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## **Pregnancy loss support group offers comfort and support**

**ITHACA/STANTON**~ Parents grieving the loss of a child through miscarriage, stillbirth or neonatal death may find comfort among other parents experiencing the same heart-wrenching loss. And thanks to the efforts of two local professionals, grieving parents don't have far to travel.

The Pregnancy Loss Support group was started by Michele Collison, RN, a Public Health Nurse for the Mid- Michigan District Health Department and Molly Minnick, MSW, a Social Worker at Gratiot County Mental Health.

Both Collison and Minnick have extensive experience working with parents who have lost a young child. Collison received training on pregnancy loss through Tomorrow's Child (formally the Michigan SIDS Alliance). In addition to facilitating the group, Michele provides individual grief services and support.

Minnick has provided individual and group therapy for bereaved parents for over fifteen years. She facilitated a long-standing pregnancy loss support group at Michigan State University and has authored numerous books and articles for grieving parents.

"We are very pleased that parents who have experienced a miscarriage, stillbirth or neonatal death can now attend a support group which is offered locally," said Collison.

The group meets on the second Thursday of every month from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Sip-N-Knit store located at 142 East Center Street in Ithaca.

"This is a very private setting which our participants find comforting," said Minnick.

Start-up funding for the Pregnancy Loss Support Group was provided by memorial contributions in honor of Jack M. Stack, M.D; a family practice physician and psychiatrist who worked in Gratiot County for over 30 years.

Parents who would like more information about the Pregnancy Loss Support Group are encouraged to call Michele Collison at 989-875-1026.

*Mid-Michigan District Health Department serves the residents of Clinton, Gratiot and Montcalm Counties.*

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