

From a Mother's Heart... Jenelle Gilbert's Story

Gladys Martínez

As a parent you are not supposed to bury your child but that is exactly what happened to Jenelle and Wade Gilbert. They are grateful to the Angel Babies Program for helping them create precious memories.

The very exciting news of having a baby, her first baby, overwhelmed Jenelle's heart. At the same time, and, as a new mom, she held back announcing such wonderful news until the first trimester was over.

At around 18 weeks, Jenelle and Wade went to their 3D ultrasound appointment at Valley Children's Hospital. They were eager and enthusiastic as they were going to "see" their baby for the first time. As the technician did the ultrasound, everything seemed to be normal: the spine, the fingers, the legs until she got to the heart. Then the technician paused, and everything changed. Silence took over the room. There was something wrong. Over the following weeks the baby's prognosis worsened. Listening to the words "your baby will not make it" devastated Jenelle's heart and soul.



Jenelle and Wade were referred to the Hinds Angel Babies Program where they found great comfort and strength. At that time Hinds Hospice staff's guidance and support was crucial. Following the counselor's advice, Jenelle decided to create memories with their little unborn girl. They went to the zoo, concerts, and many other experiences that otherwise would not have happened. Around 28 weeks of gestation they planted a small Mexican fan palm tree in their yard, which they have seen grow into a big, beautiful, strong tree.



Jazmyn Breeze Gilbert was born December 11, 2002 at 11:45 pm, but never opened her eyes. Even though she is not here physically, she is loved and cherished by her family, her parents and two younger siblings, Madelyn (15) and Kyler (11). The Gilberts treasure a stuffed bear, given to them by Kathy Cromwell, Director of the Angel Babies Program. For the family that bear represents Jazmyn. It is a constant reminder of how important Jazmyn is to their family. They celebrate all her birthdays and include the bear in all their pictures that day.

After losing Jazmyn, the most difficult part of life for Jenelle was missing all the first important milestones and special days. Valentine's Day 2003 was the most difficult as it was Jenelle's due date.



But looking back, Jenelle says that "life after loss is a gift and a beautiful thing." It made her appreciate the simple everyday life family time like watching her two children play sports, hang out in the backyard and enjoying eating dinner together. For her, each day is a blessing carried by faith and the comfort of reuniting with her baby girl, Jazmyn, to tell her "I love you and have missed you".

"This is a club that no parent wants to be a part of, but when you find yourself in it, it is really comforting to know that the

Angel Babies Program and all the people that work there are Angels on Earth. They are amazing and caring," says Jenelle. "Grief is very individual. There is no right or wrong way to do it. Some moments are better than others. All you do is hold on to something that can get you through."

Jenelle looks to the future with a positive attitude, grateful for everything she has. She tries to live her motto; "Too Blessed to be Stressed."



For more information about Hinds Hospice's Center for Grief and Healing and the Angel Babies program, log on to www.hindshospice.org or call the Center for Grief and Healing at

(559) 248-8579.

Angel Babies



2490 West Shaw Avenue, Fresno CA, 93711
(559) 226-5683 www.hindshospice.org