



HAILEY'S HOPE FOUNDATION

SUPPORTING FAMILIES IN THE NICU

December 2017 Newsletter



IN THIS ISSUE

- Making A Difference.....2
- The Saracino's NICU Journey.....3
- Little Hands, Big Hearts.....4
- Annual Fundraisers.....5
- Community Events.....6
- Getting Involved.....7

THANK YOU!

Thousands of NICU families have felt the impact of your generosity and support throughout the years. Empowering parents and helping to improve the health outcomes of their NICU babies are just a few of the ways your help has made a difference. Thank you for ensuring that Hailey's Hope Foundation remains a strong resource for NICU parents and giving these tiniest patients a greater fighting chance to thrive during their fragile beginnings. We couldn't do this without you!

2018 will mark a very special milestone for Hailey's Hope Foundation—10 years of supporting NICU families. We are excited for the year ahead and hope you will join us in celebrating our #DecadeOfGiving.

Warmest regards and happy holidays!

Jeffrey Randazzo
President and Founder

(pictured above: Alessia Crover in the NICU)

GENEROUS JOE!



Joe Girardi and the winners of our Ultimate Yankees Fan Experience

HHF is incredibly grateful for the generous support of former Yankees Manager, Joe Girardi, over the years. We were honored to have him help spread awareness about HHF at one of his Yankees pre-game press conferences this spring (watch the video at www.haileyshopefoundation.org). We also greatly appreciate him treating the winners of our Ultimate Yankees Fan Experience to a memorable day at the ballpark. Thanks again Joe!

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

NICU Family Room Facelift at ORMC

Thanks to your support, the NICU Family Room at The Rowley Birthing Center at Orange Regional Medical Center is getting a new facelift. The NICU Family Room is a private space for parents to stay overnight and close to their babies. With a fresh coat of paint, new bed linens, wall art and some accessories, the room is already a more comfortable and peaceful place for parents to relax, refresh, and sleep just steps from their babies.



Because Of You...



An average of 50 NICU families per month received financial support this year to cover expenses, such as hotel lodging, hospital commuting, meals, hospital parking, baby supplies and emergency funding.



This year, NICU families received 1,000 care packages filled with baby supplies and early intervention information and personal care kits.



The NICU staff at The Rowley Birthing Center at Orange Regional Medical Center will receive new stethoscopes to help improve their care of the hospital's tiniest patients.

Enhancing Kangaroo Care at AMC

Ask any NICU parents and they will tell you that kangaroo care, holding your baby skin to skin on your chest, is one of the most precious bonding moments in the NICU. It is a significant part of NICU care and has tremendous benefits to the baby's health and development. Thanks to your support, HHF delivered 250 Kangaroo Zaks to the NICU staff at Albany Medical Center this year to enhance their Kangaroo Care Program. The Kangaroo Zak is an adjustable wrap for parents to wear in the NICU. It helps to ensure a safer and more effective bonding experience.



HHF's Debra Randazzo with AMC NICU nurses Kristen Sergott and Janet Lapitsky

"Through Hailey's Hope Foundation's thoughtful generosity, we are able to offer our tiniest patients and their families the wonderful Kangaroo Zaks that will help provide much needed comfort. They say it's the small acts of kindness that have the largest impact. Hailey's Hope Foundation is making that possible here at Albany Medical Center, and we are extremely grateful for their kindness," said Rob Saba, Director of Development Grateful Patients and Families at the Albany Medical Center Foundation.

World Prematurity Day



Approximately 500,000 babies are admitted to NICUs across the country each year, and nearly two-thirds of these admissions are due to complications from premature birth. In honor of World Prematurity Day on November 17th, HHF delivered special gifts, including a journal and lullaby CD, to NICU parents at Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital/NY Presbyterian and Maria Fareri Children's Hospital to celebrate their tiny miracles.

HHF's Debra Randazzo and Donna Zion with MSCH's Social Worker, Irene Sprung, Clinical Nurse Manager, Latina Jenkins, and Patient Care Director Svetlana Streltsova

"You are all amazing! My little princess was in the NICU at Albany Medical Center and I can't thank you enough for all that you did for me. It warms my heart to know that there are people like you in this world."
The Thorpe Family

THE SARACINO'S NICU JOURNEY



A NICU stay is an interesting journey. Whether for one or 200 days, it is a very devastating process. I always considered myself a pretty tough person. I decided to take this baby journey on my own doing IVF with a donor. I

am also a marathon swimmer. I swam from Catalina Island to LA, around Manhattan, and even the English Channel. I have also body slammed sharks! Tough, yes, but the NICU took me out straight at the knees!

My journey began so perfectly with no morning sickness, hormones in check and really loving every single second of being pregnant. On February 21, 2017, however, all that changed. I went in for my 24-week test and the next thing I knew, my OBGYN told me to go to the hospital immediately because it looked like I was in labor. Every single test I had was perfect up until this point. I was blindsided and rushed to the hospital crying the entire way.

