

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 11, 2019

Hagerstown, Md.

**Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness to hold Monarch Waystation
Ribbon-cutting and Butterfly Release event on August 17**

Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness of Washington County, Md. (PAILA), will host its **8th Annual Butterfly Release** and official **Ribbon-cutting** event at its newly created Monarch Waystation in Hagerstown on **Saturday, August 17 beginning at 10 a.m.** The Monarch Waystation, which is open to the public, is located beside the alley behind 1307 The Terrace, off of May Street. The entrance to the waystation is off May Street.

PAILA's Butterfly Release event is held each summer for families who have suffered the loss of a baby through miscarriage, stillbirth and infant loss. Everyone gets to release a live butterfly, which is the symbol of hope and transformation. Baby names are also read during the ceremony. This event is free, but registration is required. Please visit PAILA's website at www.paila-WCMD.com, click on "Events and Fundraisers" to complete the registration form.

Please park on The Terrace, May Street, or Woodland Way. Look for orange balloons at the entrance of the alley. For the safety of our participants, please do not drive down the alley. Please see PAILA website for a map. www.paila-WCMD.com.

The Monarch butterfly population has dropped by 90% over the last 20 years due to the development and widespread use of herbicides in croplands, pastures, and roadsides, according to the local Monarch Alliance. Last summer, the founder and executive director of PAILA, Hagerstown resident Brianne Tesla Bearese, began raising Monarch butterflies from eggs and tiny caterpillars in an effort to help save the Monarch butterfly population. By creating and maintaining the Monarch Waystation, Ms. Bearese is contributing to the Monarch conservation movement, an effort that will help ensure preservation of the species and the continuation of their spectacular migration phenomenon.

The Monarch Waystation also serves as a memorial garden for those who have suffered a pregnancy and/or infant loss. PAILA hosts annual events throughout the year for families who have experienced a pregnancy and/or infant loss. This affects many families, since 1 in 4 women experience a miscarriage, 1 in 100 women experience a stillbirth, and 1 in 1,000 babies die within the first year of life. The Monarch Waystation is a symbol of hope for families who have experienced a pregnancy and/or infant loss and will help transform the Monarch population.

**Located in Hagerstown, Md.
Open to the public: Dawn to dusk**



Contact for more information:

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