

Missing GRACE Foundation's GRACE Care Basket Handmade Items & Volunteer Projects

Missing GRACE provides many special and meaningful handmade items to bereaved parents who have experienced a pregnancy or infant loss and this requires a great deal of volunteer support. These items are made by individuals and groups across the nation and can be made in memory of a baby. Example "This blanket is made with love in memory of Grace McVicar stillborn 12-20-01 by her mommy, Candy. With prayers for your comfort~ candy@missinggrace.org."

- *Blankets and hats – safety pin the note to the blanket or hat.*
- *Bracelet – print the note on a piece of paper that will fit in the baggie with the bracelet.*
- *Candle and Comfort Warmer – place note in an envelope and we will include it in the Basket.*

Blankets: The blankets will go in the GRACE Care Basket and often will be what parents hold and cradle their baby in while in the hospital or at home. For blanket sizing, the small / miscarriage sizes should be between 16 x 16 inches to 20 x 20 inches in length. Medium to larger blankets (for 20 plus week gestation losses) should be 22 x 22 inches to no larger than 28x 28 inches.

Please always make the blankets with pastel colors and predominantly blue or pink for a boy or girl.

For the 20+ week gestation Baskets for a boy or girl with medium to large blankets--

- All pink (or combinations of various light pinks with white, light purple or yellow)
- All blue (or combinations of various light blues with white, green, or yellow)

For the 19-week or earlier gestation miscarriage Baskets with smaller blankets (gender not known)--

- All whites, all creams, all yellows, all greens, all purples or pastel combinations of these colors

No red or orange, or other dark primary colors for blankets please. Blankets can be knit, crocheted, sewn (with silk edge binding) on a soft bunting or other soft / thick fabric or a flannel. One very nice design that parents have really enjoyed is a white satin on one side and a soft, warm to touch fabric on the other.

Hats: Same colors as blankets. For sizes, we need them to fit 2 adult fingers (open/slightly apart in the hat) for the smallest size baby and then on up, 3 fingers, 4 fingers and fist / bigger sizes for later term babies.

GRACE Comfort Warmer: A handmade fabric bag filled with rice and/ or flax seeds and scented with comforting and relaxing organic essential oils. These are used in the hospital to keep baby warm in their blanket so that parents hopefully feel more comfortable holding their baby longer. If baby is still alive, this also keeps them warm without the use of warming lights in an incubator and allows them to be held rather than separated from their parents. The fragrance also aids in bringing a calming fragrance that later is a gentle and sweet memory of their baby. Size options: 5 x 5 inches or 4 x 5 inches.

Forever in Our Hearts - Baby Feet Charm Bracelets: Each comes with a sterling silver plated charm in the shape of a heart with baby feet. Each one can be unique with their design of beads but are all made to fit the wrist of the mother. For miscarried babies, they can fit on them as a necklace. Bracelets can be made with any kind of clasp and with combinations of glass beads, pearl beads and some sparkle (with Swarovski crystals). We need bracelets that are predominantly 1). light pinkish beads 2). light bluish beads, or 3) neutral in pastel colors (white, cream, yellow, green, earth tones, etc.).

GRACE Memorial Candle: The Glass votive is decorated with a pink, blue or white ribbon and matching bow that are glued on with glue that affixes to both glass and fabric. There is also a silver or gold baby foot charm glued on under the pearl of the bow. They are filled with an unscented t-light candle. Parents often light it at their service for the baby, on baby's due date / birth-date and other special occasions.

Baby Anniversary Cards:

Missing GRACE Foundation mails out cards to parents on the anniversary of their baby's birth-date each year. The majority of these cards are hand-made by volunteers. We can provide examples of our cards but we encourage the creativity by our crafty and creative volunteers to make new designs© With each card it is ideal to print off/ glue in printed messages of hope, comfort and remembrance and then we at the Missing GRACE offices will hand address and sign each one. Cards can be made with a memorial note on the backs but must have the Missing GRACE logo and contact information included or there must be room for us to include that at the bottom.