

Let's all work together for stronger, healthier babies during Prematurity Awareness Month®. Throughout the country, March of Dimes chapters and volunteers are announcing and implementing new prematurity prevention programs and educational campaigns and holding awareness events and tributes to babies born too soon.

Here's how you can join the March of Dimes to get involved in helping babies throughout the month of November.



The March of Dimes releases its fourth annual Premature Birth Report Card.

Go to marchofdimes.com/prematurity to find out how your state scored on its rate of premature birth. Then read more about the serious problem of premature birth and what the March of Dimes is doing to defeat it, with help from people like you.

You also can join our Twitter chat with a NICU nurse: 1 p.m. EDT; #preemiechat; @peekabooicuRN



Learn about our global alliance partners and the problems of prematurity in their regions. They are joining with us in the first-ever World Prematurity Day on November 17: [Little Big Souls](#) in Africa, [National Premmie Foundation](#) in Australia and [EFCNI](#) in Europe.



Visit [Facebook.com/WorldPrematurityDay](https://www.facebook.com/WorldPrematurityDay), "Like" the page, read stories from around the world and share your own videos and stories with the community.



Start your own fundraiser to help fight premature birth at crowdrise.com. Select the March of Dimes as your charity.



The March of Dimes stresses that babies are not fully developed until at least 39 weeks in the womb. If a woman's pregnancy is healthy, she should wait for labor to begin on its own. Find out more at marchofdimes.com/39weeks.



Shop 'til you drop at Famous Footwear! If you donate in-store, you will get 10 percent off purchases from Jan. 1 to Jan. 28, 2012.



Check out two new public service announcements featuring March of Dimes Celebrity Mom Julie Bowen. She speaks out about the problem of premature birth around the [world](#) and the importance for every baby to get their [39 Weeks](#).



Let's all get involved in the mission. You'll find great ideas in our [youth](#) and [adult](#) toolkits.



Are you on Twitter? Join celebrities Sherri Shepherd, Christy Turlington Burns, Camila Alves, Joey Lawrence, La La Anthony, Michael Michele, and Melissa Joan Hart in spreading the word with this message: Around the world, more than a million premature babies will die this year. Find out how you can help [raise awareness](#).



Watch an interview with Surgeon General Regina Benjamin and March of Dimes President Dr. Jennifer Howse on the 2011 Premature Birth Report Cards [here](#). Then check out Surgeon General Regina Benjamin's message on prematurity [here](#).



As a nonprofit organization founded by President Franklin Roosevelt, we care deeply about veterans, too. On this day of remembrance, take some time to honor the special people who fought for our freedom.



If you have a blog, dedicate a post to premature birth. Join with bloggers around the world at bloggersunite.org/event/world-prematurity-day.



Create a [virtual band](#) to celebrate, honor or remember a baby in your life.



Ask Congress to support the PREEMIE Reauthorization Act. [Contact your Senator and Representative in Washington today](#). It'll take less than a minute, and you'll help reduce preterm birth.



The March of Dimes NICU Family Support® Program celebrates its 10-year anniversary. Now in more than 110 U.S. hospitals, the program offers comfort and information to approximately 78,000 families each year with a baby in newborn intensive care. Contact your local March of Dimes to find out how you can volunteer at one of our sites and what that site might need.



Join our Twitter preemie chat at 9 p.m. EST, #preemiechat
Our Spanish-language Twitter chat on preterm labor begins at 2 p.m. EST with @nacersano follow: #nacersano



It's the first-ever World Prematurity Day! Go to Facebook.com/WorldPrematurityDay to update your status and change your profile picture. Help us honor the 1 million babies born too soon worldwide who died this year and the 12 million more struggling to survive.

To highlight this special day in New York City, the Empire State Building will be lit in purple.



The Friday before Thanksgiving is the perfect day to wear jeans. Organize this Blue Jeans for Babies® day at your workplace when everyone makes a contribution and wears blue jeans to support the March of Dimes. It's a great way to raise awareness about the problem of premature birth.



Did you know that Olympic Gymnast Shawn Johnson was born prematurely? Check out her story [here](#).



Did you hear about the March of Dimes Prematurity Research Center at Stanford University School of Medicine? It opened in March of this year to bring together specialists in disciplines ranging from neonatology and genetics to computer science and artificial intelligence. This unique, transdisciplinary team will be the first group of experts from diverse fields to work together so closely to study prematurity. Find out more [here](#).



All it takes is a few Baby Steps to benefit the March of Dimes! All you have to do is “like” Dr. Smith’s Diaper Ointment on [their Facebook page](#), accept the Baby Steps app, and the company will donate \$1 on your behalf to the March of Dimes (up to \$50,000). Mission Pharmacal, a national March for Babies® sponsor, is the maker of Dr. Smith’s Diaper Ointment.



Destination Maternity, through its A Pea in the Pod®, Motherhood® Maternity and Destination Maternity® stores, is a national partner in the March of Dimes Prematurity Campaign. Visit a store to donate through multiple year-round programs, including the purchase of a co-branded bracelet! And get a March of Dimes Pregnancy and Newborn Health Education Center® brochure in first-time purchase gift bags.



Help the March of Dimes expand the NICU Family Support November educational program, “Ten Things to Know Before You Bring Your Baby Home,” by making a donation [here](#).



Take some time on this Thanksgiving Day to be thankful for all the children in this world and for all the progress made in giving more babies a healthy start in life.

Don’t forget to thank all those friends and associates who have helped in your efforts to raise awareness of prematurity around the world. And thanks to you from the March of Dimes as we work together for stronger, healthier babies!



You don’t need to hit the stores! Tiny Prints, an online stationery company that recently launched a new March of Dimes collection at tinyprints.com/marchofdimes, will donate 10 percent of proceeds from all products sold through this page to the March of Dimes. And that’s not all! With every sale of the *new* collection, Tiny Prints will donate an additional 10 percent to the March of Dimes. Your purchase will help improve the lives of babies and their families.



View our public service announcement, “Coming Home,” [here](#).



Help the March of Dimes advance its mission through public policies, programs and funding. Learn more at marchofdimes.com/advocacy.



Make your gift count twice. Your end-of-year donation will be matched dollar for dollar.



Stay involved with the March of Dimes on Facebook. There you'll find an active and growing community of people who care passionately about the health of moms and babies.



Join our Twitter chat at 1 p.m. EST; #pregnancychat on labor & delivery



Be one of the first to start a team for our biggest fundraiser, March for Babies, taking place in the spring in more than 700 communities around the United States. Registration opens tonight at marchforbabies.org.



It's Celebration of Babies®, a star-studded event in honor of the 13 million babies born too soon around the world. Check your entertainment news sites for post event coverage.

Our national Prematurity Campaign corporate partners:

destination
maternity®

