



The Children:

Jackson Lee Schnieder
Born on April 18, 2005
1 pound 1 ounce, 10 inches
15 weeks premature

Madelyn Grace Schnieder
Born on February 19, 2010
5 pounds 10 ounces, 18 3/4 inches
4 weeks premature

Their Parents:

Brian Schnieder
Mental Health Therapist/Chemical
Dependency Counselor, Offutt Air Force Base
Bellevue, NE

Heidi Schnieder
Teacher, Omaha Public Schools
Omaha, NE

Their Grandparents:

June Schnieder
Sioux Falls, SD

Marlene Kriech
Sioux Falls, SD

Rick Kriech
Wentworth, SD

Their Great-Grandparent:

Gert Karli
Brandon, SD

Their Hobbies:

Jackson: trains, trucks, playing outside, riding his bike and scooter, reading books, playing with his sister

Madelyn: eating, exploring and discovering new things, playing with her brother, getting into her brother's toys

Reflections

from a
march of dimes
ambassador family

As Christmas 2004 approached, we were excited to announce to our family and friends that we were expecting our first child. Jackson Lee was scheduled to bless our family in early August, 2005. We progressed through a textbook pregnancy without complications until mid-April. On April 13, Heidi wasn't feeling



well and noticed extra fluid retention. On April 15 she was rushed to the maternity ward at Bergan Mercy Medical Center with dangerously high blood pressure. After three days of bed rest and unsuccessful attempts to reduce Heidi's blood pressure, Jackson Lee was born on April 18, 2005 at 25 weeks, weighing 1 pound 1 ounce, and measuring 10 inches long. We remember it as one of the happiest, yet most terrifying days of our lives. Our beautiful baby boy beat the initial odds and was born alive, but his grip on life was precarious at best. We knew we had a long road ahead of us with a lot of challenges and very few guarantees.

The next 109 days that we spent in the NICU were a mix of achievements, milestones, and setbacks. "Two steps forward,

continued on back

Reflections continued...

one step back” became our mantra. We often found comfort in stating, “today is a good day”, even at times breaking it down to “this hour was a good hour”. Setbacks included heart and eye surgeries and multiple bouts of infections. In August, we were able to bring our son home accompanied by oxygen, IV pumps, frequent medications, monitors, and weekly visits to doctors and specialists. Despite all of his challenges, Jackson has continued to grow and is a happy, healthy, full of life 5 year old that started Kindergarten in the fall of 2010.



After conducting tests to try to determine why Jackson came early, we were excited to announce that he was going to be a big brother. This meant a whole new world of doctor’s visits, daily shots for Heidi, and increased prenatal monitoring. We rapidly became exposed to the prevention side of the **March of Dimes** mission. Through close observation and preventative treatment, Madelyn Grace was born on February 19, 2010 at 36 weeks, weighing 5 pounds 10 ounces, and measuring 18 ¾ inches long. She spent a mere 7 hours in the NICU for monitoring and was able to come home with us on schedule. A whole new world of “normal” parenting experiences had opened up to us.

Since Jackson’s birth, the mission of the **March of Dimes** has been near and dear to our hearts. We have been doubly blessed through the **March of Dimes** mission of treatment and prevention of prematurity. We also feel blessed and honored to be chosen as the Ambassador Family for the Omaha area and look forward to reaching out to those touched by prematurity and those wishing to support the **March of Dimes** mission.

march  of dimes®

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