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Brief lives captured in lasting memories

May 29, 2006

WHITBY -- A local photographer is now offering her services to a non-profit organization that matches parents of terminally-ill infants with volunteer photographers.

Tara Sinclair Hingco, of Tara Sinclair Hingco Art and Design, offers the service through Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep, an American organization designed to help parents who lose babies in early infancy. She specializes in artistic maternity, baby and children's portraits.

She joined after reading about the service last year.

"It was something that I heard of through colleagues," she said. "It just really struck a chord with me. It's a great way for me to give something back, doing something I like doing.

"If there is something I can do to help a family deal with their grief and heal with their loss, I can't imagine not doing it," she said. "As a mom, I understand the importance of memories. I'm honoured to be able to offer this gift."

She'll take pictures of the infants for the families, providing a CD collection of images, select prints and a DVD of images set to music. Canadian musician Sarah McLachlan, with Nettwerk and Casablanca Music, have



Jason Liebrechts/Metroland Durham Region Media Group WHITBY -- Tara Sinclair Hingco is a local photographer who has volunteered her services with Now I Lay Me Down To Sleep, a non-profit organization which takes pictures of terminally-ill infants so parents have photos of them. May 24, 2006

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granted Ms. Sinclair Hingco permission to use select songs on the DVDs, she said. The service is free.

Today, more than 500 photographers around the world are affiliated with Now I Lay Me Down to Sleep, started by Americans Cheryl Haggard and Sandy Puc, after Ms. Haggard's son died six days after he was born. The photos of him taken by Ms. Puc offered her solace and led to the formation of the non-profit group. Parents of a dying baby may not think of having pictures of their infant taken but the photos provide a lasting memory.

Ms. Sinclair Hingco is working with local hospitals and birthing coaches to create awareness of the service and hopes other musicians will offer songs for the DVDs. She was planning her first photographs this past week.

To learn more, contact her at www.artanddesign or go to www.nowilaymedowntosleep.org.

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