



Newsletter

December 2010

In This Issue

- * Message From The President
- * HHF Sponsors Rooms At Ronald McDonald House
- * Welcome Home Discharge Bag Program Launched
- * Financial Support Program
- * NICU Stories
- * How Donations Were Spent
- * 2010 Fundraisers
- * Inaugural Hailey Zion Memorial Award
- * Girl Scouts Support HHF

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy holidays everyone. I hope that this newsletter finds you well. As another successful year comes to an end, we reflect on the many accomplishments Hailey's Hope Foundation has made and its impact on NICU families at the Regional Neonatal Center at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital in Valhalla, New York.



What a tremendous year it has been! In 2010, we launched our Welcome Home Discharge Bag Program, partnered with the Ronald McDonald House of the Greater Hudson Valley and received our largest donation to date. In addition to increasing the number of NICU families assisted through our Financial Support Program, we also increased the amount of support distributed to them.

Despite these tough economic times, Hailey's Hope Foundation continues to flourish. I am truly amazed at the generosity of our supporters who have helped us raise over \$115,000 to help fulfill the critical needs of NICU families. We could not have done all of this without you. Thank you for your support.

With the new year quickly approaching, our goals are to continue to search for more ways to help NICU families. We intend to expand our reach and implement our programs in more NICUs and plan to host our inaugural golf outing next fall.

Please visit our website at www.haileyshopefoundation.org or contact us directly if you are interested in getting more involved with our foundation.

Many blessings,

SAVE THE DATE!

Third Annual Fundraiser
April 30, 2011

Manursing Island Club
Rye, NY

Inaugural Golf Outing
Fall 2011

Annual Dinner Auction
Fall 2011

Goshen, NY

Details to follow on our website.



HHF Sponsors Rooms to Benefit NICU families
at the new Ronald McDonald House

Hailey's Hope Foundation is proud to sponsor two kitchens at the new Ronald McDonald House on-site at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital, due to open early 2011. The kitchens will help fulfill dire needs of NICU families by keeping them nourished and close to the hospital while they care for their critically ill babies, as well as providing a place to connect with other families facing similar challenges.

Our Mission: The mission of Hailey's Hope Foundation is to help families in need with premature and seriously ill babies hospitalized in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

Hailey's Hope Foundation Receives Its Largest Donation

In the true spirit of giving, Horncrest Foundation, Inc. recently blessed Hailey's Hope Foundation with an incredibly generous donation of \$25,000. Horncrest Foundation, Inc. is a private foundation which supports the underserved. Based upon the recommendation of Chief Neonatology Fellow Dr. Jonathan Blau at MFCH, who experiences first-hand how beneficial and necessary our work is, Horncrest Foundation, Inc. was proud to help us assist as many needy NICU families as possible through our Financial Support Program. We are extremely grateful for their support.

WELCOME HOME PROGRAM LAUNCHED

This fall, Hailey's Hope Foundation proudly launched its **Welcome Home Discharge Bag Program** to help families as they leave the NICU and transition home with their beautiful little miracles. At discharge, every NICU family receives our signature eco-friendly reusable tote containing baby-friendly items, such as a diaper bag, onesies, pacifiers, rattles, etc., as well as valuable information to help comfort them in caring for their babies at home. Students from Goshen Middle School showed their support by volunteering their time to help fill the bags for distribution. With over 700 premature and seriously ill babies treated in this NICU annually, there were numerous bags to fill. We truly appreciate their hard work.

If you would like to become involved with this program, please visit our website at **www.haileyshopefoundation.org** or contact us at (914) 584-8833.



Goshen Middle School students hard at work



Board member Ann Siegel, Attending Neonatologist Dr. Sergio Golombek, Vice-President Donna Zion, Assistant Nurse Manager Lydia Delau, and Board member Debra Randazzo



FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES IN NEED

When babies are hospitalized in the NICU for weeks or even months, medical as well as non-medical expenses accumulate quickly and pose significant economic hardships on families. Often, non-medical expenses are not covered by insurance companies, public agencies or community organizations, leaving many families largely unsupported. Our Financial Support Program (FSP) focuses on the dire financial needs of NICU families and the physical needs of their babies. We help these families pay for expenses, including hotel accommodations, transportation, meals, hospital parking, baby supplies, and other essentials during their babies' NICU stay. This support lightens the burdens these families face with frequent hospital visits and lengthy NICU stays. In addition, by enabling families to visit more frequently and for longer periods of time, we help fulfill the vital bonding needs of babies and increase their chances for survival and reaching critical developmental milestones. We are proud to report that Hailey's Hope Foundation helped over 250 families this year through our FSP.

