

2023

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



About ICU baby



Mission

ICU baby unites NICU families and provides emotional, financial and informational support so that babies and families can thrive together.

Vision

To build a community of NICU families who empower each other to be confident and present in their own NICU journeys, leading to better outcomes.



History

ICU baby was founded in 2014 out of personal experiences and in direct response to the need for a greater framework of support for families with a baby admitted to the NICU. Our first program was launched on World Prematurity Day in 2015 at Baptist Health's South Miami Hospital and programs were launched at UM/Jackson Memorial Medical Center's Holtz Children's Hospital exactly one year later. Since then, ICU baby has continued to introduce critical and innovative programming to meet the needs of NICU families in our South Florida hospitals. This Fall 2023, ICU baby was proud to expand and bring programs to the NICUs of Nicklaus Children's Hospital, Mt. Sinai Medical Center and HCA Florida University Hospital.



Our Hospital Partners



Welcome

Dear ICU baby Friends and Family,

Thanks to your generous support, 2023 was a year marked by exciting growth and an even more united South Florida NICU community!

We walked into the year with big plans and walked out of 2023 with tremendous gratitude for all that we were able to accomplish to serve more NICU families.

We experienced **growth in our core programming**, touching the lives of even more families at Holtz Children's Hospital and South Miami Hospital. We increased the number of Meaningful Meals we hosted for families and brought back our ICU Read program so that babies spent less time alone and had the benefit of the auditory stimulation from a storybook being read to them. We also met more parents and siblings on the floor of the NICU during our bedside visits, offering them much-needed support and, at times, a hug. And, we increased the amount of financial support we gave to families who could otherwise not afford to be at their baby's NICU bedside with our Transportation Assistance Program.

We experienced growth by **expanding to three new hospitals** - Nicklaus Children's Hospital, Mt. Sinai Medical Center and HCA Florida University Hospital! Families with babies in these NICUs now have access to our NICU Empowerment Support Tools (NEST) Program, which provides critical information about the NICU and additional community resources to support their needs.

We experienced growth by **launching the ICU baby App!** Yes, finally ... "there's an app for that!" We are proud to share that now families have access to ICU baby at the palm of their hands, which includes our NICU videos, journaling capabilities, a guidebook and even a photo log.

We experienced growth by **adding a new meaningful and moving event** to our roster - the **Little Miracles Luncheon** - defined by the Runway of Hope fashion show. NICU grads and their mother or father proudly graced the runway, sharing their heroic NICU journey and celebrating how far they've come at this special luncheon.

And, all of this growth and the very meaningful, tiny, quiet moments with NICU families one-on-one could not have been done without your generous support, in the time you volunteered or the money you gifted to us. **All of our work for our NICU community is possible because of you, and we could not be more grateful.**

Please join us in reflecting on our efforts in 2023 and help us usher in another year of critical support for the tiniest members of our community and their special families.

With gratitude,



Elizabeth Simonton
Executive Director | Co-Founder



Nichole Aldrich
Director of Finance | Co-Founder



3 Pillars of NICU Family Support

- NICU Parent Mentor
- NICU Pack
- Foster Care Kits
- Bereavement Support
- Meaningful Meals
- ICU Read

Emotional Support

There for families in their greatest time of need.

- Transportation Assistance
- Burial Assistance

Financial Support

Easing life's additional challenges.

- My NICU Baby Book
- NEST Video Library
- NEST Guidebook
- Community Resources

Informational Support

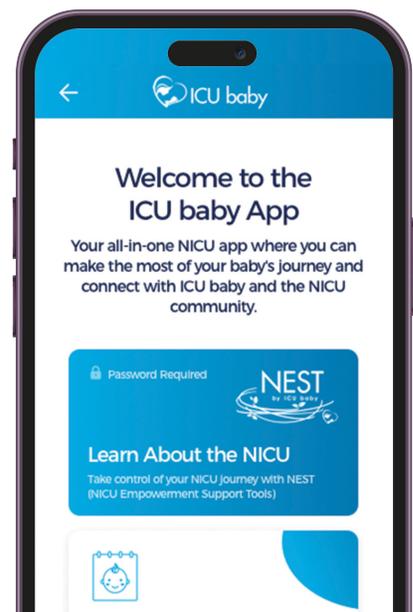
Sharing what we have learned.

