



# IMPACT REPORT 2025

# Message from our Leaders

Dear Friends,

As we reflect on 2025, we are grateful to share this annual Impact Report with you during a meaningful moment in Tiny Miracles' history. This year marked our 20th anniversary, a milestone that celebrates two decades of compassionate support for families of premature babies and the community that has made this work possible.

Throughout the year, Tiny Miracles continued to deliver its proven programs, reaching families when support matters most. We also deepened our commitment to maternal mental health, recognizing that caring for parents is essential to caring for babies. This important evolution reflects both the needs we see in our community and our commitment to supporting the whole family.

None of this would be possible without you. Your generosity and partnership have enabled Tiny Miracles to sustain strong, effective programs while thoughtfully expanding our scope of care.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to strengthening our services, growing our impact and ensuring that families facing a premature birth have the support they need to thrive.

Thank you for your trust, partnership and belief in our mission.

With gratitude,



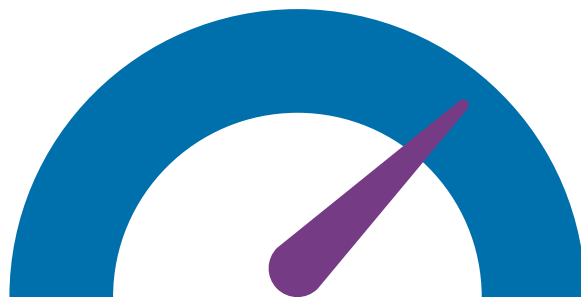
Tina Tison  
Executive Director



Alyssa Kent  
Board President

# 2025 Program Highlights

## Mentoring and Financial Assistance



Peer mentoring to 78% of all preemie families



Highest financial assistance budget in organization's history provided 120 families with financial aid.

# Leading the Conversation on Maternal Mental Health

Empowering parents and caregivers via education panels, guest speakers and advocacy throughout the year

In April, Tiny Miracles hosted its annual **Maternal Mental Health Panel** for community professionals and volunteers. The free event featured speakers with clinical expertise and provided nursing and social work continuing education credits. The event was funded by a grant from Union Savings Bank Foundation.



In June, Leelee Smith Klein, Brooke Jones and Ariel Thorne represented Tiny Miracles in Washington, DC as part of the **NICU Parent Network's organized "Hill Day."** The goal of the day was to have elected officials hear directly from the families, advocates, and supporters committed to improving NICU care and outcomes.

In November, bestselling author Neha Ruch and NY Times columnist Paul Sullivan headlined **"The Power of Pause"** luncheon. The event was a candid discussion about parenthood and the intentional events that shape family life.



# Birth Trauma Support

## Full Launch of Program

Following a successful pilot in 2024, The Tiny Miracles Foundation formalized its “Birth Trauma Support” program. With 60-70% of NICU births resulting in parent trauma, this initiative provides invaluable support.

Employing recognized practices for group counseling, Tiny Miracles’ trained mental health professionals conducted three eight-week sessions in 2025. All sessions take place virtually and are free of charge.

Given the demand, the program expanded to 4 sessions in 2026.

“

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**This group made me feel less guilty for my birth story. I just hadn't been able to share it with anyone feeling so ashamed. I feel like I'm a better mother because of these women.**

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”

# “We were not alone”

## Paulie and Tessa: Twins born at 26 weeks

“On January 22, 2025, at 26 weeks, Paulie and Tessa were born weighing just two and one pounds, respectively. Nothing could have prepared us for what came next.... our 97-day journey in the NICU began, a journey that would change our lives forever.

Each day in the NICU was filled with uncertainty. During those unimaginable months and through the first loving gift of matching blue and pink comforters used to shade light from the babies eyes in the NICU, Tiny Miracles Foundation became a quiet source of hope.

Their compassion left a lasting mark on our hearts. At a time when our focus needed to be entirely on our babies, they stepped in with loving gifts and prayers, and also covered one month of living expenses. When fear and uncertainty felt overwhelming, they became a lifeline - they offered not only assistance, but the comfort of knowing that others truly understood our journey and were standing beside us every step of the way. We were not alone.





Today, Paulie and Tessa are thriving.

Every laugh, every word, every milestone feels like a gift we once only dreamed of during those long, sleepless NICU days. Watching them walk, play, and explore the world is a constant reminder of how far they have come.

Their journey is a testament to the extraordinary strength of premature babies and a reminder that even the smallest miracles can overcome the greatest of odds.

Our family will forever be grateful to Tiny Miracles Foundation for standing beside us during the most frightening chapter of our lives. When our days were filled with angst, fear, exhaustion, and unanswered questions, they reminded us there was light even in the darkest moments of our journey. The compassion, generosity, and unwavering support given by every individual associated with the Foundation helped us move forward one day at a time. Today, as we watch Paulie and Tessa thrive, we carry with us a deep gratitude for their role in our story.”