Hailey's Hope Foundation Donates Wish List Items

This fall, members of Hailey's Hope Foundation presented to the NICU staff much needed supplies for NICU families:

- 1 new Canon Photo Printer and supplies for bereavement photos.
- 6 new hospital privacy screens to help provide a special space for families to feed and bond with their babies.
- 10 award-winning Wimmer-Ferguson Infant Stim mobiles designed to stimulate critical visual development and reaching activity in NICU babies.
- 36 receiving blankets and 20 newborn onesies.

TWO FAMILIES SHARE THEIR NICU STORIES

The Rivera Family



Valentina, Victoria and Vienna

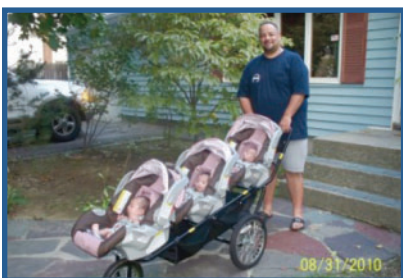
Angelo and Veronica Rivera were excited to hear the news that their family of four would be expanding to seven – Veronica was pregnant with triplet girls. They were ecstatic and started searching for a new home to accommodate their growing family. What they were not prepared for, however, was a premature delivery and a six-week stay in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

At Veronica's 33-week prenatal check-up on July 15, 2010, she and her husband learned that Veronica's blood pressure was elevated and the babies were already in delivery position. As a precaution, Veronica's doctor sent her to Labor and Delivery. Within an hour, their world turned upside down. Veronica's blood pressure was very high, she was dilated four centimeters and her contractions were five minutes apart...the girls were coming! Veronica was taken to the operating room for an emergency C-Section. In tears, her husband entered the operating room and saw about thirty staff members ready for the delivery, with three doctors and two nurses for each baby. That evening, Valentina (4lbs 11oz), Victoria (4lbs 8oz), and Vienna (3lbs 3oz) were welcomed into the world.

The triplets were quickly rushed to the NICU because of their prematurity, settled into an incubator and hooked up to medical equipment and IV's. "We were so sad to see the girls in their incubators, so fragile and helpless," said Veronica. "We couldn't hold them right away, only just touch their hands through the small circular openings in the incubator. This separation was devastating, and it was heartbreaking to come home empty-handed, without our daughters in our arms."

Juggling caring for their two other children at home, planning for their move to a new home, and visits to the hospital, the Riveras were exhausted and overwhelmed. The NICU was the girls' home for the next six weeks. The Riveras quickly learned about Hailey's Hope Foundation and the support they give to NICU families. They applied for financial support and were granted assistance with transportation and meals during that time. Veronica was able to travel by bus every day to the hospital for visits. Angelo was able to visit the girls every night after work, even until the early morning hours just to hold their hands. "It was important to us that the girls knew we were there and loved them," said Veronica. The meal passes enabled the Riveras to eat in the hospital, staying close to their babies. Three weeks into their babies' NICU stay, the doctors told Veronica and Angelo that Vienna would need open heart surgery due to her Atrial Septal Defect (also known as a severe double heart murmur). There were two holes in her heart that would not close naturally. Veronica broke out in tears. "Thank God for prayer, the support of family and friends, and the ability to stay strong for our baby girls," said Veronica.

After six long weeks, all three girls finally came home. While Vienna awaits her open-heart surgery, the girls are doing well...eating, sleeping, crying and smiling. "We would like to thank the doctors and nurses for their kind care, advice and guidance. We would also like to thank Hailey's Hope Foundation for their tremendous help. It was comforting that they knew what we were going through and were there for us. They made each day a bit easier," said the Riveras.





