.221.7437 or visit www.firstcandle.org