Community Awareness

Fundraising for a Cuddle Cot

All Age Groups and All Grade Levels

We had more than 50 Participants of all Age Groups

Stephanie Carrasco, Mallory Bearce, Marissa Beeson, Charlie Romero

Red River Tech- Practical Nursing, 50763, Post Secondary

Red River Technology Center, Duncan, OK
Mallory Bearce, Marissa Beeson, Charlie Romero, and Stephanie Carrasco, chose to raise awareness of our local hospital needing a cuddle cot. The day we chose to compete in the Community Awareness event, we immediately went to the Birth Center at Duncan Regional Hospital and asked if they liked the idea of fundraising for a cuddle cot, and the nurses loved the idea. Believe it or not, they said that a baby passes away quite often. Families who have stillborn babies only get so much time with their babies after birth due to the baby's body deteriorating. We discussed the idea of a cuddle cot with others from the community and had a few people explain to us that this was not a good idea for the family to hold on to the baby.

We spoke with two mothers that we are acquainted with and asked for their opinions on whether it would be beneficial or if it would do more mental harm to them. One of the mothers stated, "After my son passed away I know it was very heartbreaking for me that they literally put him in a type of refrigerator. So every time I asked to hold him they would give me his body and he was cold. I wish I would of had more time to grieve and hold my son." The other mother stated, "I'd think that would be absolutely amazing! I only had 15 minutes with my son. I was very badly injured so after just a couple hugs and kisses I was whisked off to surgery and didn't wake up for 2 days. If there was a way for my baby to be there after waking up from the anesthesia, that would be amazing!" The cuddle cot comes with a cooling blanket that keeps the baby's body from deteriorating, and it comes with a little bassinet that the baby can be placed in. It allows parents to stay with the baby longer than they could have if they did not have a cuddle cot. The cuddle cot allows families to hug the baby without having to feel the cold of their body. It also allows families to dress them and spend more time with them. It's designed to help the families grieve.

We advertised our event by making Facebook events, brochures, and flyers of the soccer tournament we were going to be hosting and, on a separate occasion, a beauty pageant. We had custom made medals for the soccer team that won and we bought crowns for all the little girls that won in every category. The Duncan Banner contacted us for an interview and the Chisholm Trail Shopper wrote an article about it as well. Participants of all ages wanted to be a part of this wonderful change in our community. We had approximately 25 participants in the soccer tournament and approximately 30 participants entered into the beauty pageant. We asked the DRH Health Foundation to help make ordering the cuddle cot possible. Our goal was to raise $3,000 to buy the cuddle cot and cover all the other requests the nurses wanted and we raised $3,674! Our goal was to raise the $3,000 by the end of March to order the cuddle cot by the beginning of April. However, we exceeded our goal February 16, the day of the beauty pageant, and were then able to order the cuddle cot by March 6. The cuddle cot was ordered and was received April 3 and we got to present it to the Birth Center on April 4. We were featured on the homepage of Duncan Regional Hospital and given recognition for our contribution to the community. Since making this project public, there has been stillborn babies born that did not get to use the cuddle cot but we are hoping that the next families get to have the chance to grieve and enjoy their baby for a longer period of time. We believe that with the advertising and community involvement we received from the fundraising events that we brought attention to how meaningful this cuddle cot may be to those families so that they may properly grieve in this manner, if they so desire.
References

The Flexmort Cuddle Cot gives grieving parents the GIFT OF TIME. (2013). Retrieved from flextmort.com
10am

Help us raise money to purchase Cuddle Cot for DMH!

$20 Entry fee per person

3rd with 2 goals (7 to a hand)

Half time & goal for kids

Be there at 10am with your team & money!
Games will begin at 10am
Fun & friendly games!
Medals will be given at the end.

FEB 2ND
2019

TODAY, FEB 2 AT 10:00
PLAYING FOR A CAUSE
DHS Practice Field · Duncan

57 going or interested including Megan, Adolfo and 24 others

Public event by Stephanie Carrasco

DHS Practice Field

Playing For A Cause
CHAMPION
2019
Everyone Deserves to be a Queen

SAT, FEB 16 AT 15:00 - 18:00
Everyone Deserves to be a Queen
Eternal Life Church • Marlow

Interested Going Share More

125 going or interested including Shania, Mallory and 8 others

Public event by Mallory Bearce and Stephanie Carrasco

The Flexmört CuddleCot

We are raising money to provide the Birth Center at Duncan Regional Hospital with a Flexmört CuddleCot. A CuddleCot helps parents who are suffering with a loss of a baby. The CuddleCot system cools the baby allowing the family to stay with their baby longer before being moved to the morgue. The CuddleCot cooling pad is placed in any basket, crib, or bed. It is connected by a specially insulated hose and is quietly cooled using the CuddleCot cooling unit.

If you would like additional information or to make a private donation please contact Mallory, Stephanie, Charlie, or Marissa (580) 786-8706 or scarrasco96@hotmail.com
RRTC students raise funds for 'Cuddle Cots'

By Linda Provost
The Duncan Banner

Sometimes what should be a happy day, full of love, can change into a day of great sorrow and pain for birthing parents. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Oklahoma had lost 281 babies due to stillbirths in 2018.

