

A Decade of Impact



Founded in 2014 out of personal experience, ICU baby was born from a passion to ensure that no NICU family would ever have to walk their journey alone. Over the past decade, while babies in South Florida have continued to receive world-class medical care, ICU baby has proudly stood beside their parents—helping them navigate the emotional, financial, and logistical challenges that come with the NICU experience.

From launching our very first program at South Miami Hospital on World Prematurity Day in 2015 to expanding to Holtz Children's Hospital just a year later, our reach has grown steadily and meaningfully. Ten years later, ICU baby has blossomed into a lifeline for NICU families, delivering programs that provide emotional comfort, financial relief, practical resources, and—perhaps most importantly—a sense of connection and hope.

Today, we celebrate the honor of serving over 1,000 families each year, while staying true to our heartfelt mission: to help one family at a time. Because when families do better, babies do better—and after 10 years, we are just getting started.





Mission

Uniting NICU families and providing them with financial, emotional and informational support so that families and babies can thrive together in the NICU.

Vision

Working to transform the NICU experience so that parents feel more empowered, babies feel more nurtured, families feel more connected, and communities offer more support.













We Care Transportation Program Hospital Partners

- Baptist Hospital of Miami
- · Halifax Health Medical Center
- HCA Florida Palms West Hospital
- HCA Florida University Hospital
- Holtz Children's Hospital
- Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital
- Mease Countryside Hospital
- Morton Plant Hospital
- Mount Sinai Medical Center
- Nicklaus Children's Hospital
- South Miami Hospital
- Wellington Regional Medical Center

Letter from our Executive Director

Dear ICU baby Friends and Family,

This year, ICU baby joyfully celebrates 10 years of compassion, impact, and hope for NICU families. Thanks to your unwavering support, a small idea has grown into a powerful community that has lifted thousands of NICU families when they need it most -- and we're just getting started!

Our year started with a challenge by the Florida Perinatal Quality Collaborative to rapidly expand our Transportation Assistance Program beyond South Florida, and we rose to the occasion! Today, ICU baby's transportation program is reaching families across the state, helping parents be at their baby's bedside.

This unprecedented challenge confirmed our belief: our model works, and the need for support from NICU families is undeniable.

Built on years of your investment ICU baby scaled with strength—reaching not just a few more families, but hundreds more. We have become a lifeline to NICU families in Florida, and the widespread impact has been deeply moving.

Importantly, this statewide growth did not come at the expense of our local commitment. In Miami, we continued to strengthen our core programs: increasing Meaningful Meals, reintroducing the beloved ICU Read program, and expanding bedside visits from our NICU Parent Mentor team—each moment filled with connection, compassion, and often, a comforting hug.

We also deepened our digital support. In partnership with NBCUniversal, our ICU baby App continued to evolve, offering families powerful tools like digital journaling, NICU education videos, a parent guidebook, and a photo log—all available when and where they need them most.

Our popular Youth Ambassador Program grew significantly this year, with nearly 130 students joining the mission. To support their efforts in service, advocacy, and offering hope to NICU families, we welcomed a dedicated leader to guide this inspiring group.

As our presence in NICUs has grown, so has our ICU baby community. We proudly hosted our second Little Miracles Luncheon, where NICU graduates and their parents walked the Runway of Hope, courageously sharing their journeys. More than 1,000 people marched in solidarity at our fourth annual Hope Parade at Zoo Miami. And we began our 10-year celebration

with our Celebration of Miracles Gala, honoring the families we've served and toasting the incredible supporters, like you, who made it all possible.

Because of you, our first 10 years have been extraordinary. And with you by our side, the next 10 will be even greater.

Elizabeth Simonton

Executive Director | Co-Founder

Nichole Aldrich
Director of Finance | Co-Founder

Renelralarier



3 Pillars of NICU Family Support

- NICU Parent Mentors
- NICU Packs
- Foster Care Kits
- Bereavement Support
- Meaningful Meals
- ICU Read
 - Emotional Support

There for families in their greatest time of need.

- Transportation
 Assistance
- BurialAssistance

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

ICU baby App

The ICU baby App is a free, trusted companion designed to help parents feel supported, informed, and confident throughout their NICU journey.



Programs



Bereavement Support

Provides grief support and a memorial gift. Includes burial financial assistance for families of low-income levels.



ICU Read

Brings trained ICU baby volunteers into the NICU to read to babies who are not being visited or need extra comfort, offering a soothing voice and loving presence.