Volunteer Initiatives

NICU Support At Your Fingertips

We have an app for that!

In 2023, we celebrated the launch of the ICU baby App, which brings families free and convenient 24/7 access to our informational support programming, including NEST by ICU baby. The app is available in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole as are all of our ICU baby programs.



Programs



Bereavement Support

A memorial gift and grief support from parent mentors who also had a baby die in the NICU. Financial assistance with funeral arrangements for families of low-income levels.



ICU Read

The ICU Read Program brings pre-screened ICU baby volunteers into the NICU to read to babies who are not visited often or may need extra stimulation and love. ICU baby Readers provide a comforting voice to sooth the babies as they rest.



Meaningful Meals

Cuisine and Crafts and Suppers of Support events provide a catered meal and connect fellow parents with a baby in the NICU for peer-to-peer support.



NEST - NICU Empowerment Support Tools

A guidebook and journal, video library and online resources to provide parents with access to information so they can better understand and experience the NICU.



NICU Pack

A tote bag filled with essential NICU items to help parents care for and bond with their baby alongside the healthcare team.



NICU Parent Mentor

One-on-one mentorship for NICU families from a veteran NICU parent. Support is offered bedside in the NICU and via tele-support.



Transportation Assistance

Monthly stipends to offset transportation costs for families whose visits to the NICU are limited because of financial hardship.



Volunteer Initiatives

Opportunities to support NICU families through mentorship, hosting meals, packing NICU packs, supporting events, offering professional services or serving as a Youth Ambassador.

Moments of Pride

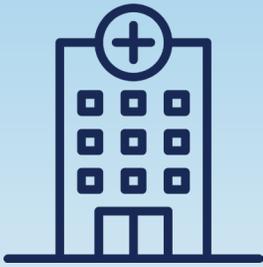
ICU baby App

Thanks to the Children's Trust Innovation Grant, NICU parents across South Florida now have easier access to ICU baby's informational support programming with our ICU baby App. This free and convenient resource includes NEST by ICU baby and helps parents make the most of their NICU experience when and where they need it most.



Key Impacts

Our Impact on Hospitals



5

Hospital Partners Included

8

Programs Sustained



Our Impact on Families

841

Babies Benefited

739

Families Supported



Support from Our Community

485

People Volunteered

508

People Donated



4

Fundraising Events Held



\$921,146

Total Support & Revenue Received

Hospital Expansion



 **Nicklaus Children's Hospital**
Where Your Child Matters Most



 **HCA Florida Healthcare**



Mount Sinai
MEDICAL CENTER

ICU baby is proud to have partnered with three additional hospitals this Fall to support families with a baby in their NICU. Now, ICU baby supports nearly 300 NICU beds, reaching more NICU families every day.

Expansion to the additional hospitals was made possible by funding from the Florida Department of Health, directed to ICU baby's NICU Empowerment Support Tool (NEST) materials. Specifically, ICU baby was able to print hundreds of copies of NEST's My NICU Baby Book - A Companion Journal and Guidebook - for South Florida NICU families so they would have the benefit of all of the resources our NEST program offers. The book connects with an online website and a library of videos that orient them to the NICU and provide much needed information to help them navigate their baby's NICU stay. The NEST is a tri-lingual program, with all materials produced in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole, making it accessible to the diverse body of families ICU baby serves. ICU baby hopes to continue a strong partnership with the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County to ensure that all families in South Florida have access to NEST and support while their baby is in the NICU.



ICU baby began programs in South Miami Hospital in 2015 and Holtz Children's Hospital in 2016. We are proud to have continued our commitment to support NICU families in these hospitals without interruption over the years and thank the hospitals for their partnership.

