



IMPROVING NICU OUTCOMES
by giving the gift of time.

Family Stories

REAL FAMILIES, REAL JOURNEYS, REAL IMPACT.



Together, we give the gift of time. ❤️

Frankie and Jaxx

A Mother's Presence Made Possible



At 22.5 weeks, twins Frankie and Jaxx were born far too soon and rushed to the NICU. Knowing they needed her, Angela turned to 16 Days for support so she could stay by their side.

She became their advocate, learning every aspect of their care. Her dedication helped Jaxx go home earlier than expected, while Frankie sadly passed away after an infection on the day Angela received her 16 Days grant.

Today, Jaxx is growing stronger at home, and Frankie's memory lives on. Angela's story reminds us that a parent's presence can make all the difference, and thanks to 16 Days donors, she was able to be there when her babies needed her most.

Rachel and Jada

Touch is Medicine



At Rachel was caring for one twin at home on oxygen and an 18 month old toddler while her other daughter remained in the NICU.

Unable to visit regularly, she received a 4 week 16 Days grant that covered transport and childcare.

With that support, Rachel spent uninterrupted time at her baby's bedside. Just one week later, nearly 75% earlier than expected, her daughter was discharged. Rachel was able to feed her, bond through skin to skin contact, and help her thrive.

Rachel's story shows that a parent's presence can change outcomes. Thanks to 16 Days donors, her daughter came home sooner, stronger, and ready to grow.

kim and Danny

Presence Changes Outcomes



Kim's twin sons were born at 28 weeks and admitted to the NICU. Without paid parental leave, she had to choose between working and being with her babies until a 4 week grant from 16 Days made it possible to stay by their side every day.

Her constant presence helped her twins thrive, and they were discharged 3.5 weeks later, nearly 13% earlier than expected.

Kazumi's story shows that a parent's presence can change outcomes. Thanks to 16 Days donors, her boys came home sooner and are now growing stronger every day.

Alayna and Austin

Presence Made Possible



Alayna's son was born at 32 weeks and admitted to the NICU, 3.5 hours from home. With no parental leave and other children to care for, she feared returning to work before he was ready.

A 6 week grant from 16 Days allowed Alayna to stay by her son's side every day, providing his care and constant support. He was discharged at 5.5 weeks, nearly 10% earlier than expected.

Alayna's story shows that a parent's presence can make all the difference. Thanks to 16 Days donors, her son came home sooner and is now thriving.

Angela K

Twins in the NICU



After giving birth to twin daughters, Angela travelled nearly 50 minutes to the NICU each day while her husband cared for their two young children at home. With support from a 16 Days grant, fuel costs were covered so she could stay close to her babies.

Her daily presence helped one twin come home 2.5 weeks early and the other 1.5 weeks early. Though they were discharged separately, both girls came home sooner than expected.

Angela shared, "Thank you! It's been nice working with an organization that understands where we're coming from. 16 Days was supportive and communicated often with words of encouragement."

Her story shows how removing barriers allows parents to be present when their babies need them most.

Aunesti

A Mother's Presence



Aunesti was raising three children as a single mom when her newborn daughter was admitted to the NICU. With support from a 16 Days grant, she was able to balance caring for her family while staying present for her baby.

Every day, she made time to visit the NICU, holding and comforting her daughter whenever she could. Her dedication helped her baby come home two weeks earlier than expected.

Aunesti's story shows that when parents are supported, babies thrive. Thanks to 16 Days donors, her family was able to be together sooner.

Randy

A Dad's Determination



Randy, a 19 year old new father, struggled to balance work with visiting his baby in the NICU because travel costs consumed his paycheck.

His partner, a high school student, stayed nearby and continued her studies with a laptop provided by 16 Days.

16 Days also covered Randy's transportation, allowing him to work while staying present for his partner and son during their NICU journey.

Randy shared, "Thank you guys so much for helping us through this difficult time. You really helped with financial stress during the months that our son was in the NICU."

Emily & Morgan

Creed's Journey Home



When Creed was born at 30 weeks, he faced serious heart and breathing challenges in the NICU. His parents, Emily and Morgan, both took unpaid time off to stay by his side despite the financial strain.