Meaningful Meals

Provides catered meals through Cuisine & Crafts and Suppers of Support, connecting NICU parents for peer-to-peer support in the hospital.



NEST

NICU Empowerment Support Tools

Offers a guidebook, journal, video library, and online resources to help parents understand and navigate the NICU experience.



NICU Packs

Provides a tote bag filled with essential items that help parents care for their baby in the hospital.



NICU Parent Mentors

Connects NICU parents with one-on-one mentorship from veteran NICU parent volunteers, offered bedside or through virtual support.



Transportation Assistance

Provides monthly stipends to offset transportation costs, ensuring parents can be at their baby's bedside.



Volunteer Initiatives

Engages community members through opportunities to support NICU families via mentorship, meal hosting, NICU Pack assembly, event support, professional services, and youth involvement.

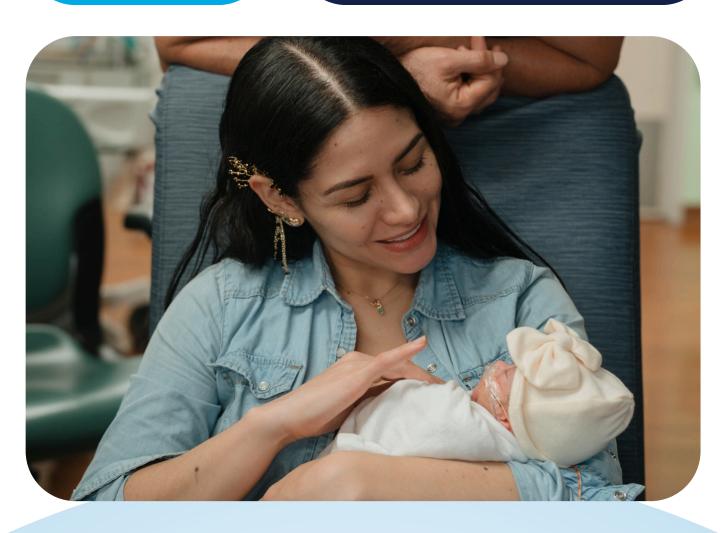
Moments of Pride

12

Hospital Partners Included

1,459 1,372

Babies Benefited Families Supported



Number of People Who Volunteered

511

Total Support & Revenue

\$1,285,141

A Statewide Movement - We Care Transportation Program

ICU baby was honored to partner with the Florida Perinatal Quality Collaborative (FPQC) to launch the We Care Transportation Assistance program, removing transportation barriers for NICU families statewide. The goal: distribute over \$500,000 in assistance within six months. Thanks to our decade of experience and donor support, we were grateful for the opportunity and rose to the occasion.

We swiftly onboarded hospitals across Florida while continuing local support. Our proven systems enabled us to scale efficiently, helping hundreds of families—from Miami to Tampa—be at their baby's bedside.

This wasn't just expansion—it showed the power of our mission, operational structure, and the community rallying behind us. It was a moment that affirmed ICU baby's core values: compassion, innovation, and keeping parents at their baby's bedside.



607 families supported in 4 months

Halifax Health Medical Center

Morton Plant Hospital

Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital Mease Countryside Hospital

Baptist Hospital of Miami Holtz Children's Hospital Mount Sinai Medical Center Nicklaus Children's Hospital South Miami Hospital

- Wellington Regional Medical Center
- HCA Florida Palms West Hospital
- HCA Florida University Hospital