Emotional Support

NICU Parent Mentor

Our NICU Parent Mentor Program includes 19 mentors who have each experienced the difficulty of having a baby in the NICU. Now, they volunteer 2-5 hours, week-after-week, to ensure that families with a currently admitted baby have access to the emotional support they need at their baby's hospital bedside or over the phone. Mentors serve as active listeners and, when appropriate, connect parents to outside resources they may need to have a better NICU experience. Thanks to United Way Miami for being one of our several supporting partners for this program.

538 Families Received Emotional Support



505 Telephone Conversations

1,023 Bedside Visits

3,323 Text Messages

7,750 Minutes of Tele-Support

NICU Pack

Designed to provide parents with essential items they can use to help care for and bond with their baby. Items include:

- Information Package
- Personalized Message
- Tote Bag
- My NICU Baby Book
- NICU Milestone Cards
- Laundry Bag Set
- Baby Blanket
- CuddlePea Doll
- Story Book
- Breast Milk Cooler
- Baby K'tan
- Water Bottle
- Baby Wipes
- Hand Sanitizer



466

NICU Packs Distributed

Valued at **\$115+** Each

2023 Annual Impact Report | 13



ICU Read

Our ICU Read Program brings pre-screened ICU baby volunteers into the NICU to read to babies so that they spend less time alone and receive extra stimulation and love. Research shows that early reading leads to improved language development in babies and ICU baby Readers provide a comforting voice to sooth the babies as they rest.

Bereavement Support Program

Our Bereavement Support Program helps families who experience the death of their baby in the NICU. The grief support team includes volunteers who also experienced the death of a NICU baby and members of our Parent Mentor Program. Grieving parents have the opportunity to receive the support they need after their devastating loss.



38

Families Received Bereavement Support



“ A child dying in the NICU is an incredibly difficult and often traumatic experience. It impacts every aspect of the bereaved family’s lives. A child isn’t supposed to die and the parents are often left with suffocating grief. One of the biggest predictors of how the family copes is social support. Strong social and clinical support provides the invaluable gift of space and time to talk about their babies and bear witness to the grief in a safe and supportive process. ICU baby volunteers connect to families in their most difficult days, offering a gentle and compassionate place to grieve. Being present for grieving families reduces feelings of isolation and assists the families in navigating their painful emotions. ”

- Naomi Rosenkranz, MS MEd PMH-C

Meaningful Meals

Our Meaningful Meals Program offers families a catered meal and an opportunity for peer-to-peer support from other families with an admitted baby. We host Cuisine & Crafts during the lunch hour and Suppers of Support in the evenings. The bonds that form and the smiles that are had at ICU baby's Meaningful Meal events are a welcome respite from the stressors the families endure in the NICU.

The Junior League of Miami partnered with us this year to host our Supper of Support meals at Holtz Children's Hospital, further uniting the community with NICU families.

43
Events
Hosted

394
Families
Attended

670
People
United



“ Everything was great, the ladies are wonderful and have a big heart with a warm welcoming attitude. Greatly appreciated the lunch and crafts, and gifts for my baby and older daughter. Thank you. ”
- NICU Parent,
Cuisine & Crafts Meaningful Meal Program

Financial Support

300

Families Received
Transportation Assistance



Transportation Assistance

Our Transportation Assistance Program provides monthly financial stipends to families of low-income levels to offset expensive home-to-hospital travel costs. For parents who are financially insecure, the cost of transportation can be a barrier to them spending consistent time caring for their baby in the NICU. Thanks to Ocean Reef Community Foundation for being one of our several supporting partners for this program.

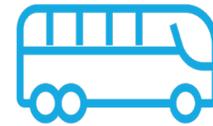


\$97,233 Awarded in TAP Stipends

Parents share how this support helped:

“ I get emotional thinking of how helpful it has been to receive the support from ICU baby. I have not worked for over 3 months so the financial burden increases daily. To have a free parking pass to come and go multiple times a day has allowed me to take care of not only my baby but also myself. Also, with the increasing prices of gas, my husband and I are truly grateful for the relief.