*Lauren, mom of Paulie and Tessa*

# Mentoring Updates

## Reinforcing our Foundational Program

Building on 20 years of learnings, Tiny Miracles made several strategic enhancements to the peer mentoring programming in 2025.

### Revamped Training Program

Tiny Miracles created a year-long curriculum including three-part “Mentor Basics” module and special sessions to provide consistent education for mentors.

### Doubled Spanish-Speaking Mentoring Team

Tiny Miracles significantly increased its capacity to provide peer mentoring in an authentic way to families whose primary or preferred language is Spanish.

### Expanded Loss Support

Tiny Miracles grew its community of loss mentors, creating more opportunities for grieving families to find comfort, understanding and hope through connection with those who have walked a similar path.

# From Mom to Mentor

## Megan Chiota's Inspiration



When Crosby was born at 33 weeks, her parents especially mom, Megan, were just focused on getting through each day in the NICU. After more than 3 weeks, Crosby headed home from Bridgeport Hospital.

Crosby is now a teenager with no memory of the NICU. Her family remembers the experience vividly especially the peer mentors that provided support during the emotionally trying times.

Committed to paying it forward, Megan is the newest Tiny Miracles mentor at Bridgeport Hospital.



# Volunteer Highlights

## Preparing Materials

In 2025, 15 volunteer groups totaling more than 300 people made the “Tiny Treasures” program possible through blanket making and bag assembly.

**Renewal by Anderson** employees visited the Tiny Miracles office for a special team building experience packing Tiny Treasures welcome bags.



Nicole Henn, mom of 28-week twins and **Webster Bank** employee, organized a blanket making event at her office.

# 2025 Program Highlights

## Sharing Materials

In 2025, Tiny Miracles maximized its resource delivery efforts to ensure more NICU families received essential items and support.



**At least one “Tiny Treasure” item was provided to every family of premature babies in partner hospitals**

- Blankets provide to 100% of families\*
- Welcome bags provided to 88% of families
- Home care bags provided to 59% of families

Figures reflect service period January 1-December 31, 2025  
\*Blanket program currently available at 5 of 6 partner hospitals

# Finding Light

## Maela: Surviving twin born at 26 weeks



“My daughter Maela’s story is proof that light can be found in even the darkest beginnings.

Maela was a twin whose story began with unimaginable loss. After her twin brother, Noah, passed away in the womb, I went into labor at just 26 weeks pregnant. She entered the world weighing barely more than a pound. Within the first week of her life, she suffered a devastating pulmonary hemorrhage that nearly took her from us. Soon after, we learned she had sustained both a Grade 2 and Grade 4 intraventricular hemorrhage (IVH). As I grieved the loss of my son, I was simultaneously fighting for my daughter's life, trying to process diagnoses and possibilities that no parent is ever prepared to hear.

When I connected with the Tiny Miracles team, I found a community that understood the reality of life in the NICU. They understood the fear of watching your child fight for every breath, the heartbreak of setbacks, and the exhaustion that comes from living one day at a time. When I felt helpless, they reminded me of my strength. When I lost sight of hope, they reminded me of Maela's strength.

The journey ahead was far from easy. What followed was a battle that lasted 329 days before Maela was finally able to come home.

Today, Maela is a thriving little girl approaching her second birthday. She signs nearly 20 words, crawls everywhere she wants to go, fills our home with so much love, and recently took her first steps. Every milestone feels extraordinary, especially considering the devastating predictions that accompanied her IVH diagnoses. Time and time again, she has defied the limitations others placed on her and continues to write her own story. These are the moments Tiny Miracles always reminded me were coming.

I will forever be grateful to the Tiny Miracles team for helping me find the strength to keep going when I wasn't sure I could. Their support changed our journey, and their belief in my daughter helped me believe in the future we are living today.”

*Kelly, mom of Maela and Noah*



# Board of Directors Updates

## Honoring Service, Welcoming New Perspectives

At the beginning of 2025, longtime Board member Patty Cunningham finished her term with The Tiny Miracles Foundation. Her preemie is now grown and married!

**We thank Patty for her nearly 20 years as part of the Tiny Miracles Board!**



Meantime, Tiny Miracles welcomed four new people to its Board of Directors. Each brings a passion for the organization stemming from their own NICU experience.

### **Katie Brill**

Mom of 25 weeker  
Stamford Hospital mentor

### **Kelly Cohen**

Mom of 31 weeker  
Virtual mentor, Program  
committee volunteer

### **Tanya Prive**

Mom of 28 week twins  
Specialized mentor

### **Kara Rodriguez**

Mom of 29 weeker  
Bridgeport Hospital mentor

# Staff Updates

## Strengthening Day-to-Day Operations

2025 included several exciting additions and promotions within the Tiny Miracles staff.



The year kicked off with **Sally Laird** joining the staff as Bookkeeper. Sally brings both professional expertise and personal NICU experience to the team.