A 16 Days grant helped cover their expenses, allowing them to spend 10 to 16 hours a day with Creed. They believe their constant presence helped him come home sooner.

Emily shared, "This amazing organization shows love in action. You helped us be there, and I truly believe this expedited Creed's release from the NICU."

Toya and Roberts

Tyla's NICU Journey



Born at 33 weeks, Tyla faced serious medical challenges in the NICU. With all their leave already used before her birth, Toya and Roy returned to work while making long trips to be by her side.

A 16 Days grant helped cover travel costs, allowing Toya to keep visiting, holding, singing, reading, and learning how to care for Tyla. Despite the distance and financial strain, her presence never wavered.

Janiecea and Pierre

Pierre's Fight to Grow



Born at just 25 weeks, Pierre weighed only 1 lb 12 oz and faced a long stay in the NICU. Before his birth, Janiecea had already spent weeks in the hospital as a high risk patient before an emergency C section.

Once Pierre arrived, she balanced daily NICU visits with caring for her four children at home while waiting for disability payments and struggling to cover rent, food, and childcare.

Despite the challenges, Janiecea spent 5 to 8 hours a day with Pierre, seven days a week. She provided skin to skin care, feeding support, baths, and endless comfort as she watched him grow from 1 lb 12 oz to over 5 pounds.

A 16 Days grant eased the financial pressure, allowing Janiecea to focus on being present instead of worrying about bills and groceries. Her story shows how donor support gives parents the time their babies need to grow stronger.

Mira and Baby Nadia

Nadia's Journey



Nadia was born at 28 weeks and 3 days and mom, Mira, spent every day by her daughter's side, holding her.

Mira celebrated every milestone along the way, deciding to remain focused on the little wins and she even hosted a 40 day birthday party in the NICU with her husband and hospital staff.

Because Mira was the steady presence, advocating for her daughter, Nadia grew stronger than expected, being discharged after just 3 weeks, which meant she went home 3.5 weeks before her due date.

Austom

Remi's Journey of Hope



Born at 32 weeks and 6 days, Remi faced feeding challenges due to a cleft lip and oral dysphagia, relying on an NG tube for every feed. Just one month into her NICU stay, her parents, Auston and Caitlin, lost everything when their home burned down, including their family dog.

Suddenly without a home, transportation, or income, they still made being with Remi their top priority.

Living at the Ronald McDonald House, they walked to the NICU every day, learning how to care for Remi's medical needs, attending meetings with her surgeons, and providing hands on care, feedings, baths, and comfort. When Remi later needed surgery, they were by her side every step of the way.

With support from 16 Days, Auston and Caitlin were able to focus on their daughter's care instead of choosing between rebuilding their lives and being present. Their story is a powerful reminder that donor support keeps families together during life's hardest moments.

Lana and Ryan

Benjamin's Fight for Every Breath



When Lana and Ryan welcomed their twins, their son Benjamin weighed just 14 ounces and was transferred four hours away to a Level IV NICU. He faced multiple life threatening conditions, including pulmonary vein stenosis, pulmonary hypertension, BPD, chronic respiratory failure, and feeding challenges.

There were several moments when doctors were unsure he would survive.

While Lana stayed at Benjamin's bedside, Ryan cared for their two older children and kept their small business running. Every trip to the hospital meant lost income, making it difficult to balance their family's needs with being present for Benjamin.

A 16 Days grant helped replace lost wages so Ryan could make weekly trips to the NICU, spend precious time with his son, and support his family during the hardest season of their lives.

Today, both twins are finally home. Benjamin continues to receive specialized care and frequent heart procedures, but he keeps proving his strength every day.

Ruth and Bryan

Losim's Journey to Strength



Born at 29 weeks and weighing just 2 lbs 3 oz, Losim faced fetal growth restriction, respiratory distress, and a rare heart condition. While he fought to grow stronger in the NICU, Ruth and her husband John struggled with lost income and mounting bills during an already overwhelming time.