- NICU Mother,
TAP Family



38
Bus
Passes

Transportation
Stipends
Distributed

109
Uber
Rides

1,828
Gas
Vouchers

156
Parking
Passes

Burial Assistance

ICU baby distributed financial assistance to 17 families of low-income levels to help pay for the burial costs of their babies.

Informational Support

NEST

Our NICU Empowerment Support Tools (NEST) are a targeted effort to increase parents' NICU health literacy so they can more confidently and competently care for their baby in the hospital.

The NEST is a series of three information channels - a book, a video series and online resources - designed to be accessible to parents with diverse backgrounds and different NICU journeys. Like all of ICU baby's programs, all NEST resources are available in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole. Thanks to the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County for being one of our several supporting partners for this program.





Parents share how this support helped:

“ Very helpful resource and fantastic organization. Really helped my wife and I navigate the NICU with our newborn. Thank you for all that you do! ”

- NICU Father,
Engaged NEST Family

Research indicates that when parents are informed and involved in their baby's NICU care, better outcomes result and NICU experiences are improved for babies and parents alike.

Our NICU Empowerment Support Tools (NEST) include:

NEST Video Library

Get answers to your most pressing NICU questions with a series of 12, 5-minute informational videos, offered in all three languages.

Community Resources

Discover resources at your hospital and in the community for additional family support.



My NICU Baby Book

Preserve precious memories, celebrate milestones and track your baby's progress in your very own journal.

NEST Guidebook

Learn about the NICU, including common terms, communication strategies, and other helpful information.

Volunteer Initiatives

Our Volunteer Initiatives are the foundation of our ability to fulfill our mission throughout the year. ICU baby invites members of our community to come together to support NICU families in a way that is meaningful to them.

5,325 Volunteer Hours

485 Total Volunteers

2023 NATIONAL
Volunteer Week

APRIL 16-22





Meet Our Different Groups of Volunteers!

22 NICU Parent Mentors & 9 Bereavement Mentors

Our ICU baby Parent Mentors & Bereavement Mentors have had a NICU experience and volunteer for up to 5 hours weekly, offering psychosocial support in the NICU and telephonically.

230 Project Volunteers

Our project volunteers are groups from around the community who gather to prepare NICU Packs and gifts.

15 Professional Volunteers

Our professional volunteers include members of our leadership team helping with day-to-day operations and our Board of Directors guiding the strategic growth of the organization.

44 Event Volunteers

Our event volunteers ensure our Celebration of Miracles, Hope Parade and Little Miracles Luncheon run smoothly.

110 Youth Ambassadors

Our Youth Ambassadors are students in 7th-12th grade who have been NICU babies or NICU siblings or simply care about giving back, as they help facilitate a variety of ICU baby initiatives throughout the school year.

Pack-a-Pack Packing Events & Gift Prep

Volunteers Assembled **479 NICU Packs**, packaged **409 Breast Milk Coolers**, **280 NEST Bundles** and wrapped **927 Gifts** for our NICU families.

Fundraising Events

HOPE PARADE

A Walk in Support of NICU Families

ICU baby



879 Participants

100+ Volunteers

Watch This 1 Min. Video Of The Parade



Hope Parade

Hundreds of community members gathered once again at Zoo Miami for ICU baby's 3rd Annual Hope Parade and it was a morning to remember! This year, more than ever, NICU alumni who had been supported by ICU baby's programs returned to celebrate their NICU journeys. Families connected with their NICU grad's nurses and ICU baby mentors, reflecting on their NICU journey. Community members from schools and companies also joined in the morning festivities to show their support, participating in the Kid Zone, the Adventure Map Trail and the Why Wall. The Hallway of Hope remained a morning highlight as guests walked through a walk path lined with photos of babies in the hospital and now as NICU grads. Thanks to our generous sponsors, loyal supporters and loving families for making this morning such a huge success and for raising awareness about the NICU.



