

DONOR UPDATE

Showcasing your impact on our Regional Neonatal ICU



Your gifts at work

1,174 donors

have contributed

\$854,444

to the Melissa George Neonatal Memorial Fund over the past two years!

Because of you, HHF purchased:

- 70 NICView bedside cameras,
- 3 new Giraffe Omnibeds,
- an infant-driven feeding system,
- a simulation training doll,
- a digital monitoring system,
- 2 jaundice meters,
- 3 Pacifier-Activated Lullabies,
- 60 Turtle Midliners for precise positioning,
- ... and so much more!



Top: NICView bedside camera
 Bottom: Simulation training doll

“Your generous donations help save the lives of the most fragile and smallest of patients. This equipment helps us continue to provide the best care to our patients and families.”

— **Nichole Davidson**, Neonatal ICU Director

Save the dates

Get ready to have a bash and make a splash in person this year!

- **Swim for Melissa: Saturday, July 30, Hampton Cove Pool**
- **Miracle Bash: Friday, August 5, Stovehouse**

Big impact for tiny patients

The Melissa George Neonatal Memorial Fund at Huntsville Hospital Foundation gives our tiniest, most vulnerable patients the best chance of survival. This would not be possible without donors like you!

This report shares just a few highlights from 2020 and 2021, including investments in cutting-edge technology, words of gratitude and more.

Did you know?

Melissa's Fund has raised

\$4.2 million+

providing almost all of the equipment in our Regional Level III Neonatal ICU at Huntsville Hospital for Women & Children.





GRATEFUL PATIENT SPOTLIGHT

Katie Valley Martz

As first-time parents, Katie and Matthew Martz pictured what it would be like to celebrate the birth of their son and leave the hospital as a family of three. When Palmer came 10 weeks early though, they say their "perfect day dreams went out the window."

Before they knew it, Katie and Matthew had a 2 pound 12 ounce premature baby who relied on the lifesaving equipment of our Regional Neonatal Intensive Care Unit to help him breathe and grow.

"Palmer couldn't feed himself, breathe on his own or regulate his own body temperature," Katie said. "Each of those 44 days came with an intense rollercoaster of emotions. We knew we were his parents, yet each day, we left the unit to drive home, no baby in tow."

It means so much to Katie to know that much of the equipment Palmer needed was made possible by donors to the Melissa George Neonatal Memorial Fund at Huntsville Hospital Foundation.

"The level of community support for the Huntsville Hospital NICU means the world to me as a recent NICU mom," Katie said. "These preemies have a very big job to do as it is ... We ask them to develop all of these skills that would have otherwise been done for them in the womb. **Without the community's support, Palmer might not have had access to the necessary equipment and technology he so desperately needed to progress and thrive.**"

Forty-four days later, the Martzes got to walk out of the unit and hospital, finally complete as a family of three.

"It was the most joyful day! We felt like we could finally breathe for the first time in over 44 days," Katie said. "After so many times walking out of those hospital doors without our baby, feeling defeated and heartbroken, November 14, 2021, was a walk I'll never forget! We walked that same beaten path, this time with our baby in tow, feeling grateful and excited."

2021 NICU BY THE NUMBERS

1,100

babies admitted

64

average number of patients at one time

190

NICU nurses meeting the needs of both the babies and their families

“

The last two years have been a challenge, to say the least. But through it all, YOU came through ... Not even a global pandemic could affect your support of Melissa's Fund. That means so much to our family, but it means even more to the countless babies, like Palmer, who have been impacted by your generosity. While we hope for brighter days ahead, we know we can count on our generous donors to help us meet the needs of our sickest, most vulnerable patients."

— Amy George

Co-founder, Melissa George Neonatal Memorial Fund



Miracles grow here

A beautiful **NICU Miracle Tree** is now in place outside the NICU entrance. Donors can purchase a leaf (*in honor*) or butterfly (*in memory*) to celebrate a baby who spent time in the unit. 100% of each purchase benefits Melissa's Fund.

Learn how you can purchase a leaf or butterfly by scanning the QR code.



huntsvillehospitalfoundation.org/nicutree



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