



medical families promoting health & wellness

Oklahoma County Medical Society Alliance / 313 NE 50<sup>th</sup> Street, Ste, 2, Oklahoma City, OK 73105 / OCMSAlliance.org

April 2021

Dear Oklahoma County Medical Society Alliance Supporter,

This year marks the twenty-ninth year of our annual Kitchen Tour fundraising event. We are happy to announce that we are planning to hold the event on Sunday, October 24, 2021 from 11:00am – 4:00pm with plans in place to accommodate social distancing and/or a virtual tour if necessary. Due to the pandemic, we had to cancel the 2020 Kitchen Tour but promised our beneficiaries the fundraising in 2021. As an organization enriching our community through awareness and education of health and wellness, we are happy to support Independent Transportation Network (ITN) Central Oklahoma and Shepard’s Watch.

We understand that though it may be more difficult this year to give, we rely on partnerships with organizations like yours to support these very deserving charities. As a potential supporter, you make this fundraising event a success. Your business aligns with the Kitchen Tour, and I hope you will seriously consider a sponsorship.

ITN Central Oklahoma provides rides to seniors who are not able to drive themselves to appointments and errands. All drivers are volunteers and the demand for the service is great. Shepard’s Watch ensures that all babies have a safe place to sleep. Founded by mother, Ali Dodd who lost her own baby to unsafe sleeping conditions while at daycare. She has spent her time since lobbying the Oklahoma State legislature for safer sleep measures, parental leave measures as well as standardized investigations into child deaths. She will use this money to purchase pack and plays for parents who cannot otherwise afford a babies safe place to sleep for their baby.

	<b>Platinum</b> \$5,000	<b>Gold</b> \$2,500	<b>Silver</b> \$1,000	<b>Bronze</b> \$500
<b>Exclusive Home Sponsorship**</b>	★			
<b>Yard Signage</b>	★	★	★	
<b>Brochure/Print</b>	★	★	★	★
<b>Tickets to Event</b>	20 Tickets	15 Tickets	10 Tickets	5 Tickets
<b>Pledge Deadline</b>	<i>April 30, 2021</i>	<i>April 30, 2021</i>	<i>April 30, 2021</i>	<i>April 30, 2021</i>
<b>Payment Due</b>	<i>June 30, 2021</i>	<i>June 30, 2021</i>	<i>June 30, 2021</i>	<i>June 30, 2021</i>

*\*\*Donors will be exclusive sponsor of one of the homes, on ALL print materials and publicity associated with that home.*

Thank you in advance for supporting our organization. If you have any questions, please contact Natasha Neumann at (405) 625-7272 or Suzanne Reynolds at (405) 816-5517.

Sincerely,

*Natasha Neumann*

Natasha M Neumann

*Suzanne Reynolds*

Suzanne Reynolds

Oklahoma County Medical Society Alliance  
Kitchen Tour Chairs

## Mission

To provide a community-based, and community supported, economically viable and consumer-oriented, quality transportation service for seniors and visually impaired adults.

The Independent Transportation Network® (ITN) is dedicated to providing dignified transportation. Older adults join *ITNCentralOklahoma* and become dues-paying members of an organization committed to their mobility. When they pick up the telephone to schedule a ride, they are not asking a favor. *ITNCentralOklahoma* is a nonprofit built to ease the transition from the driver's seat to the passenger seat.

At *ITNCentralOklahoma*, we provide arm-through-arm, door-through-door service, a standard that sets us apart from taxis and other transportation services. And like using your own automobile, ITN is available 24/7, offering the flexibility to schedule rides in advance or as needed, as well as the option to ride alone or with others. Because our members aren't just our riders, they're also our customers.



Shepard's Watch is a community of supporters for safe sleep awareness in OK. If we don't know better, we can't do better! Babies deserve to be SAFE!

July 16, 2015 ·

Shepard's Story

Shepard was an unnaturally happy and healthy boy. He would smile until something needed to be corrected, he would cry, you would fix it, then he would smile again. He was a special baby to my wife and I after years of infertility and had a life ahead with limitless possibilities. Which is why on April 6, 2015 our world changed forever. We chose this in-home daycare provider because she came recommended from a friend and she would only watch teachers kids. Meaning she would be closed during the summers and school breaks, which was great for us, as I'm a teacher.

