Auburn University Dance Marathon

MIRACLE KIDS

AU
DM

Piedmont
COLUMBUS REGIONAL

Bill and Olivia Amos
Children's Hospital

The Slade Triplets

Isabella

She was born first, nearly 15 weeks early! She weighed 1 lb and 14 oz. She spent 102 days in the NICU. Due to a brain bleed, she developed Hydrocephalus (fluid on the brain) and need a shunt to remove the fluid, but has since had the shunt removed due to complications. Isabelle was also diagnosed with cerebral palsy which affects the left side of her body. She has worked very hard to overcome many challenges with years of physical and occupational therapy sessions.

Gracie

Born second, also 15 weeks early and weighing in at 1 lb and 6 oz. At seven days old, Gracie became septic and her body began to shut down. The doctors, nurses and respiratory therapists worked day and night in the weeks ahead for her to recover and get stronger until her release after 95 days in the NICU at Piedmont Columbus Regional. Gracie came home on oxygen and got stronger in the months ahead to no longer require it.

Emma

Born third and also 15 weeks early and weighed 1 lb and 2 oz . Before delivery, there were concerns of Emma’s size so we had to decide her best wishes if she were too small for intubation. Emma fought through multiple blood transfusions, needle sticks, and IVs until she was discharged after 95 days in the NICU at Piedmont Columbus Regional. Emma came home on oxygen just like her sister, Gracie, and got stronger in the months ahead to no longer require it.

Brody Mackey

Brody was born July 18, 2017 at only 1lb 4oz. Brody had a collapsed lung, a PDA on his heart, brain bleeds, retinopathy of prematurity in his eyes, jaundice and severe sepsis. Brody spent the first 98 days of his life in the NICU. Brody is now an adventurous 5 year old, soon to be 6 year old! He has an angel brother named Noah and loves to dance and play outside. This past year, his family has welcomed a new baby boy named Rhett Parker. Brody and his whole family are incredibly grateful for the nurses and doctors at the Children Miracle Network Hospital.

Eyan and Emmarie Dula

Eyan and Emmarie started out as the tiniest babies I had ever seen; now they are teenagers. The Es are headed to the 8th grade. Their personalities have not changed since their days in the NICU. Eyan is a smooth operator all the while Emmie is our live wire. Eyan has found the love of music through guitar. Emmie spends her days on the court with a basketball. They've gained a bonus dad and 2 new baby siblings. The twins are continually thriving because of the generosity of AUDM.

Greenlee Lamb

On April 23, 2015, Greenlee and her grandmother were involved in a head-on collision. Greenlee was rushed to Piedmont Columbus Regional where she had immediate surgery and a blood transfusion due to a skull fracture that lacerated her brain. After a successful surgery, she remained in a coma and her brain pressure was monitored. She spent 7 days in a coma and woke up on April 30th. She lost function in her left side due to right frontal lobe brain damage. Today, Greenlee is 13 years old and thriving! She is in 7th grade and loves to play tennis, spend time with her family, and play board games. She has learned to function with one hand, she continues to do physical and occupational therapy.

Karsyn Cooper

Karsyn Cooper was born on October 25th, 2009, as a micro preemie baby. Her original due date was February 1st, 2010; therefore, she was 15 weeks premature weighing 2 pounds and was 12 inches long. Karsyn was born with insufficient lungs, a bleeding brain with swelling, a heart murmur, jaundice, transparent skin as well as issues with her gastrointestinal tract. She also had eyes that were fused together at the time of her birth. Children's Miracle Network was there by the Cooper family's side. CMN worked with Piedmont Regional to help fund the NICU's giraffe incubators, which are special beds required for the development of the micro preemies. Karsyn was in the NICU for a total of 79 days. Currently, Karsyn is 13 years old and living her best life with no limitations. She is a very smart girl with goals of attending Auburn University.

Liilie Buffington

The summer before July 2012, Lillie was excited to start kindergarten when she suddenly became very ill with severe stomach cramps. Initially thought to be a stomach virus, her condition worsened, leading to hospitalization for dehydration. She later returned to the hospital where she had a colonoscopy and was diagnosed with Crohn's disease. It helped so much for Lillie to be treated here in Columbus so we could keep up with the daily life of the family. We are blessed and thankful to say that years later Lillie is feeling great. Lillie is currently a senior and continues to help the Children's Hospital. Currently, Lillie has been working on a book, The ABCs of the Children's Hospital, to help other children who are hospitalized at the medical center to understand what will happen to them and not feel alone.