Mom, Camtu Duong, with baby Savannah

Baby Savannah

When I think back to my daughter Savannah's birth on January 6, 2010 and her two-month hospitalization in the NICU, it brings me to tears. At my 33-week ultrasound, my doctor shared news with me that no newly expecting mother wants to hear: my beautiful baby girl had fluid on her brain. I was devastated and shocked. Soon after hearing this news, my water broke and Savannah was born prematurely weighing only 3 pounds 13 ounces. With little opportunity to hold and bond with her after my delivery, she was rushed to the NICU. Because of her prematurity and the fluid on her brain, the doctors braced me for the possibility of complications that could affect her growth and cause blindness. Savannah also suffered from thyroid problems and problems with her left hip and feet. The battery of tests and examinations Savannah had to endure was heartbreaking to watch, knowing there was nothing I could do to ease her pain.

I didn't want to leave her side. I touched her and spoke to her, hoping that my presence and love would give her the strength to survive. I visited Savannah as much as I could, but it was difficult living 40 miles away from the hospital. At times, I even slept overnight in the hospital chair next to her isolette just to stay near her. I felt helpless, scared and alone.

As a single mom with little support, it was nice to hear that Hailey's Hope Foundation helped people like me. I came to realize I was not alone. They paid for hotel accommodations as well as transportation, meals and parking so I could visit Savannah more frequently. The doctors told me how important it was for Savannah's survival and development to hear my voice, to smell my scent and to hold and feed her. I needed and wanted to be there for her, and Hailey's Hope Foundation helped make that possible. What a blessing! They helped me get through Savannah's hospitalization, and for that I am forever grateful.



Savannah at 7 months old



LEMON – AID!

This summer, the Zion cousins (Amber, Kaitlyn, Leah, Alence, Jake & Kaden) had a lemonade stand in Rye, New York to raise money for Hailey's Hope Foundation. Thanks to the determination of the kids and the generosity of passers-by, the kids raised \$60.25 in two hours. Great job!



NBTY Helping Hands Charity Supports Hailey's Hope Foundation

NBTY is a world leading manufacturer and distributor of high quality vitamin and nutritional supplements. Recently, NBTY Helping Hands Charity recognized the efforts of Hailey's Hope Foundation in helping NICU families in crisis and donated \$5,000 to further our cause.

Memories of a Lifetime Camera Program

Thanks to the generous donations of disposable cameras by CVS stores, Walmart and our volunteers, we supply a new giftwrapped disposable camera to every family in the NICU during the holidays for family members and NICU staff to capture special baby moments. We welcome donations of disposable cameras throughout the year. If you would like to donate or know of any businesses that would be interested in participating, please contact us.

HOW DONATIONS WERE SPENT

Since its inception in December 2007, Hailey's Hope Foundation continues to thrive. All of our members are volunteers; we do not have any paid positions. We work diligently to keep expenses low so that as much money as possible can directly benefit NICU families. While we have made tremendous progress, there is much more to do.

EXPENSES

- Administrative Expenses (printing, mailings, supplies, phone, filing fees, website, database program, banking fees)
- Fundraising Expenses (invitations, mailings, donation banking fees, event costs & fees, etc.)
- Program Expenses (fees for gas cards, shipping, faxes, banking, support mailings, supplies)

2010 Donation Income \$115,000



2009 Donation Income \$49,000



2008 Donation Income \$9,500



2010 FUNDRAISERS

This year, Hailey's Hope Foundation hosted two very successful fundraisers in Westchester and Orange counties. Our Second Annual Cocktail & Dinner Reception was held on April 17, 2010 at Manursing Island Club in Rye, New York. Over 120 guests attended this event, honoring John and Brenda Fareri for their incredible philanthropy with the Maria Fareri Children's Hospital. The beautiful beach setting, great food, cocktails, and roasting marshmallows by the cozy beach bonfire set the stage for a fun and memorable night. The event was a huge success and raised over \$65,000 for our programs.

Two very special highlights of the evening were the presentation of the inaugural Hailey Zion Memorial Award for Community Spirit to John and Brenda Fareri and the touching NICU story shared by our guests, Billy and Melissa Albronda. Their son, Alex, was born critically ill and underwent numerous surgeries during his seven month stay in the NICU. The Albrondas overcame many challenges and praised Hailey's Hope Foundation for helping them get through their difficult time.

