

Volume 1, Issue 1

# CARING CRADLE

"We give a little more time when it means a lot."

This beautiful, heartbreaking story begins on April 13, 2018,  
when the Hermans lost  
their precious, baby boy, Lincoln.  
It was devastating.

However, they decided to honor their son in a unique way.

The Hermans established Lincoln's Bunnies in honor of their baby boy.  
As a result of generous fundraising, they were able to purchase a Caring Cradle,  
and donate it to Miami Valley Hospital in Dayton, Ohio.



Lincoln Herman pictured with his parents, David and Lauren, and a Lincoln's Bunny

## The Gift

I heard a word once – brutiful – a combination of beautiful and brutal – it was used in the reference of grieving. I have remembered this word in the midst of my own losses, and I find it to be true.

When we lose someone we love, it is a brutal blow to our heart, our future, and our hope. Finding some measure of purpose to redeem our loss, opens up a raw yet profound journey, one that is unexpectedly healing in its own way and time.





## Lincoln's Story

This is a true story. One of broken hearts and dreams. It is a story of stillbirth and infant loss. But it is so much more. This is a history of love extended to strangers - and more to come. It is a story of nurses who had a Caring Cradle, which allowed them to extend their compassionate and professional care to their patient. You will read how loss began the story, but healing and hope showed up, just when all seemed lost. You will hear how one baby boy inspired his parents. And you will learn how this same baby boy continues to inspire grownups, strangers, fundraisers, churches, businesses, donors, non-profits, educators, and more.

Below we will share how two parents and their infant son, along with little sister, Rainbow Baby Sarah-Kate, inspire and meet the needs of others, many of whom they will never meet. (Isabelle Baker | Caring Cradle)



Lincoln Herman (4-13-18)

## Three words

"What did you say?" The question came from Lincoln's father, David, sitting at the sonogram appointment; the moment that changed everything. Nine days before they expected to welcome Lincoln into their world - David could not comprehend the sonographer's words.

"There's no heartbeat" was repeated.

I am sure the air and time stood still. His little boy was gone, already with Jesus, as David would share with their families. Those are the three words no parent is prepared to hear. No parent believes they could bear those words. And yet here they were, Lincoln's mother and father, hearing the worst. Utter shock.



## In One Moment

Everything was ready. The nursery. Lincoln's parents. His family. Their church. Lincoln's future. The anticipation was growing. Nothing during Lauren's perfectly, healthy pregnancy hinted at anything other than a healthy baby boy was on his way. And yet, no amount of preparation could change their reality. Over the span of one sonogram and three words, everything was different. Doctors advised that Lauren would need to choose to either deliver Lincoln or have a C-section. Lauren elected to deliver her son. They went to the hospital, and after 12 hours of labor, she gave birth to Lincoln. Immediately following Lincoln's birth, his parents held him and wanted only one thing: more time with their precious baby boy before saying goodbye.

## Minutes Become as Precious as Jewels

Time is often the most forgotten treasure we enjoy. Time ticks into weeks, months, even years, before any of us give the passing of time much thought. When loss like this occurs, all parents want is more time. Minutes become precious.



Mothers who were never given this extra time lament this second loss. They feel robbed of time to hold their baby. Mothers have few memories to comfort them. They may have very few or even no photographs. Some feel they never had the opportunity to say good-bye.

Mothers who do receive this gift of time share their gratefulness over and over again. Their comfort is palpable. They have photos and memories of holding their precious baby. They will speak of how their family and friends drove long distances to comfort them.

Some play songs, sing to their baby, collect a lock of hair, or make a cast of their baby's tiny feet. The extra time allows the parents breathing room to think of, and to do exactly the things that they know will comfort them through the remainder of their own lives. They have the time to take the photographs that will be meaningful to them; time for their own parents to hold their grandchild; time for siblings to say goodbye; time to whisper into the ear of their precious baby; to cuddle, snuggle, and to say good-bye.





## The Gift

Lauren shared that she did not know what the Caring Cradle was when the nurse brought one into her room. She quickly learned the Caring Cradle would give her and David just what they wanted: time with their baby. Lauren was told that another mother, Taylor Cottle, who shared the same loss as Lauren, had raised funds for and donated this Caring Cradle to Miami Valley Hospital South in Centerville, Ohio.

Taylor Cottle was a trailblazer. She donated the very first Caring Cradle in the state of Ohio, and sweet Lincoln was the first to use it.

Taylor was moved to raise funds, and donate the first Caring Cradle to Miami Valley Hospital South, in memory of her beautiful baby girl, Hadley Janae.



## Grateful



Lauren so poignantly summarized Taylor's gift when she shared:

"She (Taylor Cottle) gave me time with Lincoln I could never get back again."

This is what the extra time means to mothers and fathers, and families.

Pictured: (L to R)  
Kellie Felker (Taylor Cottle's mother and Hadley Janae's grandmother), photo of Hadley Janae Sanders, Taylor and Denny Cottle

## And So the Story Continues

The Hermans, in honor of their baby boy, and because of generous fundraising, purchased and donated a Caring Cradle to Miami Valley Hospital in Dayton, Ohio. Lincoln's parents bravely gave from their pain and their heart.

(Pictured L to R)  
Rainbow Baby Sarah-Kate, Lauren,  
David, Lincoln, and a Lincoln's  
Bunny



Lauren and David are already working on raising funds for a second Caring Cradle!

Would you please consider following the Hermans as they bring comfort and compassion to loss families?

Please follow [Lincoln'sBunnies](#) on Facebook and Instagram.

The Hermans would appreciate your support for their future work on behalf of families who suffer infant loss.

Thank you!



"For there is no footprint so small that it does not leave an imprint on this world. Lincoln's length of his life does not measure the significance of his life, and while his earthly body isn't with us, he is still very much with us. There's not a day that goes by that we do not think and talk about him. Simply put, our goal at Lincoln's Bunnies is to remember every child and to bring hope and joy to grieving families who experience infant loss."

Every good & perfect gift is from above...- James 1:17  
David and Lauren Herman [Lincolnsbunnies.com](http://Lincolnsbunnies.com)

"We talk about them, not because we're stuck or because we haven't moved on, but we talk about them because we are theirs, and they are ours, and no passage of time will ever change that."

<http://www.scribblesandcrumbs.com/>

"Nurses dispense comfort, compassion and caring without even a prescription."  
Val Saintsbury

# For Our Nurses

Free PDF compliments of AWHONN.org  
Nurses "Back to Basics" Focusing on Connection and Curiosity.

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## Nurses - Did You Know? the Caring Cradle

was designed and manufactured with you in mind, for use in a hospital  
with feedback from nurses working with families who have lost a child

- Easy to move - on caster wheels
- No set up required
- Simply plug in and turn on
- Requires no maintenance
- No tubes, wires, connections, replacement parts
- Runs continuously, no temperature to monitor
- Park bedside, locking wheels
- Ease of use for mother and family
- Easy to clean
- No alarms
- In US, Canada, and Puerto Rico

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Click here  
for a closer look  
at the Caring Cradle

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The Pregnancy Loss and Infant Death Alliance is proud to announce they will be awarding 15 conference scholarships to health care professionals who would like to attend the 22nd International Perinatal Bereavement Conference (2021 IPBC) in Chicago, Illinois, May 12-15, 2021.

[Click Here for More Information](#)

"Thank you to all the nurses who are so bravely working during corona virus. Babies wait for no one. And nurses continue to show up for these babies and their families. They continue to serve, regardless. There is no way to fully express our gratefulness. We hold you in high esteem and appreciation."

Wendy Kowalski | Designer | Owner