Thank You to Our 2023 Hope Parade Sponsors



Other Monetary Sponsorships



Raffle Sponsorships



In-Kind Sponsorships





Little Miracles Luncheon

ICU baby's Little Miracles Luncheon was everything it promised it would be and more – meaningful, moving and a beautiful reminder that NICU babies are little miracles. Chaired by preemie mom, Chelsea Mandler, guests were greeted by a champagne cocktail hour with a live pianist. After moving into the ballroom for a three course lunch, the essence of the event was brought into the spotlight as the stories of two brave families of preemies were shared. Then came the much anticipated Runway of Hope where 11 NICU grads graced our “runway” with their mother or father and pictures of them in the NICU displayed on screen. There was not a dry eye in the room, as guests were uplifted by their stories of challenge, triumph and unwavering courage and hope.

Thanks to our extraordinary sponsors Love Shack Fancy, Boy Meets Girl, Wish Fine Jewelry and Dry Bar for pampering our models and making them feel special. Their support of NICU families provides ICU baby with the opportunity to support NICU families.



Give
Miami
Day

Give Miami Day

With the generous support of 136 collective donors, we raised \$51,233 on our Give Miami Day platform and even more gifts came in from private donations made off-line.





Celebration of Miracles

Three hundred ICU baby supporters and sponsors came together for this year's Celebration of Miracles gala to support our community's NICU families. The fundraising event, presented by JP Morgan – Urquidi Wealth Management, was held at the Four Seasons in Brickell on April 28th. The Honorary Co-Chairs of the Celebration of Miracles gala were City of Miami Mayor Francis Suarez & his wife, ICU baby Board Member, Gloria Fonts Suarez and ICU baby Board Chairman, Drew Stoudt & his husband, Yosbel Ibarra.



This year we "Raised the Stakes" with a Roaring 20's Casino Night! Guests donned feathers & sequins as they mingled in style and enjoyed games like Roulette, BlackJack and Poker. They played for chances to win fabulous raffle prizes and experiences while raising funds for ICU baby!

Thank You to Our Monetary Sponsors

THE CAT'S MEOW

J.P.Morgan

THE URQUIDI FAMILY

THE BEE'S KNEES

DREW STOUTD & YOSBEL IBARRA

THE HIGH PILLOW



HAMILTON O'NEILL
FAMILY LAW ATTORNEYS

HOTSY TOTSY



THE HARTMAN FAMILY



THE RITZY ROGUE



BETSY SHERWOOD & JUSTIN GRAY



Nicklaus Children's Hospital



THE COTO GROUP



THE ICE



Thank You to Our Presenting Sponsor

J.P.Morgan

Financial Highlights

Assets

Cash	304,517
Accounts Receivable	105,936
Investments	107,086
Property & Equipment	8,536
Other	132
Total Assets	\$526,207

