

# Mother who lost daughter supports parents in need

BY SIMONE JOSEPH  
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Anastasia Favuzza remembers touching her baby girl, Alyssa Marie, before she died.

"She grabbed my fingers and there was so much strength and I thought, 'It is going to be OK,'" the Stouffville resident said, with tears in her eyes.

Sadly, it wasn't.

Alyssa stopped breathing for 14 seconds on the second day of her life.

She was revived and sent to the Hospital for Sick Children.

The baby had many seizures and no medication could suppress them. Eight days after being born, she was taken off of her breathing tubes.

Favuzza held her until she took her final breath.

Now, Favuzza is doing something to help prevent other parents from going through what she did. She is offering support for those parents who do lose an infant, as well.

Favuzza held the second annual Butterfly Project event Sunday at Moonflower's Magical Touch in downtown Stouffville to raise money for SickKids' neonatal intensive care unit.

At the Stouffville event, with the

slogan Shop for a Cause, she sold her jewelry creations alongside invited vendors selling art, baked goods and more. The event included a prize draw.

Little Alyssa Marie died Aug. 3, 2012. Seven months after losing her, Favuzza made a bracelet for herself in memory of Alyssa.

"I cannot explain the sense of hope, loss, grief, healing and warmth I felt when it was complete," Favuzza says in a write-up for the event.

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She went on to make bracelets for friends and family and found the process very therapeutic.

She decided to make them for bereaved parents in the neonatal intensive care unit at SickKids.

"Nothing comforts you when you lose a child," she said, but letting other parents know there are people

out there who have gone through the same tragedy made her feel she was doing something to help.

Favuzza's sister, Amy Zindros-DeFreitas, has seen the difference the jewelry-making and fundraising has made in her sister's life.

"She has gathered great strength from doing this," Zindros-DeFreitas said. "I have never seen her go at something so aggressively."

After the death of her baby, Favuzza learned that Alyssa had lost oxygen in utero, which caused damage to her brain and resulted in the stunting of her brain's development.

Favuzza's fundraising efforts have raised more than \$1,300, not including the weekend event.

Her goal is to raise \$15,000 and she wants to have a painting with her daughter's name on it permanently displayed at SickKids, but she has a wider purpose, too.

"I just want to raise awareness," she said, adding the fact some babies die is not often discussed.

"It can happen to anyone. In a million years, I never thought it would happen to me."

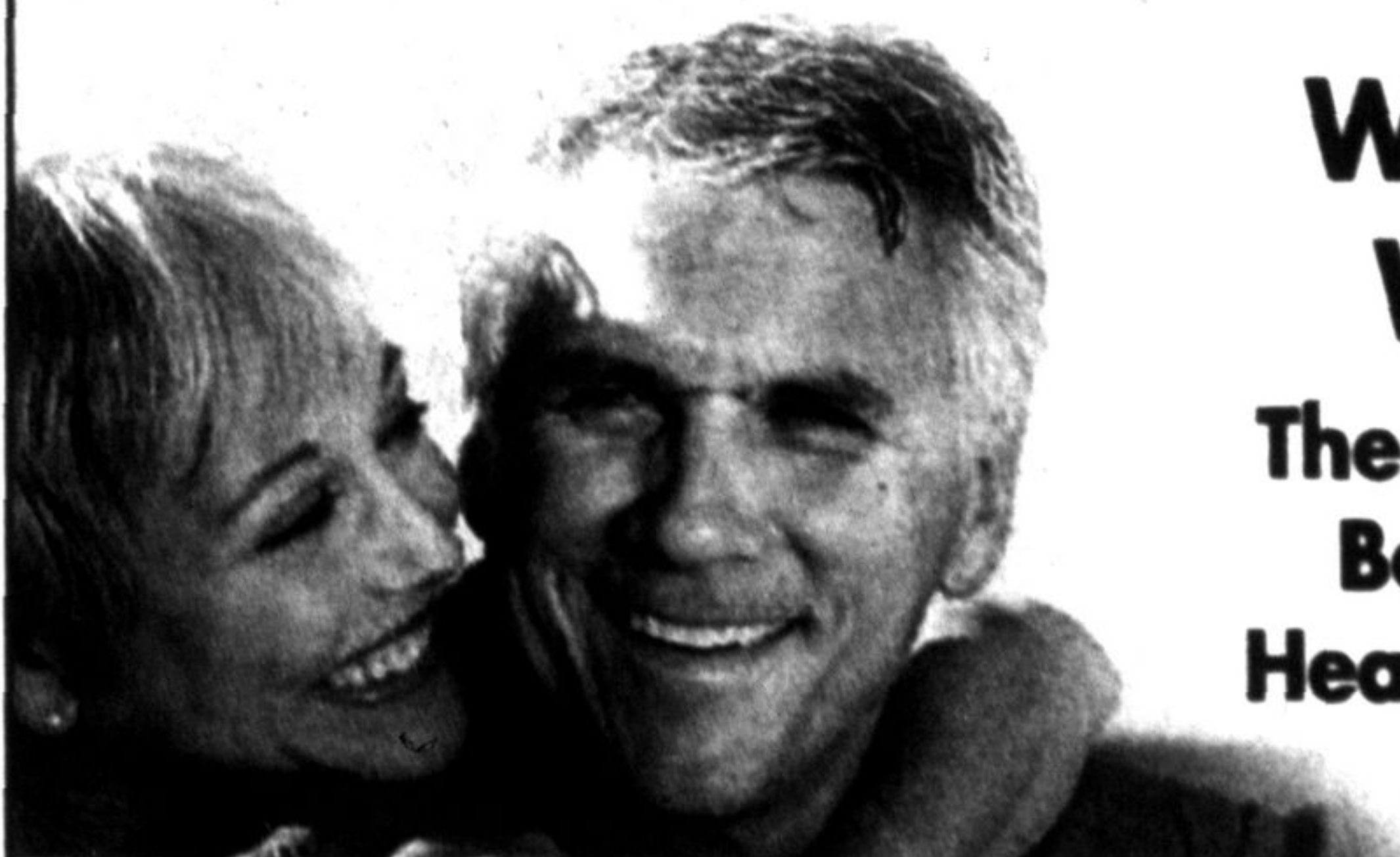
To contact Favuzza, visit facebook.com/jewellerydesignsbyanastasia, email jewel\_designs@hotmail.com or tweet @buttrflyproj.



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Anastasia Favuzza hosted the second annual Butterfly Project event Sunday at Moonflower's Magical Touch in downtown Stouffville to raise money for SickKids' neonatal intensive care unit.

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