

Hailey's Hope raises \$20K for babies in intensive care

Goshen — Hailey's Hope Foundation raised more than \$20,000 to help families with babies in intensive care.

The funds raised at the Oct. 15 Viva Italia dinner-auction held at Harness Racing Museum in Goshen will benefit the regional neonatal intensive care unit at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital in Westchester and other local hospitals, including the new Orange Regional Medical Center, when its neonatal unit opens in 2012. The fundraiser was sponsored by Delancey's Bar and Restaurant in Goshen.



Photo: Stacey Orzell Hailey's Hope Foundation president Jeffrey Randazzo, Orange County Executive Edward Diana, and board member and treasurer, Debra Randazzo. County Executive Edward Diana honored with Community Spirit Award

That evening, the Hailey Zion Memorial Award for Community Spirit was presented to Orange County Executive Edward Diana for his commitment to serving the needs of the community. His desire to share his time, talent and heart to help others are qualities that reflect the spirit of Hailey's Hope Foundation.

Guests Graig and Lauren McElroy of Chester shared the story of their daughter, Kenley, and the support Hailey's Hope gave their family. Kenley, was born prematurely at 24 weeks and spent more than four months in the neonatal intensive care unit.

"It was a very difficult time for our family, and we couldn't have gotten through it without the help from Hailey's Hope Foundation," said Graig McElroy.

The charity was established in memory of Hailey Zion, the niece of Jeff and Debra Randazzo of Goshen, who was born prematurely at 21 weeks and died shortly after birth. Its mission is to help families with premature and seriously ill babies in intensive care.

Since its inception in Dec. 2007, Hailey's Hope has raised more than \$350,000 and provided financial and emotional support to over 500 families.

"Having faced eight frightening NICU experiences, we know the challenges of having babies hospitalized in NICU," said Debra Randazzo, board member and treasurer. "It is an incredibly frightening, emotional and costly time, and we want these families to know that they are not alone in this difficult journey."

"We are very grateful for the outpouring of love and support shown to us," said Jeff Randazzo, president and founder. "The thoughtfulness of our community and the extent that people go to help others is truly amazing."