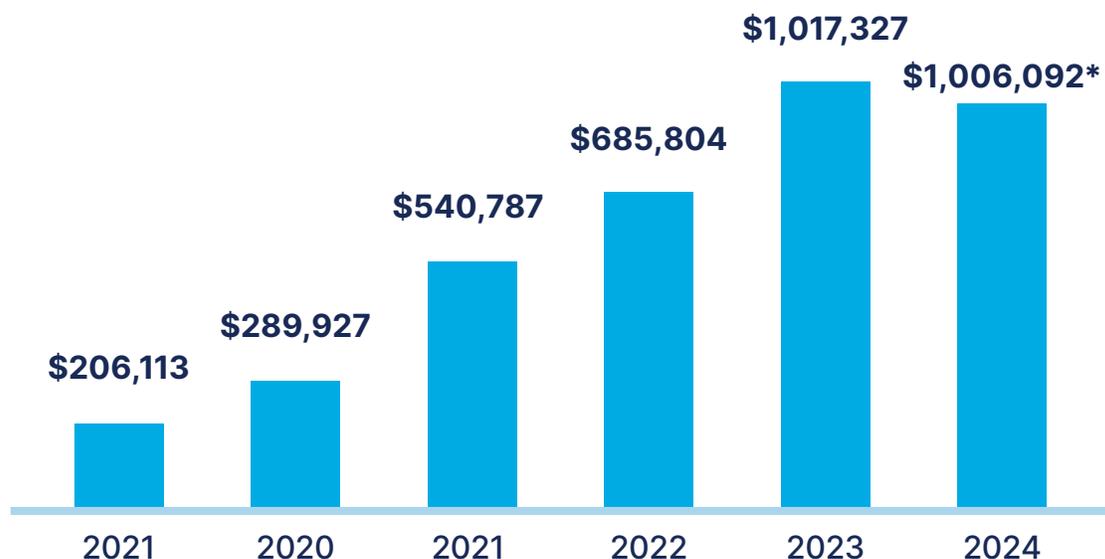
Liabilities

Accounts Payable & Other Current Liabilities	33,068
Total Liabilities	\$33,068

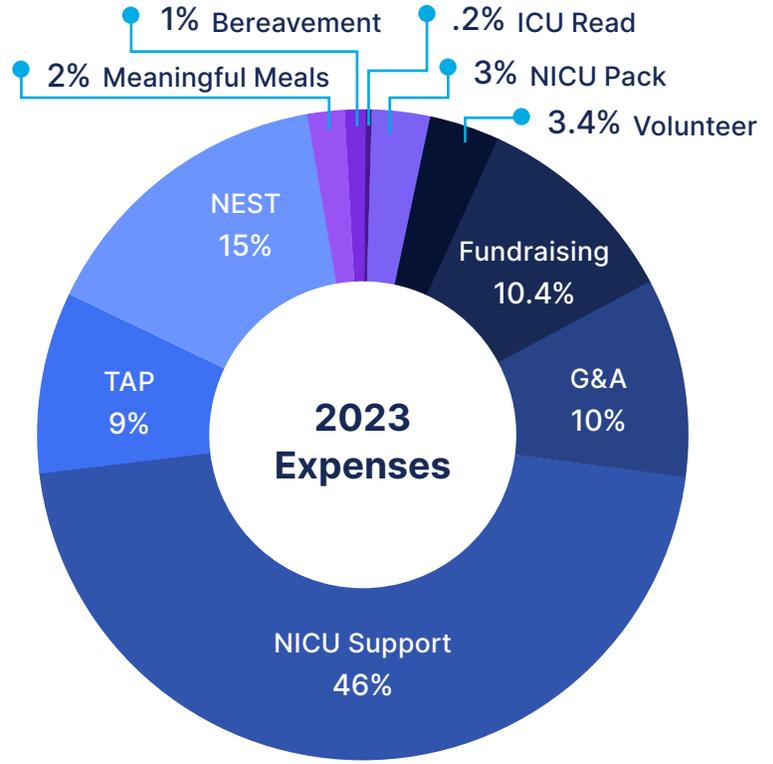
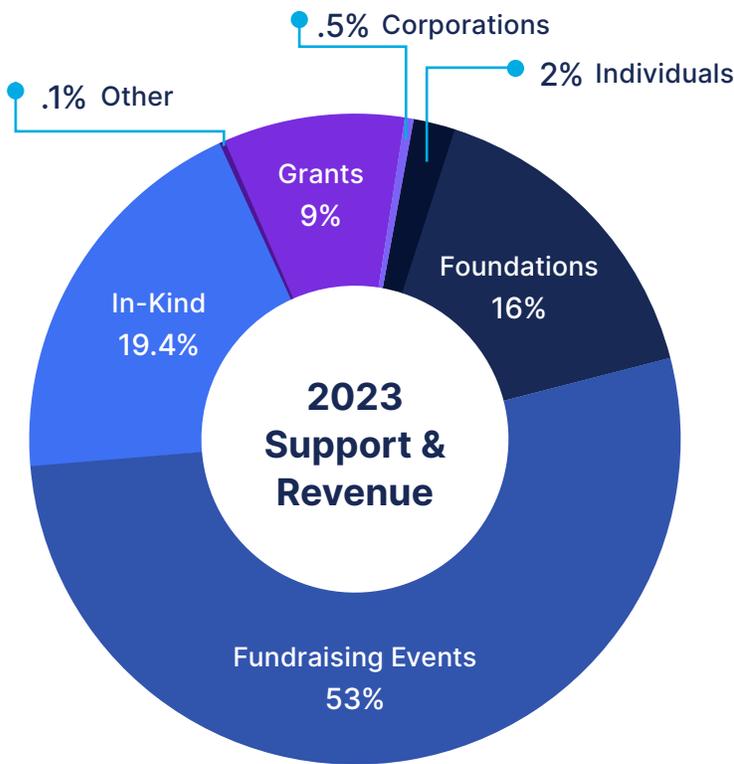
Net Assets

Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$493,139
	\$526,207

Total Expenses



*Budgeted



Support & Revenue

Individual Contributions	18,369
Corporate Contributions	4,607
Foundation Support	147,830
Government Grants	84,129
Fundraising Events	485,860
In-Kind Contributions	178,550
Other	1,801

Total Support & Revenue **\$921,146**

Expenses

Program Services	810,696
Management & General	100,717
Fundraising	105,914

Total Expenses **\$1,017,327**

Partners

Monetary Donors

Preemie Partners **\$5,000+**

Aldrich Family Charitable Foundation
Allegany Franciscan Ministries
Anthony & Polina Pompliano
City of Miami
Drew Stoudt & Yosbel Ibarra
Errin Siagel & Teresa Koster

Fernandez Pave the Way Foundation
Florida Blue Foundation
Florida Department of Health
John & Stacy Bolduc
Meredyth Anne Dasburg Foundation
Nathan & Chelsea Mandler

Ocean Reef Community Foundation
Peter & Anna Kolchinsky Foundation
Prolacta Bioscience Foundation
The Children's Trust
United Way Miami

Preemie Patrons **\$1,000-\$4,999**

Alberto & Ivanna Omechevarria
Alex Rodriguez
Bruce & Amy Baird Charitable Fund
Caleb & Alyce Aldrich
CarMax
Christoph & Sylvia Westphal
Coral Gables Community Foundation
Easton Family Foundation
Ed London & Claire Amerena London

Impact Deposits Corp.
J Bruce Ricciuti
Jonathan Hine
Justin Joy & Drew Kovacs
Keith & Nancy Stuart
Key Biscayne Community Foundation
Nathalia Ashworth
Pascale Van Kipnis
Rebecca Mandler

Robert Parks
Sarah Briggs
Sasaka Family Charitable Fund
Thomas McIntyre
Vytas Simas & Hope Aldrich
Wayne & Ana Ramoski
Westminster Christian Private School, Inc.
Zeenia Phillibert

Preemie Pals **\$500-\$999**

Alba Davalos
Alejandro & Meche Perez Duque
Alex & Maria Alonso Montague
Ayesha Daver
Bobby & Alyson Christoph
Charlotte Althin Hicks
Edward Perry
Elizabeth Dagues
Elizabeth Valdivieso
Eric Silver
Fernando & Emma Vila

Gables Pediatrics
Gaurav Malhotra
James & Julie Kittler
James & Rebeca Suarez
Joaquin & Maria del Carmen Jimenez
Jose Antonio & Consuelo Rodriguez
Lourdes Leon
Love Shack Fancy
Maria Valdivieso
Mary Billard
McKinsey & Company

Mike & Caryn Musaffi
Nicole Valls
Philip Teitelbaum
Prakash Mahtani
Rosa Lopez
Shahnaz Duara, M.D.
Susan Simonton
Wendy Allen
William & Peg Perry

In-Kind Donors

Preemie Partners

\$5,000+

- Cynthia Demos Communications
- Diageo
- Frida
- Greenberg Traurig
- KMBG Design
- Little Wings
- One Vision Resources
- Softbolt Inc.

