



PO Box 423 * Saratoga Springs, NY 12866 * www.angelnames.org
Phone: 518-654-2411 * Fax: 518-654-2411 (call First) * E-mail: mgmosca@msn.com

MEMORIAL WALK WELCOMES RECORD NUMBERS

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Angel Names Association (ANA), an area nonprofit association that assists families of stillborn children, held its annual Memorial Walk recently at the Saratoga Spa State Park in Saratoga Springs, NY. More than 220 people attended the walk, coming from as far away as New Jersey.

One mother came in memory of her daughter, stillborn only two weeks prior to the event. Still recovering physically from her daughter's delivery, she was determined to walk to honor her. Behind her, two sisters walked in memory of their children – a daughter stillborn in 2006, and a son stillborn in September 2007. Another family walked to remember their healthy three year-old daughter who laid down to take a nap, and died an hour later from an undetected illness; and her twin siblings who were stillborn. Their big brother, who suffers from a life-threatening heart condition, attended in memory of his siblings. And their mother, now battling cancer, felt comforted as she walked to remember her babies.

Thanks to the generosity of corporate sponsors, ANA was able to offset its cost of hosting the event and maintain 100 percent of its profit for programs benefiting families in need. Matthews Buses, Inc. provided primary sponsorship, and additional sponsors included The Adirondack Trust Company; Balet Florist and Design; Corinth Merchant Association; Freihofer's/George Weston Bakeries; GA Bove Fuels; Michele & Timothy Gautreau; Michael O. Murphy Nationwide Insurance; Marie Murray; Saratoga Masonry Supply, Inc.; Saratoga National Golf Club; and Michael and Linda Toohey. A complete listing of individual and corporate donors appears in the fall/winter 2007 issue of ANA Happenings.

"It meant so much to me to take part in the walk and non-denominational memorial service," said Christine Ammon, Human Resources Manager for Freihofer's. "It was a beautiful remembrance and the fact that we have a place to go each year to honor our babies means more than words can describe."

The event netted approximately \$7,000; five percent of the proceeds will be used to support stillbirth research, and the remainder will fund ANA programs.