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[www.TheTearsFoundation.org](http://www.TheTearsFoundation.org)

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Dear Planning Board,

Our names are Kim Badessa and Darcie Champagne and we represent the New Hampshire Chapter of a national organization called The TEARS Foundation. The TEARS Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization - *Who seeks to compassionately lift the emotional and financial burden from newly bereaved parents in the state of New Hampshire by providing funds to assist with the costs they face in making final arrangements for their precious baby who has died.* In addition, we offer a pregnancy and infant loss support group that meets monthly at Elliot Hospital in nearby Manchester, NH.

We work directly with local hospitals and funeral homes to reach newly bereaved parents and to provide our service as it is needed. Since bringing TEARS to NH in 2017, our community has continued to grow with those families we serve directly and those who support our mission. We were recently recognized for this incredible community impact by the national office and have been presented with the opportunity to bring the "Angel of Hope" monument to New Hampshire. This monument is a symbol of hope and serves as a place for families to gather to remember and honor their baby who has passed away. New Hampshire families will have the opportunity to have their babies' names engraved on this special monument, which is sponsored by Dignity Memorial. This kind of community gathering place allows bereaved families to know that they are not alone- inspiring *Hope and Healing*. All upkeep and maintenance will be provided by Dignity, but we are in need of a location for installation. Currently, there are eight other monuments in the United States including Alaska, Arizona, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, Washington, Florida, and Georgia.

Traditionally, these monuments have been placed at Dignity Memorial grounds, but due to limitations unique to their New Hampshire locations, we have the opportunity to have this monument placed in the community where families and friends can gather and connect to their babies in a location that offers more hope.

We reach out to you today in hopes you would consider donating space to serve the community by bringing this monument that will mean so much to so many. We would be happy to discuss the size and specifications of the monument as well as any potential locations you have in mind. We know it would mean so much for the bereaved families of NH to have this important symbol of hope right here in the great Granite State.

Thank you for your consideration. As bereaved mothers ourselves, we can tell you that any support you can give will mean so much to our families struggling to find a new normal. When a child dies the world is turned upside down. One in four women will experience pregnancy or infant loss in their lifetime- we have a large community here in NH and know that this monument will serve a greater good.

Please consider being a part of this special offering as we remember and honor the children we can only hold in our hearts.

All our best,

Kim Badessa & Darcie Champagne  
*Co-Chapter Leaders and Rachel & Mathilda's Moms*  
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