Preemie Patrons

\$1,000-\$4,999

- Junior League of Miami
- McGlannan School
- Miami Diaper Bank
- MSC Cruises
- Prizma Photo
- United Way Miami

Preemie Pals

\$500-\$999

- Bobo's Oat Bites
- Publix
- Wawa
- The Stitching Groups:
- Miami Jewish Health Systems
- Miramar Memorial Hospital NICU
- Palace at Coral Gables
- Plymouth Congregational Church
- The Contemporary Miami



During our Fall sponsor appreciation event, six companies were honored for their partnership with ICU baby for three years or more.

Plaques awarded to:



2023 Team

Board of Directors

Drew Stoudt, M.D. | Chairman of the Board - Principal Partner, Gables Pediatrics

Nichole Aldrich | Co-Founder & Director of Finance, ICU baby

Ani Buraglia | Chief Executive Officer, The Fernandez Pave the Way Foundation

Shayna Dominguez, Ed.D. | Senior Director, Workplace Learning

Ana Glass | Director of Premium Client Services, The Miami HEAT

Nicolette Hartman | Partner, Daversa Partners

Prakash Mahtani | Director, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC)

Carolina Mazuera | Consultant, McKinsey & Company

Stephanie Rosado | Partner & Social Media Director, Cultivate PR

Elizabeth Simonton, J.D. | Co-Founder & Executive Director, ICU baby

Gloria Fonts Suarez | Owner, Cymbidium Events



Carolina Mazuera, Ana Glass, Nichole Aldrich, Drew Stoudt, Elizabeth Simonton, Shayna Dominguez, Prakash Mahtani

NICU Parent Mentors

Lisa Banegas
Celeste Bared
Karime Beckmann
Adriana Del Vecchio
Haviva Gelman
Katia Herminio
Valerie Hernandez
Charlotte Hicks
Leah Jayanetti
Karina Kalb
Jordana Klausner
Isabella Lundeberg
Jenna Luque

Marsha Petersen
Cristina Pravia
Adriane Rodriguez
Fabiana Rosamilia
Nicole Shay
Elizabeth Simonton
Barbara Vallenias
Pascale Van Kipnis
Tracey Watson-West

Bereavement Mentors

Nichole Aldrich
Renata Aurelius
Adriana Del Vecchio

Katia Herminio
Leah Jayanetti
Karina Kalb
Vanessa Martinez
Adriane Rodriguez
Naomi Rosenkranz

Meal Volunteers

Claudia Aponte
Karime Beckmann
Dahlia Dorman Thomas
Kelly Duvall
Carol Edmond
Haviva Gelman
Valerie Hernandez

Charlotte Hicks
Jalyme Hubbard
Karina Kalb
Maria Leon-Mills
Jenna Luque
Cristina Mora Bonafonte
Marsha Petersen
Adriana Puente
Adriane Rodriguez
Fabiana Rosamilia
Barbara Vallenias
Pascale Van Kipnis
Lia Yaffar-Pena



Gloria Fontes Suarez

Leadership Team

Co-Founder & Executive Director
Elizabeth Simonton, J.D.

Co-Founder & Director of Finance
Nichole Aldrich

Founding Board Member & Director of Programs & Education
Leah Jayanetti, DT, DPT, PMH-C

Director of Programs & Operations
Vanesa Salvo

Assistant Director of Communications & Events
Stacey Alpert

Director of Transportation Assistance Program
Karina Kalb

Director of Social Media
Valentina Rodriguez

Marketing Advisor
Valerie Hernandez

Bereavement Support Advisor
Naomi Rosenkranz, MS MSEd PMH-C



THANK YOU!



Join us at Our Fall 2024 Events!

Little Miracles Luncheon | September 27

Hope Parade | November 3

Give Miami Day | November 21

Please continue to support our
work by making a donation!



www.icubaby.org/donate

711 Crandon Blvd., PH1 | Key Biscayne, FL 33149
icubaby.org | 305-908-3823 | director@icubaby.org