Once admitted, I was told that I would not be leaving the hospital until I gave birth, and that we would try to get to 34 weeks. Protecting my son as best as I could and staying as positive as possible, I took a leave of absence from work and spent the next 30 days living at Westchester Medical Center. It felt like an eternity!

On Sunday, March 19th, the cramping started and they moved me to Labor and Delivery. By 5:30 a.m. the next morning, my water broke. Since my son was breeched, they had to do an emergency c-section. Thankfully my sister got to the delivery room in time. Everything happened so fast. Just two hours later, Marc Brian Kevin was born, 13 weeks early. He was 2 pounds, 8 ounces and 14 ¼ inches long.

Marc struggled from the start. He had to be resuscitated immediately. At that point, I knew things were not good. After a few minutes the NICU team stabilized him, they brought him over to me for a brief moment then whisked him away to the NICU.

Thirteen hours later, I was finally able to go into the NICU and see Marc. I couldn't process what I was seeing or the gravity of his condition. Marc was hooked up to a ventilator which was keeping him alive. He had lots of wires and tubes in him. In his isolette, I held his hand and his head but couldn't hold him.



“Alarms, machines, vents, tubes, wires, blue lights...none of these things were in the visions I had of what it would be like to have a baby. I was completely in the dark about this NICU world.”

The first few days were full of explanations-what each tube was, why the wires were important, what everything did...my brain was spinning, I was so overwhelmed. I asked every doctor I saw “will my baby make it?” Every answer was, “This is a long journey and today he is doing well but we can't tell you how he will do down the road.” At no point in my pregnancy did I ever think I was going to learn about things like apneas, bradys, pic lines, vents, weening processes, infections, meningitis and blood transfusions. Finally, on the 9th day I was able to hold Marc—that day I was able to find hope.

We spent 103 days in the NICU, and it has changed me forever! It is traumatic, boring, lonely, exhausting, humbling, frustrating, heartbreaking, and fulfilling all wrapped into one. Marc made a miraculous recovery. He continues to gain weight, grow and thrive. We are dealing with chronic lung disease and know there may be other challenges ahead. But for now, we are perfect.

There are few comforts in the NICU. The first is the love and support of family. We couldn't have made it through this ordeal without our family. My mother had the impossible job of picking up my broken pieces daily. The rest of my family gave us all forms of support throughout the 4-month hospital stay. I will never be able to thank them enough. The second is HHF. They were a lifeline! From their financial support and the visits from Donna Zion in the hospital, they knew exactly what was needed to help me in this time of need. HHF is more than just an organization that helps NICU families, it became part of our story, part of our family, and I am grateful for their support.



LITTLE HANDS, BIG HEARTS

Packing Gifts at Midland Elementary

Students at Midland Elementary School in Rye turned an ordinary afternoon extraordinary as they worked together to help NICU families in need. On May 17th, first, second, and fourth graders were hard at work packing gift bags for parents with babies hospitalized in the NICU at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital in Valhalla. They filled over 250 bags with baby supplies and created beautiful handmade cards for that special day when parents can take their babies home from the NICU.

We can't thank the students and teachers enough for all of their help.



Preschoolers Collect Nickels for NICU Families



Many thanks to all of the students at Helping Hands Christian Preschool in Goshen who collected nickels for HHF's *Nickels For NICU Babies*, a fundraising campaign that encourages children to help make a difference in the lives of others. Over 80 preschoolers raised nearly \$300 for the tiniest patients at The Rowley Birthing Center at Orange Regional Medical Center. "Hailey's Hope Foundation fills a great community need. This cause is near and dear to our hearts as many of our families have received their wonderful support" said Lori Soutar, the school's Director.

Why My \$20 Donation Matters

When parents care for a baby sick in the NICU, every gift matters. \$20 can have a big impact, alleviating their stress so they can focus on helping their baby get better. It can mean another visit with their baby because commuting expenses are covered or not having to leave the hospital and worry where their next meal will come from because of meal cards.

"Thank you Hailey's Hope Foundation for your generous donation of a monthly parking pass, gas and meal cards. It was greatly appreciated during our baby's stay in the NICU at Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital. It brought tears to my eyes when we were told that your organization assisted in this way."

The Williams Family

Please consider supporting a NICU family today. Visit www.haileyshopefoundation.org/donate to make a one-time donation or become a \$20 monthly donor.

ANNUAL FUNDRAISERS

With your support, HHF held three successful fundraising events this year, raising over \$280,000 to help strengthen our programs and initiatives that provide vital financial, emotional and informational support for NICU families. Many special thanks to all of our sponsors, supporters, guests and volunteers—we couldn't have done this without you!

Surf's Up Benefit

Over 150 guests gathered on the beach under the stars for cocktails, dinner and fabulous music by The Ray Greiche Band at HHF's Surf's Up Benefit at Manursing Island Club on June 9th. Guest speaker, Laura Burns, brought tears to many eyes as she shared her daughter, Erica's, emotional 7-1/2 month NICU journey and miraculous recovery from being born 9 weeks premature with a serious birth defect.



