

NEWBORN SCREENING NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENT LIST

Action News WTVQ 36 (Lexington, Kentucky, USA)

November 9, 2006

NBS Saves Lives in Kentucky

<http://www.wtvq.com/midatlantic/tvq/news.apx.-content-articles-TVQ-2006-11-09-0008.html>

IMPROVED NEWBORN SCREENING PROGRAM SAVING LIVES

By Chris Dietz

Laura Warth-Leach's son, Trenton was born in July of this year. He was diagnosed with Medium-chain acyl-CoA dehydrogenase deficiency, or MCADD, just four days after birth. Warth-Leach says Kentucky's New Newborn Screening Program saved her son's life, "to think that if it had been July 2005 they wouldn't have tested for it. And I would have just woke up one morning and Trenton would have been dead in his crib. They would have said it was SIDS and I would have lost him."

Kentucky's expanded Newborn Screening Program has been in effect since December 2005. In that time tens of thousands of babies have been born in the state and hundreds of previously undetected conditions have been found. Some of these diseases had previously caused infants to have serious health problems and even led to death.

Under the new state law, newborns are required to be tested in their first 48 hours of live. In hospitals blood is taken from babies heels and dropped onto a laboratory envelope. The sample is tested for 28 different disorders, including sickle cell disease and cystic fibrosis.



Save Babies Through Screening Foundation is a national nonprofit public charity run by volunteers. Its mission is to improve the lives of babies by working to prevent disabilities and early death resulting from disorders detectable through newborn screening. Without proper screening affected children will likely suffer mental retardation, physical disability or even death. Most affected children can lead normal, healthy lives when diagnosed and started on treatment early.

Save Babies Through Screening Foundation supports, assists and advocates screening for disorders that are detectable through filter paper newborn screening; are unlikely to be clinically diagnosed without screening; and cause mental retardation, physical disability and/or death in early childhood when left untreated.

Save Babies Through Screening Foundation
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