Generously Funded by the

the Jennie K. Scaife Charitable Foundation care of FPQ



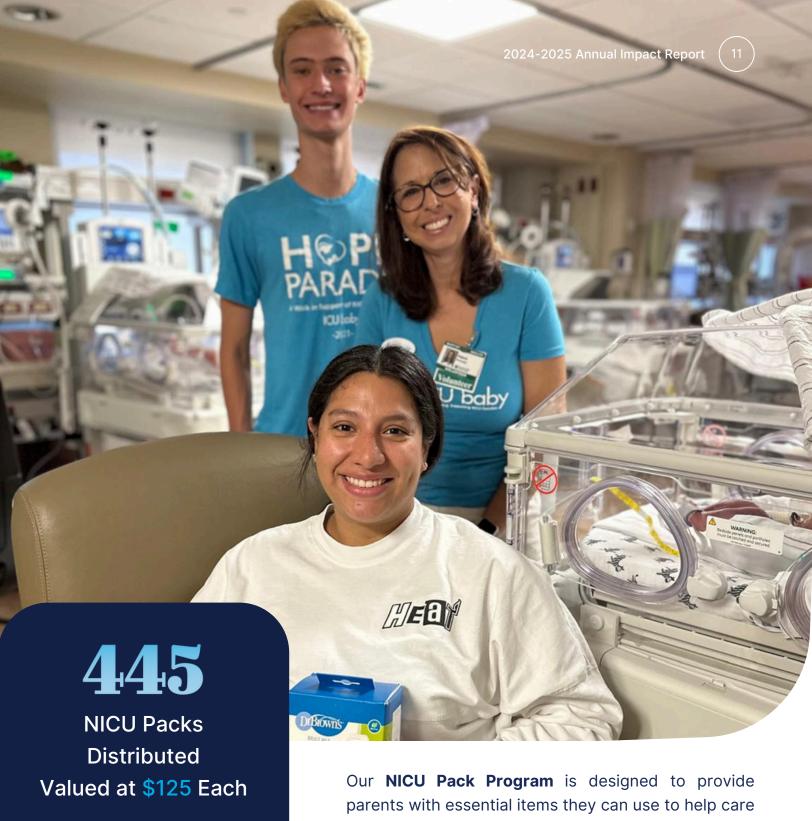


Our **NICU Parent Mentor Program** includes 24 trained volunteers who have personally experienced life in the NICU. Each week, they dedicate 2–5 hours to providing one-on-one support—at the bedside or by phone—to families currently navigating the NICU journey. Their shared experience allows them to offer deep empathy, connect families with helpful resources, and remind parents they are not alone.

582

Families Received Emotional Support 1,070

Bedside Visits by Parent Mentors



for and bond with their baby. Items include:

- Information Package
- Personalized Message
- Tote Bag
- My NICU Baby Book
- NICU Milestone Cards
- Baby Blanket

ICU baby

- Scent Bonding Doll
- Story Book
- Breast Milk Cooler
- Water Bottle
- Hand Sanitizer
- Laundry Bag Set

Emotional Support

Our Meaningful Meals Program offers NICU families a comforting, catered meal and the chance to connect with others who understand their journey. Cuisine & Crafts provides art therapy and peer support during lunchtime, while Suppers of Support are held in the evenings to be sure to include working parents. These shared moments remind families that—even in the hardest times—they are not alone.



Events Hosted

Families Attended People United



Our ICU Read Program brings screened volunteers into the NICU to read aloud to babies, offering comfort, connection, and early stimulation. Research shows that early reading supports language development—even in the NICU. These soothing moments help ensure babies spend less time alone and more time hearing a caring, nurturing voice.

238

Babies Read To 10,835

Minutes Spent Reading

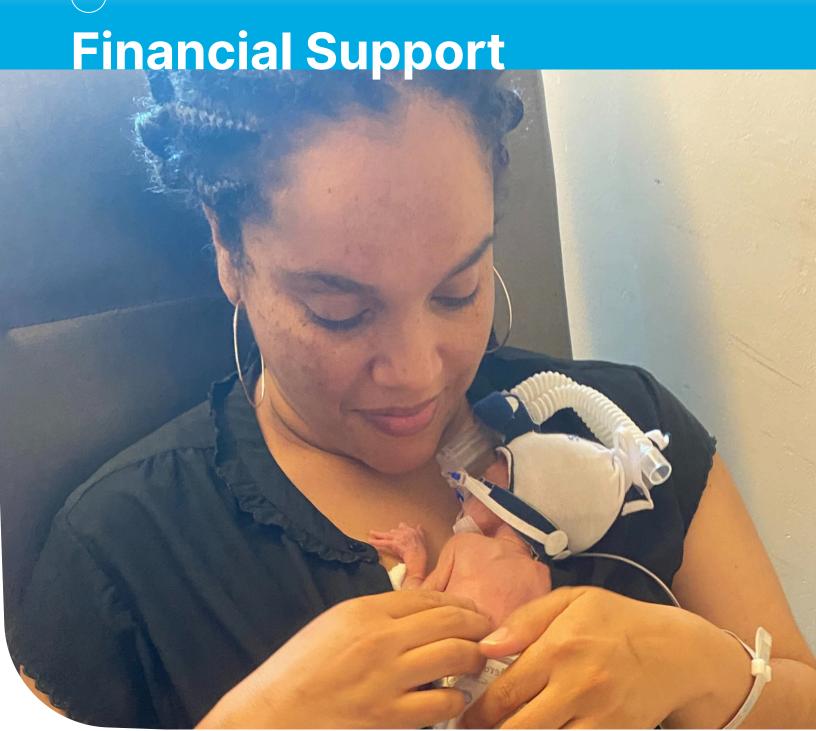
Our Bereavement Support Program offers compassionate care to families grieving the loss of a baby in the NICU. Led by volunteers who have experienced similar loss, along with Parent Mentors. the program provides meaningful connection, emotional and the support, reassurance that no parent walks this journey alone.