Also in January, **Jennifer Johnson** was promoted to Director of Family Programs. A preemie herself, Jennifer has been with Tiny Miracles for 10 years and is an invaluable resource for NICU families, hospital teams and community partners.



In March, **Erin Eblen** made the move from the Tiny Miracles Board of Directors to the Tiny Miracles staff assuming the role of Administrative Coordinator. Erin is the parent of a 28-week preemie and brings powerful personal insight in this new role.

# After the NICU

## Resources Available 24-7

Tiny Miracles recognizes that there is no “typical schedule” for questions to arise. Our digital platforms include information that is accessible all hours of the day or night... whenever a parent needs it.

### Education Videos

Online video library on a range of developmental topics. New videos are regularly added. Available on-demand via Tiny Miracles' website and social platforms.

### Local Resources

Searchable list of 600+ providers and specialists in Southwestern Connecticut including baby nurses, therapists, pediatricians and child care.

# After the NICU

## Connecting through Celebrations

Tiny Miracles' support for families continues after discharge from the NICU. Tiny Miracles hosts multiple free "After the NICU" events annually that provide families with positive social connections with those who have had a similar journey.

One of the most beloved programs at Tiny Miracles is the **"Family Fun Day" NICU Reunion** held every Spring and Fall. In addition to games and activities, each family poses with their Tiny Miracle for a special celebration photo op.



In 2025, we added a holiday event **"Cookies and Cocoa"** with Santa. More private than visiting the big guy at a mall, this event provided families an intimate gathering with Santa. Kids left the event with handmade crafts, photos and special memories. Thank you Santa Energy and NOLA Physical Therapy for sponsoring the event.

# 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala

A celebration two decades in the making



On Saturday, May 10, 2025 more than 225 people gathered at the Tokeneke Club for “Mission Accomplished” the **20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala honoring founder Gwen Noto.**

It was a truly unforgettable evening celebrating 20 years of milestones and memories with many longtime friends and new supporters. The event raised more than \$250,000 to directly fuel our mission to support families of premature babies.

# Community Fundraisers

## Events that benefit Tiny Miracles

In March, Bryan & Lindsay Quinlan hosted another successful event to support Tiny Miracles. The event, named **Caileigh's Rainbow**, is in memory of their daughter who was born prematurely at 19 weeks. The event was at SpaceCat Brewery in Norwalk and included live music and a silent auction.



In April, the 4th Annual **Anna & Raven Show Dance-A-Thon** featured local dance schools performing at the SoNo Collection mall during a day-long dance party. The event showcased hundreds of dancers and raised more than \$10,000 in donations to support our mission.

In May, Janine Testa hosted the inaugural Music for Angels charity golf tournament at Oak Hills Park which was followed by the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Music for Angels concert. **All Music for Angels events are in memory of Janine's son, Nicholas John Testa.**



# Our Supporters

Our work is made possible by the generous support of the donors listed below, whose gifts were received between January 1 and December 31, 2025.

## **\$30,000 +**

The Bauer Family Foundation  
The Godina Family Fund  
Michael and Elizabeth Klein  
The Wilson Foundation

## **\$15,000 to \$29,999**

Bridgeport Rotary  
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## **\$10,000 to \$14,999**

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### ***A Special Tribute***

In late 2025, the Tiny Miracles community mourned the loss of Kathy Livolsi, a devoted NICU nurse, advocate and supporter whose commitment to families helped shape our mission for more than 20 years. We were grateful to receive many memorial gifts made in her honor. Those gifts are a testament to the lives she touched and the lasting impact of her care.

### **Tribute Gifts**

#### ***In Honor Of***

Lucas Bartolomei  
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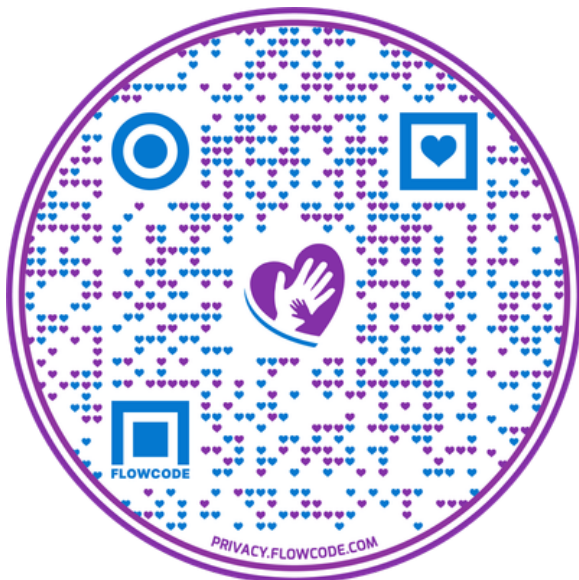
We are grateful for all support but are not able to list more than these names due to space limitations.

Tiny Miracles is especially thankful for the

**500+**

**Volunteers**

that make our programs possible each year.



Scan here to learn more about  
our volunteer opportunities