Two nursing students from Red River Technology Center (RRTC) are trying to help mothers grieve and process this traumatic event. Stephanie Carrasco and Mallory Bearce hope to involve the community with COTS Page A2.

Cots:

From Page A1

their HOSA — a skills and leadership organization for healthcare professional students — project of bringing two "cuddle cots" to Duncan Regional Hospital.

"A cuddle cot comes with a cooling blanket that stops the baby’s body from deteriorating, and it comes with a little bassinet that the baby can be placed in," the pair explained on a post. "It allows parents to stay with the baby longer than you could if you did not have one. It allows you to hug the baby without you having to feel the coldness of their body. It also allows you to dress them and spend time with them as if they were still here."

Pictured is a Cuddle Cot. Nursing students Stephanie Carrasco and Mallory Bearce are hoping to bring Cuddle Cots to Duncan Regional Hospital.

Carrasco said the pair got the idea from a teacher because they both are interested in working with babies after completing the RRTC program.

"There are two mothers that I personally know who had stillborns and I messaged them and asked them what do you guys think about this idea? Do you think it would be beneficial to other mothers or do you think it would psychologically affect them?" Carrasco said. "One of the mothers told me it broke her heart to see her baby being put into a refrigerator because they have to do that to keep their body from deteriorating. She said every time she wanted to hold him, they’d give him back but the baby’s body was so cold so it made her feel uncomfortable."

"Another mother had a tragic accident and she went into surgery and didn’t wake up for two days and her baby was gone by then. So she said she would have loved having something to keep the baby there longer."

According to Carrasco, the cuddle cot allows the baby to be there for at least five days.

The pair have a GoFundMe page and are also hosting two events to fundraise. The first is a five-on-five co-ed soccer round robin tournament. Sign in will begin at 9:30 a.m. Feb. 2 at the DRH practice field. There is a $20 entry fee per person - five-on-five with two subs so a total of seven to a team.

Later in the month, there is going to be a pageant "Queen for a Day." This event is 3 to 6 p.m. Feb. 16 at Eternal Life Church, 211 Legion Dr. in Marlow. The pageant is for girls from newborn to 18. The pageant will be broken up into age groups — 0 to 23 months, 2 to 4 years, 5 to 7 years and 8 years and up. There are three categories — beauty, outfit of choice and talent. Beauty is the only division required ($50). Outfit of choice ($20) and the talent ($20) categories are optional.

There is a raffle for $5 a ticket. Each child is welcome to sell tickets to cover their entry fee. There will also be a ticket selling contest. The girl that sells the most tickets will be given a crown. Tickets are available upon request.

The pageant cover fee is $5 at the door for adults, $3 for children 12 and under. Each child entered gets one free adult admission.

For more information on the events check out the Facebook events or call Carrasco at 580-786-8706.

To donate visit gofundme.com/a-cuddle-cot-for-stillborn-for-drh.
Everyone Deserves to be a Queen... pageant

Stephanie Carrasco and I (Mallory Pearce) are students from Red River Technology Center and we are going to HOSA to compete in a community awareness event.

HOSA-Future Health Professionals, formerly known as Health Occupations Students of America, is a national career and technical student organization endorsed by the U.S. Department of Education and the Health Science Technology Education Division of ACTE.

This Queen of Duncan pageant is a beautiful opportunity we have put together for girls from newborn to 18. We need to raise money for the project we have chosen to show at HOSA, a cuddle cot kit for Duncan Regional Hospital. Mothers who have stillborn baby's only get so much time with their precious babies after birth because the baby cools and begins to fade. The cuddle cot kit comes with a cooling blanket that slows this process and it comes with a little bassinet in which to place the baby. This special device allows parents to stay with their baby longer and have peace and closure. It's designed to help mothers grieve, help us raise money to make this goal possible. Family's deserve an opportunity to be with all their children. Help us create these amazing opportunities.

See 'Queen' on Page 2

Economy adds jobs

The economy added 304,000 jobs in January Friday, well above the 165,000 economists had estimated for the month, and the unemployment rate ticked up to 4 percent, up from 3.9 percent a year ago. The report comes despite a five-week shutdown of the federal government.

The Labor Department said earlier this week that workers who were furloughed or working without pay during the shutdown were included in the government's official tally of employed and unemployed workers. In Friday's jobs report, it said that the uptick in unemployment.

Temporary layoffs increased 175,000 as a result of the shutdown. But the number was lower than expected, suggesting that the shutdown had a smaller impact on the economy than many had feared. The government also said that the number of unemployed workers rose to 6.5 million.

"We're seeing a broad-based expansion of the economy," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics. "The economy is doing well, and it's doing well in a way that's broadly based across sectors."
Thank you to Stephanie Carrasco, Marissa Beeson, Mallory Bearce and Charlie Romero! Through their hardwork in hosting various fundraisers - a Cuddle Cot, printer and camera were donated to the Duncan Regional Hospital Birth Center!