21

Families Received Bereavement Support





Compassion in Motion - Transportation Support Since 2017

Our **Transportation Assistance Program** was created in 2017 to offset hospital travel costs for families of low-income levels, ensuring financial hardship never keeps parents from their NICU baby's bedside. ICU baby offers this program at South Miami Hospital, Holtz Children's Hospital, and Nicklaus Children's Hospital.



Burial Assistance

ICU baby distributed financial assistance to **23 families** of low-income levels to help pay for the burial costs of their babies.

Scaling Support - From Local Beginnings to Statewide Reach

Through our collaboration with the Florida Perinatal Quality Collaborative (FPQC), we helped launch expanded version of our established transportation program - the We Care Transportation Program. Unlike our standard model, this initiative includes NICU families—regardless financial need or the length of their baby's stay. Healthcare teams eagerly enrolled families from the very start of their NICU journey. The impact was immediate and powerful: more parents present when it mattered most.



773

Families Received
Transportation Assistance

\$408,035

Awarded in Transportation Stipends



Families
Participated

Lunch & Learns
Attended by
52 Families

NICU Orientation | ABCs of the NICU | Roles of the Care Team | Caring for Your NICU Baby | Feeding & Breastfeeding | Kangaroo Care | Parent Self-Care | Support for NICU Dads | Transitioning Home



Empowering Families Digitally – The ICU baby App

We also deepened our digital support. In partnership with the NBCUniversal Talent Lab and Pyxera Global, our ICU baby App continued to evolve, offering families powerful tools like digital journaling, NICU education videos, and a parent guidebook - all available when and where they need them most.



Beyond the Beeps Podcast



This podcast pulls back the curtain on the NICU experience, helping parents navigate their baby's journey, understand medical care, and engage confidently with the healthcare team. Through storytelling and expert insights, we foster hope, build knowledge, and strengthen communication between families and providers.



Highlights

NICU Tours & Rounding with Experts

Youth Ambassadors toured the NICU with healthcare professionals and neonatologists, learning about neonatal care, observing rounds, and engaging in Q&A. These immersive experiences inspire future healthcare professionals while deepening understanding of the NICU journey.





Mother's Day Baby Showers

One of the year's most heartwarming moments came from our Youth Ambassadors, who hosted Mother's Day Baby Showers for NICU families at three hospitals. With décor, food, games, and gifts, students created unforgettable celebrations that filled the NICU with joy and connection. The smiles said it all!

126

Ambassadors from 19+ Schools Volunteered

1,765
Hours



Volunteer Initiatives



Our Mission Fueled by Volunteer Spirit

Our mission is fueled by the passion and dedication of volunteers as young as five, each bringing their own unique form of support. From organizing events and providing hands-on assistance to sharing their creativity and energy, every volunteer helps us make a meaningful difference in the lives of NICU families.

511 6,558

Total Volunteers

Volunteer Hours



296

136

126

Project Volunteers **Fundraising**

Youth **Event Volunteers** Ambassadors

29

12

NICU Parent Mentors

Bereavement Mentors

Readers

Professional Volunteers



Fundraising Events

HEPARADE

Presented by



A Walk in Support of NICU Families

Our fourth annual **Hope Parade** was a record-breaking success! Thanks to the incredible support of our Title Sponsor, Nicklaus Children's Hospital, and our other dedicated sponsors, donors, and 44 teams, over 1,000 participants joined us at Zoo Miami on November 3rd. Together, we raised over \$80,000 to support NICU families—ensuring they receive the critical resources and care they need.





