



This past quarter has been exceptionally busy for the MOST office and volunteers. I have continued to reach out to current and former members in different states personally, and over the past few months had a chance to catch-up with many families in Kentucky. (If I missed you, give us a call or send us an email or letter. We would love to hear about your summer and what is new with your family.) Just as MOST has done in the past during national tragedies such as 9/11, Katrina, and the wild fires of California, we reached out to multiple birth families in Iowa during the recent flooding and were relieved to find many faired reasonably well, and that those who did lose their homes, were finding tremendous local support. We also have heard from several families this summer who are sadly in the process of losing their homes to foreclosure. If you have any resource suggestions, either within your state or nationally, that MOST could pass along to these families, please let us know.

Economic times are tough not only for families but for MOST as well. In the last 9 months, the amount of corporate support MOST has received decreased dramatically all while the needs of our families increased. Although MOST is not at risk of closing our doors at this time, some of the most important services and programs we offer will be cut in January 2009 if MOST is not able to secure approximately \$125,000 in grants and donations between now and then.

Possible cuts include, but are not limited to the following:

- One-on-one perinatal counseling via phone and email
- Personalized newborn scheduling support
- Infant massage instruction
- One-on-one lactation support for mothers with infants in the NICU and after discharge
- US hospital NICU tours, reviews and advocacy for multiple birth families
- MOST volunteer and parent focus groups throughout the US
- IEP and 504 plan development support for families of multiples with special needs
- Selective reduction decision counseling
- Personalized support for parents with multiples of all ages
- Advocacy through the media on behalf of multiple birth families
- The MOST Holiday Adopt a Family Program
- Year-round outreach services for families in need
- Reducing the number of *SUPERTWINS* magazine issues to 3 a year.
- Much of the work done with our daughter organization PremieCare

Sharing this news with you is very difficult, and I am saddened at the possibility of not being able to provide families these important services. MOST has offered these programs 100% free of charge when others have charged enormous fees because we appreciate how difficult it is for the average multiple birth family to make ends meet. We also know that many parents will put their own needs behind those of their children not recognizing how important support and education are for them to be the parent they wish to

be. MOST continued offering these services for free for almost 21 years because it was the only way to support ALL families and not just those with financial means.

In writing this column I find it strange not to have a funny story to tell or a humorous antidote to share. Even with all of the challenges, MOST has completed many wonderful new projects this quarter: many done 100% by our amazing volunteers. Every \$1 donated to MOST equates to \$3 worth of services provided to families because of the work done by these dedicated, outstanding volunteers!

Seeing so many families at our MOST Family Carnival this past spring (100% paid for through generous donations from sponsors) was heartwarming, and I hope you enjoy the beautiful photos shown in this issue, the huge collection of photos we now have online from the event, and the slide show video on the MOST website from that fun day. (Be sure to check out the wonderful new series of videos we now have thanks to a new volunteer on our technology team Heidi Thorstad). If you are on Facebook you can now find MOST there too!

As autumn approaches, we look forward to the changing color of the leaves. As much as we enjoy those beautiful changes by nature, we also grasp tightly to every glimpse of summer we can enjoy the warm days, beautiful flowers and most of all, the wonderful opportunities to be outdoors with our children traveling hither and yon finding exciting new adventures and opportunities. This issue of *SUPERTWINS* is filled to the brim with wonderful, touching stories from our families sharing their personal adventures to warm your hearts, make you smile, expand your knowledge, and maybe help you to appreciate just a little more how wonderful, unique and truly special your family is. MOST families are truly blessed to have found each other along the way so we can share our experiences with others who honestly know what it is like to walk in our shoes. We support each other in ways very few can understand. Thank you to each of our wonderful writers, members and volunteers who contributed to this issue of *SUPERTWINS*. Like all of our families, your efforts make a difference to MOST and all families of multiples every step of the way. We could not do any of what we do without YOU, and with your support, hopefully we can continue to provide quality services and personal support to many more families for years to come!

Maureen ♡



**Supporting
Multiple
Birth
Families**

...Every Step of the Way!