

2009 Greenville Ambassadors

The Lynes Family



Katie and Creighton Lynes became pregnant with twins in August 2006. Born 7 weeks early, Alex weighed only 2lbs. 2oz. and Ben weighed 4lbs. 13oz. Ben spent two weeks in the Greenville Hospital System NICU. Alex spent 71 days in the NICU battling necrotizing enterocolitis, a gram-negative sepsis infection, and a double hernia. Thanks to the March of Dimes, their children received the medical attention they needed in order to overcome the complications associated with their premature birth.

The Thompson Family



William Darrell Thompson Jr. was delivered at 25 weeks gestation, 3 months early on November 27th. He weighed 1 pound 15oz and was 13 1/2 inches long. He was born at Greenville Memorial Hospital, where he stayed for 100 days. During this time he went through many changes and overcame many obstacles, having two surgeries, an appendectomy and heart surgery. Little Darrell had to endure many tests and spinal taps taking place on a round the clock basis. Although in the beginning his prognosis was grim, he fought and survived was able to go home with his family in March. Today, Darrell is a healthy 10 month old little boy, thanks to the lifesaving research and programs developed by the March of Dimes.

2009 Oconee County Ambassadors

The Blackwell Family



Abigail and Anna

Adam and Amanda Blackwell were overjoyed when they learned they were going to be having twins! Their daughters, Abigail and Anna, were born on February 26, 2008, eight weeks before their due date. The girls weighed three pounds each and spent weeks in the NICU. The Blackwell Family spent every moment with their daughters that they could. Amanda holds the memory of the Kangaroo Care program very dear. The program allowed her to hold her daughters against her skin, which is typically not allowed in the NICU. Since their release from the NICU the sisters have been growing beautifully! The Blackwells are proud to represent the March of Dimes in Oconee County and are incredibly thankful for the research and care provided by the March of Dimes.

2009 Pickens County Ambassadors

The Smith Family



The Fighter

Evan Smith was born on November 30, 2007 at only 28 weeks. Having two other cousins born in 2007, his family thinks Evan just didn't want to feel left out at Christmas. Evan has been a fighter since his first days in the NICU. His lungs were underdeveloped which caused him to go on and off of the ventilator and C-PAP. At only three weeks of age, Evan contracted bacterial meningitis. He became so sick that his parents, Nate and Kim, were afraid they would lose him. Further along in the NICU stay, an MRI showed that Evan had cerebral atrophy and softening which leads to a loss of cells. Through everything Evan has been a fighter! He finally left the NICU on February 14, 2008 and he's been fighting ever since. Since leaving the NICU, Evan has been fighting seizures and a weak immune system. The Smith Family is proud of their son and proud to represent the March of Dimes in Pickens County. They firmly believe that the research and advocacy of the March of Dimes is helping to give every baby a fighting chance!

Rock Hill Ambassadors

The Compton Family



Campbell's Journey

At my 26-week regular check up, it was determined that I had developed severe pre-eclampsia and was put on bed rest then admitted to the hospital within the week. I was given steroid shots to develop our baby's lungs and we prayed to keep her in as long as possible. On February 3rd, 2008, Campbell Ann was born at 27 weeks, 6 days weighing 2 pounds, 1 ounce. She was labeled "feisty" by the NICU nurses and she proved them right by fighting to get bigger and healthier every day. On April 6th, 3 weeks before her due date, we brought Campbell home. Today she is healthy and happy and the light of our lives.

2009 Spartanburg Ambassadors

The Arroyo Family



The Surprise Visitor

It was June 2008, Valerie and Felipe (Junior) had just finished their prenatal care class where they learned how to identify contractions. They went home and Valerie started to have stomach pains, which did not seem to be contractions. Within a few days, she knew something was wrong, and phoned her doctor. She and Junior met at the hospital to make sure their baby was safe. It was there that they soon realized Valerie was actually having contractions and that their baby would be born very soon. Valerie gave birth to Noelle Arianna on June 12, after only 25 weeks gestation. She weighed in at 1 lb 10 oz. Noelle would then spend the next 100 days in the NICU becoming stronger, and developing her lungs and a more secure immune system. She was finally able to come home in October, and is a happy, growing baby. The Arroyo Family is proud of their daughter and proud to represent the March of Dimes in Spartanburg County. They firmly believe that the research and advocacy of the March of Dimes is helping to give every baby a fighting chance!