Participants





GIVE

Miami District Commissioner Danielle Cohen Higgins and The Miami Foundation kicked off Give Miami Day with a \$5,000 boost for ICU baby! With the generous support of 167 collective donors, we raised \$80,194 on our Give Miami Day platform and even more gifts came in from private donations made offline.





ittle Miracles uncheon



Our community came together for our second annual Little Miracles Luncheon to celebrate NICU Awareness Month at the Rusty Pelican Miami. The highlight of the morning was the Runway of Hope, where NICU graduates and their parents walked the runway, sharing powerful stories of resilience and strength. Our models wore looks from Love Shack Fancy, Menocento, Julian Chang, State of Kid, and Wish Fine Jewelry and enjoyed hair styling by Dry Bar.

It was a morning filled with hope and inspiration—and thanks to the incredible support of our event Chair, Chelsea Mandler, community, sponsors, and donors, the event surpassed all expectations raising.



Financial Highlights

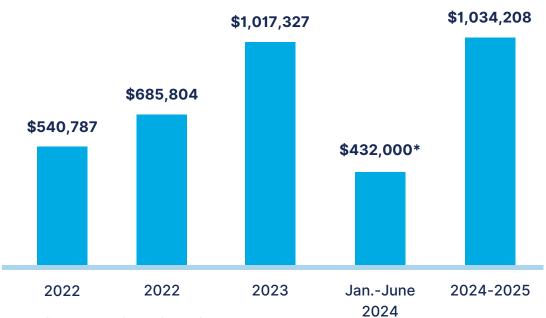
Total Liabilities & Net Assets

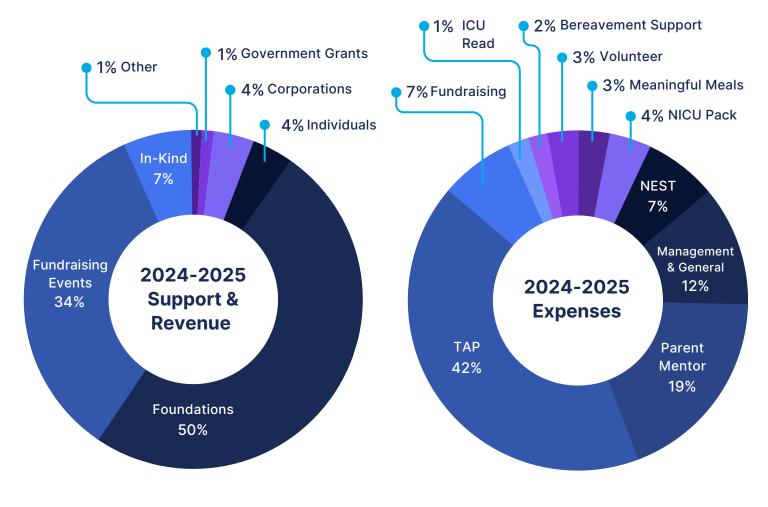
Assets

516,850
134,927
119,491
7,879
70,195
\$849,342
49,257
\$49,257
\$800,085

Total Expenses

\$849,342





Support & Revenue

Total Support & Revenue	\$1,285,141
Other	\$10,389
In-Kind Contributions	\$91,761
Fundraising Events (Net)	\$435,357
Government Grants	\$13,000
Foundation Support	\$637,140
Corporate Contributions	\$47,783
Individual Contributions	\$49,711

Expenses

Total Expenses	\$1,034,208
Fundraising	\$74,178
Management & General	\$127,286
Program Services	\$832,744

Partners

Monetary Donors

Champions of Hope \$10,000+

100+ Women Who Care

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Viqas & Sarah Akhtar

Nichole and Rich Aldrich

Baptist Health Roxana Casal Comcast

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Baby K'tan

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Patrons

\$1,000-\$4,999

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Exquisite Catering by Robert

Florida Department of Health

Greater Miami Jewish Federation

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St. Stephen's Episcopal Day School

The Flower Wall Co

Pals

\$500-\$999

Miami Diaper Bank

Event Sponsors

Thanks to the generosity of our event sponsors, ICU baby is able to unite the community in celebration and raise the vital funds that make our programs—and the heart of our mission—possible.

Little Miracles Luncheon

Gold

Silver

Weil



Celebration of Miracles

Monetary Sponsors

Title Presenting

Platinum













Silver













Underwriting Sponsors























Spirits Sponsors



Hope Parade

Title Presenting











Bronze











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ICU Read

Charlene Gurucharri Linda Isrel Connie LoBello

Celebrate Miracles. Build Community.

| UPCOMING EVENTS | Little Miracles Luncheon | September 19
Hope Parade | October 12
Give Miami Day | November 20
Celebration of Miracles | April 18

Support Our Mission. Make a Gift.



www.icubaby.org/donate

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