Joseph Luttrell

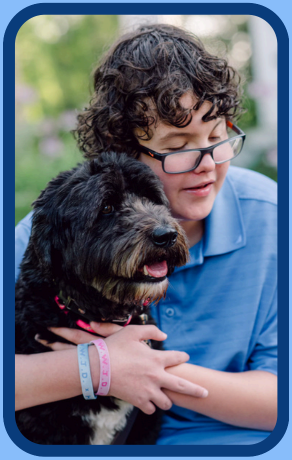
Joseph was born at 35 weeks in respiratory distress and was immediately intubated and taken to the NICU. A few hours later, doctors suspected he had Down syndrome—a diagnosis we hadn't expected. My first concern was if he would be okay, and when the neonatologist reassured me, I felt immense relief. Despite the surprise, having Joseph and a child with Down syndrome has been a life-changing, wonderful experience. Joseph spent 28 days in the NICU, where the nurses, doctors, and therapists provided exceptional care, giving me peace of mind. After coming home, he had multiple PICU stays for respiratory issues, and the staff at Piedmont in Columbus supported us every step of the way. We are so grateful for our local Children's Hospital and the resources made possible through generous donations.

Grant MacIssac

Grant's story began like many others, with a smooth pregnancy until 31 weeks when Hilary was unexpectedly admitted to the hospital on bed rest. Initially, doctors planned to delay delivery, but within hours, Grant was on his way. Grant was delivered via C-section, crying loudly—a hopeful sign. However, within hours, he required a CPAP and then a ventilator, and 24 hours later, his lung collapsed, necessitating emergency surgery. Grant endured 21 days on a ventilator, two infections, and 43 days in the NICU, but with the incredible care of the NICU staff, he eventually came home. Since then, Grant has received excellent ongoing treatment from specialists at Children's Hospital of Alabama, as well as occupational, speech, and physical therapy to overcome challenges from his premature birth. Thanks to the support of the NICU, his therapists, and organizations like AUDM and Children's Miracle Network, Grant continues to grow stronger every day.

Parker Grelecki

Born on September 9, 2008, Parker Grelecki's life has been everything but ordinary. During the 20th week of their pregnancy, the Grelecki's were given the unfortunate diagnosis that their son, Parker Grelecki, was to be born with Hydrocephalus. While at birth, Parker had over 98% fluid within his cranial cavity and 2% brain matter. The next nine months of Parker's life were filled with surgeries that would result in the proper draining of the excess fluid and reshaping of his skull. At just four weeks old, Parker began therapy which he continues to do even until this day. Being the Rockstar that he is, Parker has let absolutely none of this stops him from being such an amazing kid! He does exceedingly well in school, has the outgoing personality like that of none other, and doesn't let anything stop him from being the joyful, silly, kind soul that he is. Anyone blessed with the opportunity to meet Parker should definitely consider themselves lucky!



Emma Lehman

At 20 weeks pregnant Emma's mom was told she was having a rare type of identical twin pregnancy called Monochorionic-monoamniotic and at 24 weeks pregnant, was placed on bedrest at Piedmont Columbus Regional for umbilical cord entanglement and preeclampsia. Just two weeks later, Emma and her sister, Brooklyn were born and taken to the NICU. Sadly, Brooklyn took a turn for the worst and passed away at 13 days old, however, Emma's family likes to say that the hemangioma that appeared on Emma's cheek the day that her sister died is a kiss from Brooklyn. Emma was in the NICU for 76 days and was able to come home on October 20th, 2018. Since then, Emma has fought several battles, such as being hospitalized for eating issues and RSV, as well as being diagnosed with cerebral palsy, but she is thriving, nonetheless. Thanks to the doctors and staff at CMNH Emma's life has been made possible.

Addie Jackson

Adelaide was born on July 21, 2004. Shortly after birth, she spent 11 days in the ICU and was diagnosed with two brain hemorrhages. Over the years, Addie faced developmental delays and underwent extensive testing. At age six she was diagnosed with Mitochondrial Disease. This condition diminishes her cells' energy production, causing daily crashes and making illnesses, even minor ones, potentially life-threatening. In 2016, genetic testing revealed a second rare condition, KBG Syndrome, explaining her other health challenges. Addie attends a small private school with a flexible schedule to accommodate her needs. Our family is passionate about raising awareness for Mitochondrial Disease, participating annually in a golf tournament in Columbus, GA. We're also active with Children's Miracle Network Dance Marathons, supporting college students at Auburn University and beyond.