

DRAFT – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome (NCSBS) celebrates Shaken Baby Awareness Day in Kansas

The NCSBS' Executive Director is traveling to Topeka to participate in a festival sharing governor's proclamation of shaken baby awareness day in honor of Mireya Keck, victim of shaken baby syndrome who passed away in January

Topeka, Kansas – October 7, 2024 – Kansas Governor Laura Kelly proclaimed October 9, 2024 as Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Day in Kansas, and National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome (NCSBS) Executive Director Danielle Vazquez will be in Topeka to celebrate with the family of the young girl for whom the proclamation honors, Mireya Keck, who passed away this past January from the injuries she sustained when she was shaken at just seven (7) weeks old.

“It is an honor to be in Kansas to recognize Shaken Baby Syndrome Awareness Day at the Miracle Mireya Butterfly Family Festival,” says Vazquez. “We’ve had the pleasure of getting to know Mireya’s mother, Kathy, over the last few months learning about her drive to prevent shaken baby syndrome/abusive head trauma in Kansas and support families through the Miracle Mireya Foundation. We already have strong prevention partners in Kansas including the Kansas Children’s Service League and several hospitals and medical centers. Now with the Miracle Mireya Foundation getting started with Kathy’s direction, we are excited about the renewed focus on the safety of Kansas’ children. The steps taken now will benefit children well into the future.”

The free family festival is expected to draw hundreds to Gage Park in Topeka where they can find hours of entertainment from dozens of organizations and community groups who will be there to support the Miracle Mireya Foundation. Several area food and beverage trucks will also be at the festival to serve those attending.

While the festival serves to bring awareness to shaken baby syndrome (SBS) and honor Mireya’s life, why the butterfly theme?

“Mireya loved butterflies,” says Kathy Keck, Mireya’s mother and the founder of the Miracle Mireya Foundation. “Our daughter Josie was still born in 2013, and we started seeing butterflies everywhere. After Mireya entered our lives whenever a butterfly would appear, we’d tell her it was her sister watching over her. Also, Mireya’s life story is the perfect example of the life cycle of butterfly going from a caterpillar to a beautiful butterfly and her life emulates the concept of the butterfly effect.”

In the spirit of the event, festival attendees can expect to be offered a butterfly-themed item before they leave. “We’ve asked all the organizations who are participating to bring something butterfly-themed that they can share with those who attend the festival,” says Keck. “And the first one hundred children who arrive will get a free pair of butterfly wings.”

The festival will also include an auction with proceeds directly benefiting the foundation and their mission to prevent SBS, support families of children with disabilities and spread joy through acts of kindness. Donations to the foundation are encouraged, and attendees will have options to donate at the event. Donations can also be made on their website at stopshakenbaby.com.

“All the donations received at the festival will help us in our efforts to honor Mireya’s life through SBS prevention and helping families with disabilities,” says Keck. “We’re just getting started, and we have a lot of work to do. Shaken baby syndrome is devastating to babies and their families, but it’s absolutely preventable. Mireya was a miracle. She lived eight years after suffering what one neurologist said was one of the worst cases of shaken baby that had survived. We want to do our part to make sure no other families need a miracle to see their babies live for eight years.”

About the National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome

Founded in 2000, the National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome (NCSBS) is a non-profit 501(c)3 public charity with the following mission. “The National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome commits to prevent shaken baby syndrome/abusive head trauma and promote the well-being of infants through supporting and educating families, caregivers and professionals.”

The NCSBS works nationally and internationally with hospitals, public health, pediatricians, social workers, home visitors and other similarly aligned individuals and organizations to provide education and resources to families and professionals that will ultimately keep babies safe. The NCSBS is a leader in the development of shaken baby syndrome/abusive head trauma (SBS/AHT) prevention programs, training courses and public education campaigns. Each year, the National Center's resources and services reach over a million people worldwide.

For more information about the NCSBS, please visit www.dontshake.org.

About the Miracle Mireya Foundation

Founded in July 2024, Miracle Mireya Foundation is an organization with the mission “Miracle Mireya Foundation is dedicated to honoring Mireya's legacy by preventing Shaken Baby Syndrome, supporting families of children with disabilities, and spreading joy through acts of kindness. Through education, disability consultation, system navigation, and advocacy, we aim to create a positive impact and ensure every child's right to a safe and fulfilling life. Together, we can turn tragedy into triumph and raise awareness while spreading Mireya's radiant smile to the world.

For more information about Miracle Mireya Foundation, please visit www.stopshakenbaby.com.