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Local Event Aims to Help Babies Survive and Thrive
Local Holiday Benefit Sale and Raffle to be held Saturday, December 12th, 2009.

Takoma Park, MD—December 2009. In an effort to increase awareness and raise funds to support the fight against Stillbirth, Allan's Trees (ATO) is sponsoring a fundraising event for greater DC Metro residents and their families. The ATO Holiday Art and Craft Sale and Raffle will take place at 1204 Prospect Street, Takoma Park MD, on Saturday, December 12th, 2009. All raffle proceeds and a portion of all sales will be donated to First Candle in support of Stillbirth Research and Prevention in honor of Allan Frederick Lerner.

The ATO Holiday Art and Craft Sale features seven local artists with a diversity of handmade items: Jewelry for adults and kids, baby toys, slings and nursing covers, chocolates, nature prints (Sligo Creek & more) and other holiday gifts and ornaments. Each artist has committed 20-100% of their proceeds to benefit stillbirth research and prevention. The ATO Holiday Raffle features gift certificates for massage or acupuncture, eco-friendly foods, middle-eastern cuisine, and gifts from Now and Then, a basket of pet toys and treats, and a basket of kid's toys. Raffle donations come from six Takoma Park businesses including: The Still Point, Now and Then, The Big Bad Woof, The Takoma Park Silver Spring Co-op, Fair Day's Play and Middle Eastern Cuisine/The Olive Tree Lounge. Tickets for the raffle are \$2 each or three for \$5 and can be purchased at the event or on the ATO website <<http://allanstrees.org/>>.

Heather Lerner, mother of Allan Frederick Lerner (stillborn at 40 weeks 5 days) says, "families who lose an infant to stillbirth experience an unspeakable grief. Given how common stillbirth is, it is an even greater tragedy that research on stillbirth prevention has not been pursued to a greater degree." Stillbirth, the death of an infant in-utero after 20 gestational weeks, is the leading cause of infant death in the U.S., claiming more than 26,000 babies each year. Since most stillbirths occur at or near full-term with no known cause or risk factor, research on causes and prevention is desperately needed.

Dedicated to the memory of Allan Frederick Lerner and all babies in the greater DC metro area who have died of stillbirth, the ATO Holiday Sale aims to provide funds to fill the gap in stillbirth research. Lifesaving information for parents and caregivers on reducing the risk of infant death will also be available.

