

09 November 2012

Eddie Stobart star, Mark Dixon, Takes to the sky for Sands, the stillbirth and neonatal death charity

Eddie Stobart TV star, Mark Dixon, is taking to the skies in a tandem skydive on Saturday 17 November, to raise much needed funds for Sands, the stillbirth and neonatal death charity.

Mark, who lives in Selby, has an incredible 30,000 followers across both Twitter and Facebook, and is hoping his popularity on the Channel 5 TV show, Eddie Stobart: Trucks and Trailers, will encourage his legion of fans to donate to this vitally important charity.

Mark says, 'Very sadly my previous partner had suffered a stillbirth before I met her and until then I had no idea that 17 babies die every day in the UK – 11 are stillborn and six die shortly after birth. I was so shocked by these figures and that so many families don't get to bring home their much wanted babies from hospital; I was determined help raise funds.

'I'm very privileged that being part of Eddie Stobart: Trucks & Trailers means so many people take an interest in what I do, but if everyone just donated £1 to Sands, just think what an incredible sum could be raised to help Sands continue the great work they do supporting bereaved families, as well as help fund much needed research into why so many babies die every day.'

Mark will be taking to the skies at Langar Airfield, Nottingham on Saturday 17 November.

If you would like to donate, please visit www.doitforcharity.com/mdixon and to find out more about Sands please visit www.uk-sands.org

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If you would like to speak with Mark about his skydive, or to find out more about Sands, please contact Sands press officers, Lyn Peters on 0845 6520 442 or Lisa Wardle on 0845 652 0459

Sands, the stillbirth and neonatal death charity, was established by bereaved parents in 1978 and obtained charity status in 1981.

Sands core aims are to:

- Support anyone affected by the death of a baby;
- To work in partnership with health professionals to improve the quality of care and services offered to bereaved families; and
- To promote research and changes in practice that could help to reduce the loss of babies' lives

Sands is a national organisation, with over 100 regional support groups across the UK.

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