On April 6, I left for work early and was able to kiss Shepard and Ali goodbye. I will never forget him looking over for me and smiling. Shepard had been going to the in-home daycare for five days when Ali took him on that Monday. He had his first runny nose that weekend and had woken up that morning with congestion, but he was in good spirits, so we were not overly worried. Ali had messaged the daycare provider about using a rock'n'play for sleeping so that Shepard could be inclined instead of having to lie on his back. Originally she agreed, but when Ali arrived and she saw what it was, she said she could not let him sleep in it. In fact, she confided that she had been cited by DHS 11 days earlier for allowing another infant to fall asleep in a swing, and that they had told her how dangerous both carseats and swings were for babies to sleep in. On that Monday, as Ali was unpacking her diaper bag realized that she had forgotten the bottles so she had to run back home. She was very concerned about Shepard getting sick if she were to lay him down flat for his naps. So while she was home she grabbed her Ergo 360 carrier that our childcare giver had used before so she wouldn't have to put him down at all if she didn't want to. Ali also requested a doctor's note for our childcare giver so she would also have the option to use the rock'n'play. When Ali returned, the childcare giver reported that she had come up with a plan. She would sit the rock'n'play in front of the couch so Shepard could nap in it; so if DHS stopped by to "check on her" she could just pick him up and answer the door with him. This ensured she wouldn't get in trouble. So Ali, feeling confident the attention Shepard would be getting would be more than sufficient, left to go to her morning meetings and notified our childcare giver that our doctor was faxing her the note for the rock'n'play at 9:45am.

At 12:51pm the daycare provider called Ali and told her she needed to come quickly. Ali was in Shawnee, on her way to Earlsboro. The childcare giver reported that Shepard was not breathing. She had called 911 and a police officer and EMT's had responded. Ali asked her to give the phone to an EMT and after speaking with him, she knew that the prognosis wasn't good. Ali then called me. In the middle of teaching a class I had to answer the phone to Ali saying I had to go, Shepard wasn't breathing. I ran to the truck and drove way too fast to the daycare providers home. When I arrived, they were wheeling out my son on a stretcher. They were still working on him, but told me that they had yet to get his heart going or him breathing on his own. As I rode in the van in front of the ambulance, I had to prepare myself for life without my son. When we arrived at the hospital, as they wheeled him past me into the E.R. I gave him a kiss on the forehead. He was cold. I met Ali in the E.R. As they were working on our son, the attending physician came over and told us that they would try another push of epinephrine and two more rounds of CPR and then they would have to call it. Surrounded by doctors and nurses with looks of pity, police officers, detectives, and DHS officials waiting to interview us, we had to say goodbye to our son, intubated on a stretcher.

Unbeknownst to us, our childcare provider had been in a educated by DHS for the swing violation (given on 3/26/15) where she was specifically counseled about safe sleep practices. On 3/27/15 DHS returned the next day due to the serious violation she was reminded the dangers of putting a child in a swing. It's documented in her public file that our childcare giver, on 3/27/15, specifically inquired about infants napping in their carseats. DHS told her no and that sleeping in the carseat was a dangerous practice and would increase the chances of SIDS. She was told this just 10 DAYS before she chose to put our child unbuckled in a carseat on the floor, swaddled, where he wiggled down until he lost his airway and suffocated to death. He was unable to alert anyone to the terrible trouble he was in because the door was closed and there was no monitor to catch his struggle. In addition, our childcare provider was distracted by her friend who had stopped by around lunchtime so she could drop off her two year old while she went and had lunch with some other moms. TWO HOURS had passed before she finally checked on Shepard and found him completely blue.

The childcare provider has never been charged with any crime. Shepard's case is still open and we are hopeful as a family that justice will find her in this world or the next. This was not an accident. She knew that a car seat was not safe for sleep and that two hours is too long to leave an infant behind a closed door.

Shepard's death does not have to be in vain. Unsafe sleep surfaces are a REAL danger. We are looking to focus the attention to safe sleep standards so they can protect Oklahoman's children from negligent decisions.

<https://www.facebook.com/shepardswatchOK>



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**Oklahoma County Medical Society Alliance  
2021 Kitchen Tour  
Sponsorship Information**

Company Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Pledge Amount \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make checks payable to OCMS Alliance  
Notate "2021 Kitchen Tour" on Memo*

***Return to:***

Natasha Neumann  
Kitchen Tour 2020 Chair  
15309 Fairview Farm Road  
Edmond, OK 73013

Thank you for your generous donation and for supporting the Oklahoma County Medical Society Alliance. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

*Natasha Neumann*

Natasha Neumann, Kitchen Tour Chair

[kitchentour@ocmsalliance.org](mailto:kitchentour@ocmsalliance.org)

(405) 625-7272



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# INVOICE

ITEM	AMOUNT
Kitchen Tour 2021 Sponsorship	\$
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>

The Oklahoma County Medical Society Alliance is member organization, per Section 501(c)6 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Federal Tax ID #73-1205746

**Please make your check payable to OCMSA with “2021 Kitchen Tour” designated in the memo line and mail to:**

Natasha Neumann  
Kitchen Tour 2021 Chair  
15309 Fairview Farm Rd.  
Edmond, OK 73013

Thank you for your generous donation and for supporting the Oklahoma County Medical Society Alliance. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

*Natasha Neumann*

*Suzanne Reynolds*

Natasha Neumann & Suzanne Reynolds  
Kitchen Tour Co-Chairs  
405-625-7272  
kitchentour@ocmsalliance.org