HHF Board with guest speaker, Laura Burns



Doreen Zion with Co-Chair, Staci Ramachandran



Sara Hess, Eileen Iorio and Judith Moloney



Albert and Aimee Fini

Beach Ball Benefit

HHF hosted its Beach Ball Benefit on September 9th at Otterkill Golf & Country Club in Campbell Hall. One of the evening's special highlights was when guest speakers, Kevin and Holly Mahoney, gave guests a glimpse into the real struggles facing NICU families as they shared their incredible NICU journey with their son, Kevin Jr. He was born at 25 weeks gestation, and today he is a happy, healthy and thriving 6-year-old NICU grad!

Top left: HHF Board with guest speakers, Kevin and Holly Mahoney; top right: Kelly and Christopher White, Jackie and Michael Hawkins; bottom left: David and Kristen Burgoyne, Susan and Donald Osgood; bottom right: Caylynn Crover, Alessia and family



6th Annual Golf Outing

It was a gorgeous day for golf at HHF's 6th Annual Golf Outing on Monday September 25th at the Golf Club of Purchase. Congratulations to the De Lage Landen Financial Services group (Nick Santoro, Bill Stephenson, Bob Hunter and HHF's Founder and President, Jeff Randazzo) for winning low net team, Andy Levine for low net individual, and all of our other contest winners.



Doug Jablonsky, Michael Rodriguez, Andrew Mathias and Brett Herschenfeld



Andrew Chung and Isaac Zion



HHF's Debra Randazzo and Ann and Marvin Siegel



HHF's Jeff Randazzo, Bill Stephenson, Bob Hunter and Nick Santoro

COMMUNITY EVENTS

NICU Graduate Reunion

HHF spent a fun-filled afternoon catching up with families at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital's 35th NICU Graduate Reunion party on September 13th. It was great to see the parents and the incredible progress their babies have made. The strength and resilience of these miracle babies is inspiring and nothing short of amazing.



The Darden Family



The Saracino Family and the Fusco Family



The Sivulich Family



The Perez Family



The Tedeschi Family



Lillian Gosselyn enjoying cake



HHF's Donna Zion and Ann Siegel with the White Family

HHF On The Run



Thank you to our friends, Greg Butryn, Shannon Loughran and Corey and Kimberly Case for raising awareness while running the AACR Half Marathon on Saturday, November 18th. "Hailey's Hope Foundation is a great organization and I know that many NICU parents and their babies benefit from the support they provide. We were proud to spread the word about HHF," said Greg Butryn.

Paint It Forward

HHF supporter and former NICU mom, Ariana Moretto, hosted a give back event at Wine & Design in Warwick. They created beautiful works of art and raised \$195 for NICU families. Thank you to everyone who participated and supported our cause.



"Hailey's Hope Foundation is a miracle! They helped us so much when my son was in the NICU for 70 days. I could never repay them for their generosity during our difficult time."

Amanda Leigh

GETTING INVOLVED

Our Mission

Hailey's Hope Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting families with premature and critically ill babies in New York-area NICUs. We provide practical financial, emotional and informational support to help parents cope during their NICU journey and to help improve the health outcomes of their babies.

Board of Directors

FOUNDER/PRESIDENT
Jeffrey Randazzo

VICE PRESIDENT
Donna Zion

TREASURER
Debra Randazzo

SECRETARY
Ann Siegel

MEMBERS
Isaac Zion, Marvin Siegel, Sue Decina

Hospitals With Our Programs

Maria Fareri Children's Hospital at Westchester Medical Center

Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital/NY Presbyterian at Columbia University

The Bernie & Millie Duker Children's Hospital at Albany Medical Center

Orange Regional Medical Center

Become An HHF Supporter



Collect nickels



Become a \$20 monthly donor



Help pack gift bags



In lieu of gifts for birthdays, weddings, and special occasions, donate to HHF



Host a lemonade stand or event in your community

Join us in helping to make a difference in the lives of NICU families. Contact us at (914) 584-8833 or info@haileyshopefoundation.org for more information on how to get involved.



Shop for everyone on your gift list during the year at smile.amazon.com/ch/26-1387176 and Amazon will donate a portion of the proceeds on eligible purchases to Hailey's Hope Foundation. Shop to support NICU families!



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SUPPORTING FAMILIES IN THE NICU

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Goshen, NY 10924

Upcoming 2018 Events

Mark your calendars and join us as we celebrate 10 years of helping NICU families. Check the calendar of events at www.haileyshopefoundation.org for updates.

June 9

Decade of Giving
Benefit

Manursing Island Club

Sept. 8

Decade of Giving
Benefit

Otterkill Golf Club

Oct. 1

7th Annual Golf
Outing

Golf Club of Purchase

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