



June 2025

16 Days

QUARTER 2 UPDATE



Inside this issue:

**PILOT GRANT
UPDATES**

**UPCOMING
INITIATIVES**

A Spring Full of Growth

A NOTE FROM FOUNDERS BEN & JENNA LAWS

Spring always seems to arrive right when we need it most, bringing with it a sense of renewal, growth, and even a little clarity. Lately, we've been thinking a lot about time. Not just how we spend it, but what happens when we give it freely, intentionally, and without strings.

When we started 16 Days, we imagined that Benny's ripple would be wide but what we didn't see coming was just how deeply emotional this journey would be.

This spring, three incredible grantees received the gift of time. Time to dream, bond, create, and grieve. Their stories are proof that when you show up, beautiful things begin to grow.

These moments exist because you believe in presence. We're grateful beyond words to share this path with you.

With deep gratitude,
Ben & Jenna



Pilot Grant 3 -
Double the
Love



Pilot Grant 1 - 100 Days Old



Pilot Grant Updates

Minneapolis Children's Hospital - Pilot Grant 1

Over 350 hours of time were gifted to a mom and her micro-preemie during a 6-week grant. Born at just 1.45 pounds, this tiny warrior is now four months old and doing well at over 7 pounds! The baby receives 6+ hours of kangaroo care almost every day, which is a vital factor in his development. Thanks to the grant, mom has been by her baby's side for more than 16 hours a day, learning hands-on care and growing in confidence. Discharge is anticipated for late August!

Minneapolis Children's Hospital - Pilot Grant 2

This 1-week grant made a world of difference. Seventeen hours were gifted to a family who hadn't yet been able to visit their NICU baby due to caring for two little ones under 18 months, which includes one of the newborn NICU twins who was home on oxygen. The mom used this time to connect with her daughter, learn feeding techniques, discover her baby's personality, and read to her for the very first time.

St. Elizabeth Hospital, Appleton, WI - Pilot Grant 3

With three weeks down in a 6-week grant, 189 hours of parent time have already been gifted. Mom is now fully engaged, asking questions, advocating for her babies, and watching one of the twins make strides toward breathing without oxygen. The grant is set to conclude on July 13, 2025, and we can't wait to share more of this family's journey!

Pilot Grant 2 - Happy in Mom's Arms





Future Plans

Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) Partnership

We're excited to announce a growing partnership with the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Marshfield! The Executive Director reached out with a shared vision to support NICU parents. Together, we're launching a new pilot program aimed at easing the difficult transition of NICU parents who stayed at the RMHC and now face employment-driven pressures. The focus will be assisting with transportation and lost wages relief to ensure they can remain close during the moments that matter most. This is just the beginning of a powerful collaboration.

Website/Brand Reimagined: Coming Mid-2025

We're working behind the scenes on a bold new digital home for 16 Days. The reimagined website will elevate our storytelling, make giving even easier, and offer more ways to engage with our mission. A big shoutout to [The Maker AI](#) for their design leadership and heart-centered creativity. Stay tuned - we'll let you know when the new site is live!

Social Media Boost: Help Us Grow Our Reach

Are you following us yet? 16 Days is expanding our digital footprint to share real stories, amplify impact, and connect with even more NICU families and supporters. Our grantee stories will be featured across platforms once families are ready.



**"I THANK THE
PROGRAM FOR HELPING
US BOND. HONESTLY,
IT'S GIVEN US THAT
ONE-ON-ONE TIME
WE'VE BEEN WANTING,
AND WE DEFINITELY
APPRECIATE THAT."**

-16 DAYS GRANT RECIPIENT



The Story Behind 16 Days

When Ben and Jenna welcomed their son Benny into the world, their joy quickly turned to concern as he was born prematurely and required immediate care in the NICU. During this challenging time, they recognized the critical role of parental presence and bonding.

Witnessing many fragile newborns left alone without their parents' comforting touch deeply affected them. They learned that financial constraints often kept parents from being present, igniting their passion for change. They understood that the bonds formed in those early days are essential for both babies and their parents.

Reflecting on their own childhood experiences of comfort and connection, Ben and Jenna committed to advocating for other NICU families. Their mission is clear: to ensure that every parent has the opportunity to be with their newborn during these crucial moments, regardless of financial challenges.

Thanks to their dedication, 16 Days has established a support fund aimed at helping families facing financial hardships, ensuring that more babies like Benny receive the love and attention they need.