Ruth stayed with Losim every day, often around the clock, holding him skin to skin, reading, singing, and learning to feed him. She watched him grow from 2 lbs 3 oz to 6 lbs 4 oz, celebrating every milestone along the way.

A 16 Days grant eased the financial burden, allowing Ruth and John to focus on being present instead of worrying about bills. Their story is a reminder that when families are supported, parents can spend more time where they are needed most.

Jon & Shaylynn

Laura's NICU Journey



When Laura was born at 31 weeks weighing 3 lbs 13 oz, both she and her mother, Angela, faced serious medical complications. Laura was transferred to the NICU with prematurity and kidney failure, while Angela recovered from an acute kidney injury and multiple health issues of her own.

Angela left her three older children at home and moved into the Ronald McDonald House so she could be close to Laura. Although her income stopped after her disability claim was denied, she visited her daughter every day, providing feedings, hands on care, and constant comfort.

A 16 Days grant gave Angela the financial security to stay by Laura's side until she came home, allowing her to focus on her daughter instead of worrying about bills.

Lily and Patrick

Juliet's Tiny but Mighty Journey



Born at just 22 weeks and 2 days, Juliet weighed only 15.5 ounces. As a micro preemie, she faced an incredibly difficult start, including a life threatening event at 10.5 weeks when she had to be revived. Despite every challenge, Juliet continues to show remarkable strength.

Lily left work to stay close to Juliet, living at the Ronald McDonald House so she could be with her every day. She spends her time pumping, attending rounds, and holding Juliet whenever possible. She says the moments of skin to skin care are when "the world feels right."

Patrick works during the week, then drives 3.5 hours after his shift every Thursday to spend the weekend with his daughter. Week after week, he makes the long journey so he can be present for Juliet and learn how to care for her.

Juliet is expected to remain in the NICU for several more months, and every small milestone is celebrated. Her family's story is one of unwavering love, resilience, and showing up every single day

Jon & Shaylynn

Noah Jon's Journey Home



When Noah Jon was born at 34.5 weeks, he struggled with breathing, feeding, and jaundice, requiring care in a children's hospital 81 miles from home.

After experiencing the heartbreak of a stillbirth the year before, Jon and Shaylynn faced this NICU journey with both fear and hope.

Staying at the Ronald McDonald House, they spent 12 hours a day with Noah Jon, seven days a week.

Together they learned every part of his care, from diaper changes and feedings to skin to skin and bottle feeding, celebrating each small milestone along the way.

After days of uncertainty, Noah Jon grew stronger and was discharged sooner than expected. Their journey is a powerful reminder of the healing that comes from being present through every challenge.

Kenadie and Brandon

Juliet's Tiny but Mighty Journey



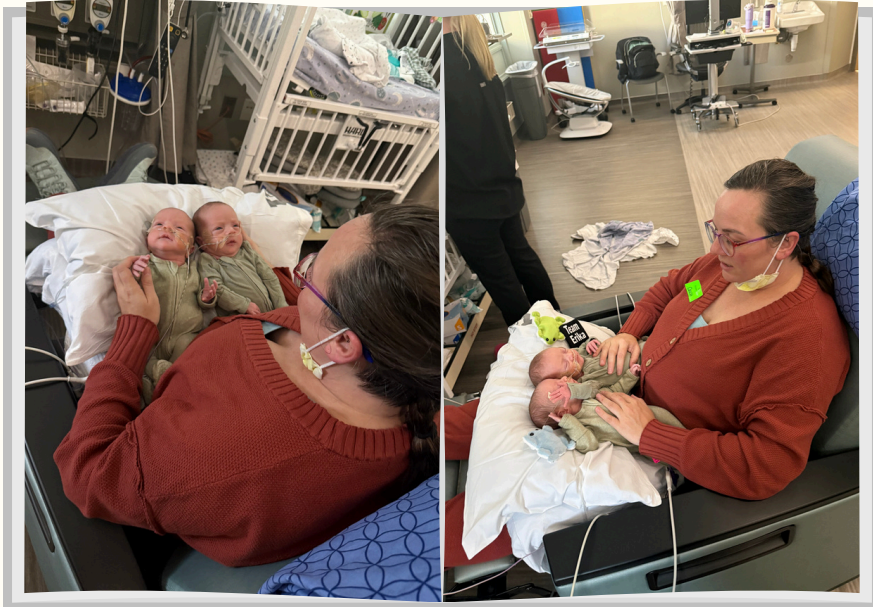
When Azalea was born at 39 weeks, her 20 year old parents, Brandon and Kenadie, learned she needed open heart surgery for a critical congenital heart defect. Suddenly, they found themselves navigating the NICU while recovering from childbirth, balancing limited income, and facing challenges far beyond their years.

