



My name is Esther Stanard, and I am honored to be the Founder of Miscarriage Matters, Incorporated. Like many worthy causes and charities, this organization was created from heartbreak. After 12 long years of fertility issues, I finally became pregnant with our twins, but sadly, that pregnancy ended in a double-miscarriage. While I mourned the loss of my twins, I was also disappointed that these same children (whose lives had been celebrated) were now not being recognized in their death. With no support group, or direction in which to turn for comfort, I took ownership of my own healing and sought to connect with others who had experienced my same loss. After extensively searching countless websites, and resources, I was unable to find the one-on-one connection that I needed. While I had a wonderful support system (husband, family, friends), it wasn't the same. I needed to connect with others who knew my pain. With "loss" being such a taboo subject, many didn't share their own experience, or didn't know what to say. It was at this point that I realized the enormous gap in society. Compassion, support, and understanding were the missing components within the Pregnancy Loss community as a whole. This need convinced me to use my tragedy, and turn it into a testimony. I was convinced that if I was feeling this way, there had to be others struggling as well.

With this new determination, on February 3, 2012 in a downtown Chicago condo, I became the Founder and CEO of Miscarriage Matters Incorporated. However, since our conception we have evolved into a 501(c)3 public charity based in the western suburbs of Chicago, Illinois. The initial desire to be an online resource guide has transformed into so much more. My dedication is to empower and ensure that no mother (or father) is left without the support that they deserve when dealing with the devastation of loss. In April 2013, our Women of Empowerment mentoring program began, and has taken over 1100 applications for help. In May 2013, our Live Chat Team was created to provide immediate assistance to those in need. In October 2013, Miscarriage Matters 2 Men was formed to support our forgotten fathers of loss. In December 2013 our MM Care packages increased partnerships with local hospitals, doctors' offices, women's clinics, organizations and churches, in an attempt to increase awareness and compassion. In January 2015, Miscarriage Matters en Espanol was established to help our Spanish speaking sisters of loss. Recently, in June 2015 Miscarriage Matters Radio was launched to encourage dialog and increase awareness around Pregnancy and Early Infant Loss.

We currently have over 60 volunteers that make up the Miscarriage Matters family and I constantly recognize and celebrate the teamwork and comradery that our organization has come to foster. I know that with God, all things are possible and that Miscarriage Matters is my calling and my purpose. This grass-roots organization is poised to become a global mission of hope and awareness. Ultimately, my philanthropic work has created a legacy for my unborn twins, and for me, this makes their lives matter. Why? Because Miscarriage Matters.