

Child:

Kryton Anthony Bechtel  
Born on September 3, 2005  
2 pounds 8 ounces  
13 weeks premature

Parents:

Steve Bechtel  
Contact Center Specialist  
Lincoln Benefit Life  
Lincoln, NE

Stacy Bechtel  
Contact Center Specialist  
Lincoln Benefit Life  
Lincoln, NE

Grandparents:

Marvin and Pat Bechtel  
Lincoln, NE

Richard and Bettie Cookus  
Lincoln, NE

Hobbies:

Playing video games, listening to his music,  
going to the library, and visiting the Lincoln  
Children's Museum.

---

*"Kryton had the best possible  
chance of pulling off a miracle,  
and he did exactly that."*

---

Omaha, State Office  
11840 Nicholas Street  
Suite 220  
Omaha NE 68154  
402-496-7111

Lincoln Office  
315 South 9th Street  
Suite 214  
Lincoln, NE 68508  
402-488-6612

[www.marchofdimes.com/nebraska](http://www.marchofdimes.com/nebraska)

# Reflections

from a

## march of dimes ambassador family

We were thrilled to learn in 2005 that we were finally successful in starting a family. But that excitement turned into serious concern in only a few months. At 25 weeks gestation we found ourselves in an ambulance on the way to the hospital with cold fear being the only thing keeping us moving.



Stacy was dilated and the baby was showing little patience to stay put. We did not even know if our baby was a boy or girl. I learned I can run for 72 hours on nothing but terror and caffeine. Stacy was admitted to Methodist Hospital and placed on inclined bed rest so gravity could help keep the baby in. The doctors performed a cervical cerclage to forestall the birth. The surgery was successful and we thought the worst was over. The doctors discussed discharging Stacy since things were going well.

Then Stacy's water broke causing more sleepless nights, worry, and fear. They did everything they could to stop labor but were only able to delay things a week before contractions started. There was just no stopping the baby. On September 3, 2005 Kryton Anthony Bechtel was born at 27 weeks weighing only 2 pounds 8 ounces. We were told to prepare for anything.



While Kryton was in the NICU at Children's Hospital and Medical Center in Omaha, both Stacy and I started working 10 hour days. This allowed us to spend as many full days with him as possible enjoying kangaroo holds, breathing him in, and trying to let him know he wasn't alone.

Kryton spent 68 days in the NICU and developed a nasty infection called klebsiella, which is a bacteria usually found in the stomach or digestive system. They found this in Kryton's blood, which meant he had to undergo a spinal tap to determine if it had spread to his brain. Kryton had P.I.C. lines, C-paps, Biliruben lights, and nasal canulas, yet he took everything in stride and left the NICU after only 10 weeks, 3 weeks before his original due date.

How is it possible that Kryton survived? Maybe we had the best doctors, maybe he had good genes, maybe fate, maybe faith, but thanks to support and research of the **March of Dimes** Kryton had the best possible chance of pulling off a miracle, and he did exactly that.