They stayed by Azalea's side every day, talking to her, comforting her, and waiting for the moment they could finally hold her. As she grew stronger, Brandon was able to hold, kiss, and do skin to skin with his daughter for the first time.

Azalea recovered faster than expected and was able to go home much sooner than her medical team predicted. Her journey is a powerful story of resilience, hope, and two young parents whose unwavering presence helped carry their daughter through every step.

Caitlyn and James

Isaak's Milestone Journey



When Caitlyn and James learned they were expecting rare mono mono twins, they knew the pregnancy would require specialized care far from their home in Alaska. To give their boys the best chance, they relocated to Utah, where family support and a high risk hospital were available.

Born at 32 weeks and 1 day, Brooks and Ellis both needed NICU care for breathing, feeding, and temperature support. Caitlyn visited them every day, even staying at the Ronald McDonald House to take part in a feeding program, while James remained in Alaska caring for their two year old daughter and working until he could join them.

The nearly 2,500 mile distance made their journey incredibly difficult, but support for travel and lost wages allowed the family to reunite, learn the twins' care together, and prepare for life at home.

Brooks and Ellis were discharged earlier than expected, thanks to their parents' unwavering dedication and the support that made their presence possible. Their story is one of sacrifice, resilience, and a family's determination to stay together no matter the distance.

Erika and Carlos

Sara's Miracle Journey



Before Sara was born, Erika and Carlos were told it would be a miracle if she survived. Doctors had identified multiple serious conditions, including congenital heart defects, possible issues with her esophagus and trachea, and a high likelihood of Down syndrome. Against the odds, Sara arrived alive and was immediately admitted to the NICU.

Sara required IV nutrition and constant monitoring as her medical team worked to understand her complex medical needs. At home, Erika and Carlos balanced caring for their two young children while facing a significant loss of income. Erika woke before sunrise every day to drive 1.5 hours to the hospital, spending long days feeding, holding, bathing, and comforting her daughter. Carlos took unpaid leave to care for their older children and support his family.

As Sara's condition changed from week to week, her parents remained by her side, learning her care and celebrating every small victory. A 16 Days grant helped cover childcare and lost wages, allowing them to focus on what mattered most, being present for Sara during every step of her journey.

Their story is still unfolding, but Sara continues to fight with incredible strength, surrounded by parents who never stop showing up.

An and Kevin

Alex's Unexpected Beginning



When Alex was born at 38 weeks and 4 days, An and Kevin expected to bring home a healthy baby. Instead, she was diagnosed with multiple congenital conditions, including congenital heart disease, duodenal atresia, imperforate anus, PDA, VSD, and an infection requiring immediate treatment. She was admitted to the Level IV NICU, where her journey began with surgeries, procedures, and constant monitoring.

As first time parents, An and Kevin were overwhelmed. Both are educators, but their income disappeared almost overnight. Kevin took unpaid leave, while An discovered she was not eligible for paid leave and had to pay for costly COBRA insurance to keep Alex covered. Financial stress made it difficult to spend as much time in the NICU as they wanted.

Despite these challenges, they visited Alex every day, holding her, learning her care, asking questions, and staying involved in every step of her treatment. A 16 Days grant helped ease the financial burden, giving them more time to focus on being present for their daughter during her critical first weeks.

Their journey is just beginning, but An and Kevin continue to show up with hope, determination, and love as they fight for the best possible future for Alex.