

**MARCH PROCLAIMED SUDDEN UNEXPLAINED DEATH IN CHILDHOOD AWARENESS MONTH BY  
LA GOVERNOR JOHN BEL EDWARDS AND OTHER STATES FOLLOW SUIT**

*Drew's Tunes brings attention to unknown tragedy with proclamations and Twinkle Tribute  
for Drew Boswell's Second Angelversary*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NEW ORLEANS, LA (March 7, 2016)** - Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards has proclaimed March as Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood (SUDC) Awareness Month in the State of Louisiana in honor of Drew Joseph Boswell, who passed away on March 12, 2014 at 15 months old of SUDC. This marks the second consecutive year March has been designated as a time to emphasize awareness and the need for continued research regarding SUDC, which is a diagnosis of exclusion impacting close to 200 toddlers in the United States each year. This year other states across the country are issuing proclamations as well, bringing greater attention to this often unknown and unspoken tragedy.

These proclamations were spurred by the advocacy of Drew's Tunes, a foundation created by Devron and Georgia Boswell in the days following the sudden and unexplained death of their son Drew Joseph Boswell nearly two years ago. The mission of Drew's Tunes is to celebrate Drew's life by providing musical instruments to children, expose them to local musicians, and support clinical research into SUDC.

**SUDC is Similar to SIDS, but Often Unheard Of**

SUDC is the sudden and unexpected death of a child over the age of twelve months, which remains unexplained after a thorough case investigation is conducted. Similar to SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome), SUDC is a diagnosis of exclusion - given when all known and possible causes of death have been ruled out. By definition, SIDS applies only to the death of babies younger than 12 months, while SUDC victims are past their first birthday whose deaths go unexplained even after an autopsy, a death scene investigation and medical history review.

Rare, SUDC affects **one in every 100,000 toddler-aged children**. In contrast, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), which occurs before the first birthday, is 55 times more common.

"When we lost Drew two years ago we did not know that Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood even existed. The loss of a child is the worst loss one can experience and to have no answers why compounded the grief. When we found out about SUDC, we felt comfort in the realization we were not alone and that there was an organization dedicated solely to finding answers for families like ours," stated Georgia Boswell, Drew's mom. "When I heard the news that Oliver Jack Carter Lomas-Davis, the baby we had just seen all over the Internet when his parents dressed him up as Bernie Sanders, had died from SIDS last week my heart broke for their family. SIDS and SUDC can impact any family, just as it did mine. Although SIDS is known more, we want to bring the same awareness to SUDC which is one of the primary goals of Drew's Tunes. This proclamation provides the opportunity to raise awareness and to ensure that the public will be informed about SUDC, and allows us another opportunity to honor Drew's legacy."

## **A Little Boys Legacy Making Big Impact**

In less than two years, Drew's Tunes has donated nearly **\$100,000** to organizations supporting Drew's Tunes' mission. In addition, "the little foundation that could" has received national media attention, featured in both Redbook and Parents magazines.

Some of the highlights of the support that Drew's Tunes has been able to provide includes:

- **1,317 local children** have benefited from musical instruments, classes, and performances
- **\$32,000** in donations to Anna's Arts for Kids. A local program, serving the children of the Treme, which are some of the most underserved in the Metropolitan area.
  - These funds allowed Anna's Arts to host the 2014 and 2015 "Drew's Crew" Summer Camps, which were named in honor of Drew Joseph Boswell
  - Three semesters of music and arts After-School Programing
  - Private lessons from members of the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra
- **\$30,000** has been donated to support the work and research of SUDC
- **Over 800 instruments** have been donated to other local music programs and schools
  - Music Collaborative, Make Music NOLA, New Orleans Jazz Institute, The Wilcox Early Learning Center, McMillian's First Steps and Kingsley House are some of the programs positively impacted by Drew's legacy.

## **Nationwide Effort Inspired by Drew's Tunes**

Last year's proclamation by Governor Jindal in Louisiana was the first of its kind in the southern United States recognizing SUDC. Drew's Tunes has inspired a nationwide effort with requests being made across the country to proclaim SUDC Awareness in every state! In addition to Louisiana; Arkansas, Arizona, and Colorado have proclaimed March 2016 SUDC Awareness Month and five other states are in the process.

Laura Crandall, co-founder of SUDC Foundation is deeply moved by this official recognition from the state of Louisiana and the awareness it will bring for families like the Boswells who have been impacted by the sudden and unexplained loss of their children. "I am deeply touched by the actions of the state of Louisiana, Governor Edwards, and the Drew's Tunes Foundation in calling attention to the often unheard of and unspoken tragedy of Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood. We are pleased to have additional states issue proclamations this year and know the list will continue to grow," stated Crandall. "Our children deserve to have their stories told, and by doing so, they will be instrumental in uncovering the clues and finally the answers in helping us reach a future free of SUDC. The SUDC Foundation gratefully thanks the state of Louisiana for their recognition of our children gone too soon and for their commitment to a better future for all children."

## **Twinkle Tribute**

"Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" was one of Drew Boswell's favorite songs. In honor of his second angelversary the Boswell family is asking that people all of ages film themselves or their families singing, playing, humming or dancing to the song and upload the video to their social media accounts using the hashtags **#tunes4drew** and **their location (i.e. #NOLA or #Boise)** on March 11-13, 2016 to celebrate Drew and help build awareness of Drew's Tunes and SUDC. For every twinkle post with the hashtag #tunes4drew or that tags Drew's Tunes on social media

(Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter), \$1 will be donated to [Kingsley House's Music Program](#) in New Orleans in Drew's honor **(up to \$5,000)**.

Last year's tribute resulted in over 500 videos from all over the country and even, the United Kingdom! The goal is to ultimately have twinkles posted from around the world.

"Drew loved music!" states Boswell. "This tribute not only helps us build awareness about our little foundation that could and SUDC, but it will also make one special little boy tap his feet in heaven."

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### **About the SUDC Foundation**

The Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood (SUDC) Foundation (formerly The SUDC Foundation created in September 2001) is tasked with providing a centralized resource for information, support and advocacy. It serves families and professionals affected by the tragedy of SUDC, and promotes awareness of SUDC in communities. SUDC began as result of the determination of two mothers, Laura Crandall and Chelsea Hilbert, who were both searching for answers after the losses of their own children to what is now classified as SUDC.

Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood (SUDC) is the sudden and unexpected death of a child over the age of twelve months, which remains unexplained after a thorough case investigation is conducted. This must include: examination of the death scene, performance of a complete autopsy, and a review of the child and family's medical history. SUDC is a diagnosis of exclusion - given when all known and possible causes of death have been ruled out.

The SUDC Foundation continues to be the leading organization worldwide devoted solely to uncovering the mystery of SUDC. Since its creation in 2001, formerly as the SUDC Foundation, it has granted approximately 1.2 million in support and research grants and continues to work towards its mission of a future free of SUDC. Today, it serves over 700 families worldwide and the numbers continue to grow each week.

### **About Drew's Tunes Foundation**

Drew's Tunes is a non-profit 501c3, operating currently under the umbrella of Saint Anna's, New Orleans. Drew's Tunes was created by Devron and Georgia Boswell in the days following the sudden and unexplained death of their son, Drew Joseph Boswell, on March 12, 2014. The mission of Drew's Tunes is to celebrate the life of Drew Joseph Boswell by providing musical instruments to children, expose them to local musicians, and support clinical research into SUDC (Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood).