



KIWANIS PARTNERSHIP WITH THE JESSE CAUSE The Kiwanis "Save The Babies" Project

CAL-NEV-HA Kiwanis Clubs,

We'd like to introduce to you a Young Children: Priority One project "Save The Babies" that will make a difference in our communities and the world. Many of you met representatives from the Jesse Cause Foundation at our Reno district convention and asked how you could help. Here's a way you can help the Jesse Cause; it is easy and will save thousands of babies' lives.

- The Jesse Cause's mission is to wipe out Group B Strep (GBS) by changing the testing law, and to continue promoting awareness and treatment of GBS by educating the general population.
- *Group B Strep is a highly preventable disease – that kills and maims babies and brings great suffering to families –that Kiwanis can bring to an end in every city and every state!*
- Shelene Keith is founder and executive director of the Jesse Cause. Her son Jesse had 3 brain surgeries because she was never given a \$25 test at 35 weeks of pregnancy and she was never treated with the cure — a mere \$10 of penicillin at labor.
- *The Jesse Cause has had a great victory in working with the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention to make it mandatory for all pregnant women to be tested for GBS.*

But this is only half of the battle!...

The Problem is that GBS is a very complex and non-reportable disease. There is not yet sufficient data available to doctors, who are so HMO-driven that they do not have the time or money to research life-saving GBS information or give it to their pregnant patients. Thus, the awareness level of pregnant moms to GBS in the US today is a disaster! Babies are still dying needlessly or being left with life-long handicaps.

- ✓ 10,000 babies get Group B Strep annually, and 2,000 die (these numbers are only what is known; it is suspected that many GBS deaths and illnesses are misdiagnosed, due to lack of understanding).
- ✓ One out of three pregnant women in the US have GBS!
- ✓ GBS is up to 90% preventable if doctors follow through with testing and treatment, which is more likely when the doctor is treating an informed patient.
- ✓ 8,000 babies get sick from GBS annually, suffering with meningitis, sepsis and lung problems; survivors often are left with lifelong handicaps such as cerebral palsy, blindness, deafness, brain damage and learning disabilities.
- ✓ GBS causes early and late miscarriages, premature labor, and still births, many unreported.

The Solution is CAL-NEV-HA Kiwanis support! You can help the Jesse Cause print and distribute information-packed GBS pamphlets in every one of our cities, to all hospitals, doctor's offices, and related medical facilities. **Each pamphlet identifies Kiwanis' participation with a note of thanks, and includes a printed insert that directs people to the Kiwanis web site or can be mailed in to the Kiwanis for more information about the organization. (This can be designed especially for your division or individual club.)**

- **Signing up commits your club to donating only \$57 a month for at least 1 year.** This contribution gives us the ability to print and distribute at least 100,000 pamphlets monthly through-out CAL-NEV-HA. This is the most important commitment.
- **Sign up by simply going to www.thejessecause.org and clicking the Kiwanis button.** The web site will take you to a club sign-up page, and then to a contribution page where you can make a contribution via paypal or electronic check. The web page offers an additional option of donating a one-time printing set-up fee of \$40, (making the first monthly contribution a total of \$97, including the \$57 monthly donation). This extra boost will allow us to start with an additional print run of at least 100,000 pamphlets.
- Your power lies in each club's willingness to graciously give a little money and a little time which make a life-changing difference. Kiwanis' support of the Jesse Cause, to print, and distribute these life-saving pamphlets every month will only take a small team a couple hours, one day a month. And it will help ensure that no other babies in our states will have to go through what Jesse did.

Because the Jesse Cause is a 501(c)(3) non-profit foundation, a tax deduction letter will be sent to all participating clubs every six months. The Jesse Cause will also produce an e-newsletter just for Kiwanis, so we can focus on your requests and needs and then implement them.

The GBS "Save The Babies" project covers exactly what Young Children: Priority One represents. We hope you will graciously adopt this program with the commitment and passion Kiwanis is known for in each and every community.

Your Kiwanis club can do what we as Kiwanians do best: make a difference.

George Francis
Young Children Priority One Chairman
California-Nevada-Hawaii District

Shelene Keith
Executive Director
The Jesse Cause Foundation

