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## **Nonprofit Partnership Helps Area Families**

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Angel Names Association (ANA) and Bridging People and Places (BPP), nonprofit, charitable associations headquartered in Saratoga Springs, New York, have partnered to create a “Memory Box Project” that will benefit parents whose babies are stillborn at area hospitals.

ANA assists families who have lost a baby to stillbirth by helping to defray the costs of end-of-life and counseling services, and provides funding for stillbirth research. Bridging People and Places, through its Megan and Mason Fund, provides bereavement items to 12 area hospitals to support families enduring infant loss.

The Memory Boxes, funded by individual and corporate donations and assembled by volunteers who have endured infant loss, are designed to offer comfort and provide support to families grieving their child’s death. They contain comfort items such as a handmade baby blanket, angel bear, journal, single-use camera and photo album, imprint materials for baby’s hand and footprints, and support information and resources. They will be presented to parents by hospital staff at the time of the baby’s death.

“Fortunately, most parents leave the hospital with their baby. For those unable to do so, mementos of their baby’s life – a blanket that cradled him, an imprint of her perfect little feet – can offer comfort,” said Michelle Mosca, ANA President and co-founder.

“No parent is ever prepared for the loss of their infant,” added Hollie Vanderzee, BPP President and founder. “The Megan and Mason Program enables us to help families during this very difficult time by acknowledging and honoring the infant’s life and letting the parents know we care.”

Hospital staff has been very pleased with the Memory Box Project, indicating that it gives them an opportunity to present the families with something positive to remember their baby. “The Memory Boxes provide families with recognition of their baby’s life and are a reminder that they are not alone in their grief,” commented Linda Francis, RN, maternity bereavement counselor at Glens Falls Hospital.

ANA and BPP have donated Memory Boxes to Bellevue, Glens Falls, Nathan Littauer, Samaritan, Saratoga, St. Clare’s, St. Mary’s, and St. Peter’s Hospitals.

For more information about ANA and the Memory Box Project, contact Michelle Mosca at 518-654-2411 or [mgmosca@msn.com](mailto:mgmosca@msn.com), or visit ANA online at [www.angelnames.org](http://www.angelnames.org). For information about BPP and its programs, contact Hollie Vanderzee at [bridgingpeople@aol.com](mailto:bridgingpeople@aol.com) or 518-583-3734, or visit BPP online at [www.bridgingpeople.org](http://www.bridgingpeople.org).