



Newborn Screening  
Saves Babies  
One Foot  
at a Time

# Thomas

THIS IS A PERSONAL STORY SHARED BY A FAMILY WHO LOST A CHILD TO  
UNDIAGNOSED MEDIUM CHAIN ACYL-COA DEHYDROGENASE  
DEFICIENCY (MCADD).

Our baby's MCADD story is very different than most MCADD stories. Thomas was comprehensively screened at birth, but the results just did not reach us in time.

Thomas Wood Shannon was born Tuesday, March 14, 2006 to James and Melanie Shannon. He was a beautiful full-term baby boy weighing 8 pounds 1 ounce and was 21 inches long. He nursed beautifully right after birth and was considered healthy after his post-delivery examination. That night Thomas's brother, Tucker, was so excited to hold him and finally get to be a "Big Brother" after many months of anticipation.



On the day of discharge, Thomas was circumcised and had the heel stick for newborn screening. We live in Mississippi, a state which has mandated comprehensive newborn screening. We left the hospital before noon on Thursday, March 16. Thomas was not nursing well when we left and many thought it was because he was tired and ill from the morning's circumcision.

As the afternoon progressed, we became very worried about Thomas's lack of eating during the day. As we searched for answers over the phone from different medical personnel, Thomas became lifeless and his body temperature dropped. We rushed Thomas to our family doctor where attempts were made to revive him. He was carried by ambulance to our local hospital where further attempts were made at resuscitation. Within an hour, doctors had informed us that Thomas was gone.

We received word from the pediatrician's office on Saturday, March 18 that Thomas's newborn screening results came back positive for MCADD. Doctors believe that the combination of breastfeeding and the fasting before the circumcision sent Thomas into crisis so quickly.

A memorial service and a private family graveside service were both held for Thomas on Sunday, March 19, 2006. It is still hard to believe that a family's life and future can change so drastically in one short week. We continue to educate ourselves and our extended families about MCADD. It is our hope that research and information will continue to progress so that parents do not have to face MCADD related deaths.

Written and submitted August 3, 2008 by James & Melanie Shannon:  
Parents of Lilly (MCADD), born November 27, 2007  
Thomas (MCADD 3/14/06-3/16/06)  
Tucker (Unaffected – 6 years old)