We are grateful to our sponsors, including Reckson, A Division of SL Green Realty Corp., Omtool Ltd. and InfoDynamics, Inc., our honorees, John and Brenda Fareri, our Auction & Raffle donors, our committee members and our devoted supporters who helped make this event tremendous.



The Albronda Family



Andrew and Michelle Levine with Gayle and John Regan



Michael Fareri, Stephanie Fareri Aldworth, Julie, Brenda and John Fareri

Left to right: Nina Ackerman, Lisa Keegan, Maria Bach, Michele Rivera, Alyson Walsh, Joan O'Meara, Aileen Lynch, Cynthia Barber and Aileen Burdick



Dr. & Mrs. Edmund La Gamma



James and Abby Ritman with Bill Mason of Greenwich Commercial Property

Moshe Siegel, Doreen Zion and Miriam Siegel



Guests enjoyed roasting marshmallows by the beach bonfire

2010 FUNDRAISERS (continued)



Dr. Modestus Lee & Lai Ming Yu



President Jeffrey Randazzo with Anthony Gianino and Luis Gonzalez



John Barnes (Senior Vice-President of Reckson, a Division of SL Green) and Terry Barnes



Board members hand out goody bags to guests

Inaugural Hailey Zion Memorial Award for Community Spirit

Hailey's Hope Foundation was proud to present the inaugural Hailey Zion Memorial Award for Community Spirit to Brenda and John Fareri for their extraordinary philanthropy with the Maria Fareri Children's Hospital. Their tireless efforts to establish this hospital in memory of their daughter and to garner support for its many important programs that help thousands of sick children and their families are truly inspirational. Their commitment to their community and their desire to share their time, talent and heart to help others are qualities that reflect the spirit of Hailey's Hope Foundation.



Seth and Lorie Ingber, Tina Aviles and Chad and Morgana Vazquez

On the picture perfect evening of September 25, 2010, we hosted our Second Annual Dinner Auction Fundraiser at Harness Racing Museum in Goshen. Sponsored by Delancey's Restaurant, guests enjoyed a beautiful historic setting, delicious food, drinks and great conversations while trying their luck at winning fantastic silent auction and raffle items. Special guest speaker and former NICU mom, Camtu Duong, shared her daughter's miraculous story and how Hailey's Hope Foundation helped get her through her long and difficult journey. Camtu's story touched the hearts of all of those in attendance. "It is so inspiring how Hailey's Hope Foundation helps NICU families. This event proves how passionate they are about addressing a need that often goes unsupported," said guest Meredith Char. The event was a great success, raising over \$11,000 to help NICU families.



Patricia and Bobby Hess, Norm Peters, Jennifer VanCott, Rondell Peters and Jon VanCott



Bill Youngman and Bobby Hess



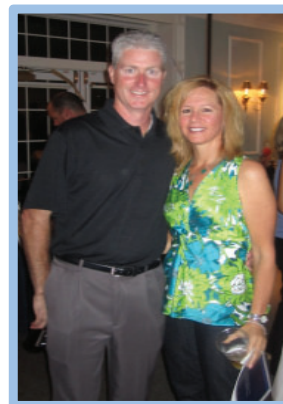
Rich and Christine Distasio, Tim Anderson, Mark Sutherland, Arlene Anderson and Pam Sutherland



Ally and Connie Bouchard



Christopher Ilchuk with Anneliese and Helmut Voellmann



Dr. Patrick and Melissa Kelly



GIRL SCOUTS DONATE TO HHF

Rye Girl Scout Troop 2820 was exploring ways to help their community this year. Scout Amber Zion (Hailey's cousin) told her troop about Hailey's Hope Foundation and how it helps families with very sick babies in a local hospital. On October 23, 2010 the troop held a successful tag sale and decided to donate a portion of the proceeds to help these families. Thank you very much girls for your hard work and generosity.

From left to right: Brooke Remsen, Sara Hios, Evi Alexopoulos, Amber Zion, Catherine Faries, Hannah Slater and Emma Schmitt. Not pictured: Isabel Theunissen



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