



20 Years of Impact

Celebrating NICU Journeys Together
2004 - 2024



Born of Compassion

Dear Friends,

Twenty years ago, The Tiny Miracles Foundation was established by Gwen Noto of Fairfield and Meredith Daniels of Stamford, who had both experienced the traumatic impact of the births of severely pre-term twins.

In late 2000, Noto and her husband navigated through the birth of her boys at 25 weeks, desperate for information and reassurance during the long hospitalization. About a year later, upon learning of the birth of another set of 25-week twins at Stamford Hospital, Noto sat outside the NICU with her boys to stake out the unknown mother, determined to offer the hope she had once needed. That mother was Daniels.

Together, Noto and Daniels recognized the urgent unmet need to provide preemie families with the support to cope with this frightening, isolating ordeal. And thus, in 2004, The Tiny Miracles Foundation was born. None too soon.

Today, The Tiny Miracles Foundation has grown to an expansive network in southwestern Connecticut that includes 6 partner hospitals, a staff of professionals and more than 500 volunteers that collectively support thousands of people annually - notably the families of some 1200 premature babies born in our service area each year.

What began as a simple gesture of support from one mom to another is now a leader in the area of parental mental health nationally and an indispensable resource for local families facing the anxiety associated with a premature birth and subsequent NICU stay.

This report celebrates two decades of The Tiny Miracles Foundation with a detailed recap of 2024, the organization's most recent and exciting year to date.

We are grateful for the past 20 years and excited for the next decade.



Tina Tison
Executive Director



Ashley Dineen
President, Board of Directors

20 Years of Impact

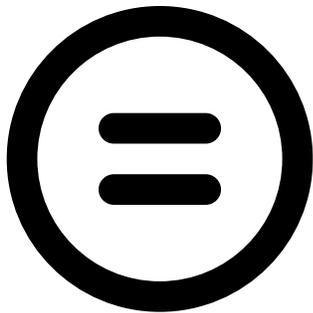
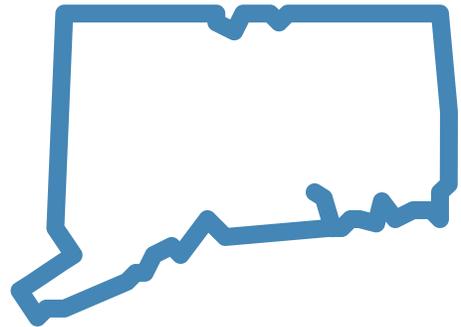


10,000+

families supported to date

More than 50%

of Connecticut's population
covered by hospital service area



Access for All

Prematurity can affect any pregnancy. All programs and services available regardless of age, race, household income or any other factor.

\$1,000,000

Financial Assistance provided to families

Figures represent 2004-2024 data

Milestone Moments

2004

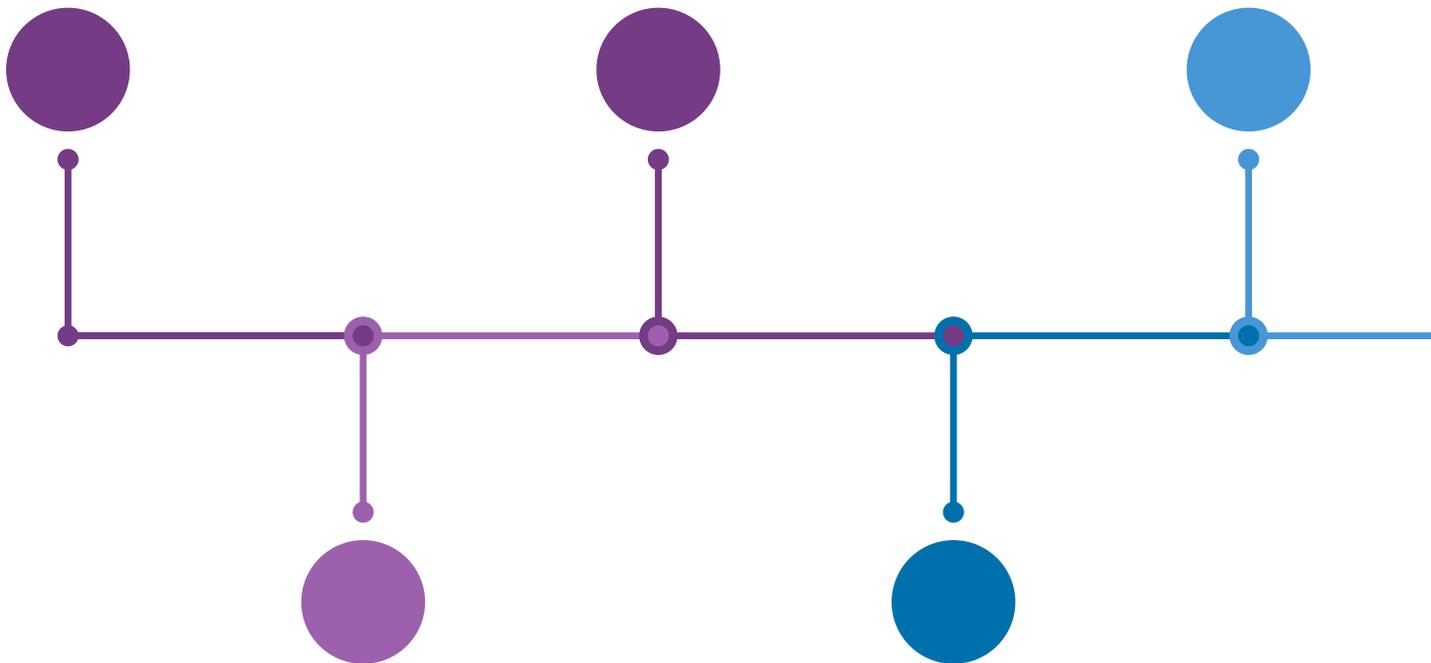
The Tiny Miracles Foundation is established. Programming begins at Stamford Hospital.

2006

Norwalk Hospital becomes Tiny Miracles' second hospital partner.

2012

Programming begins at Danbury Hospital.

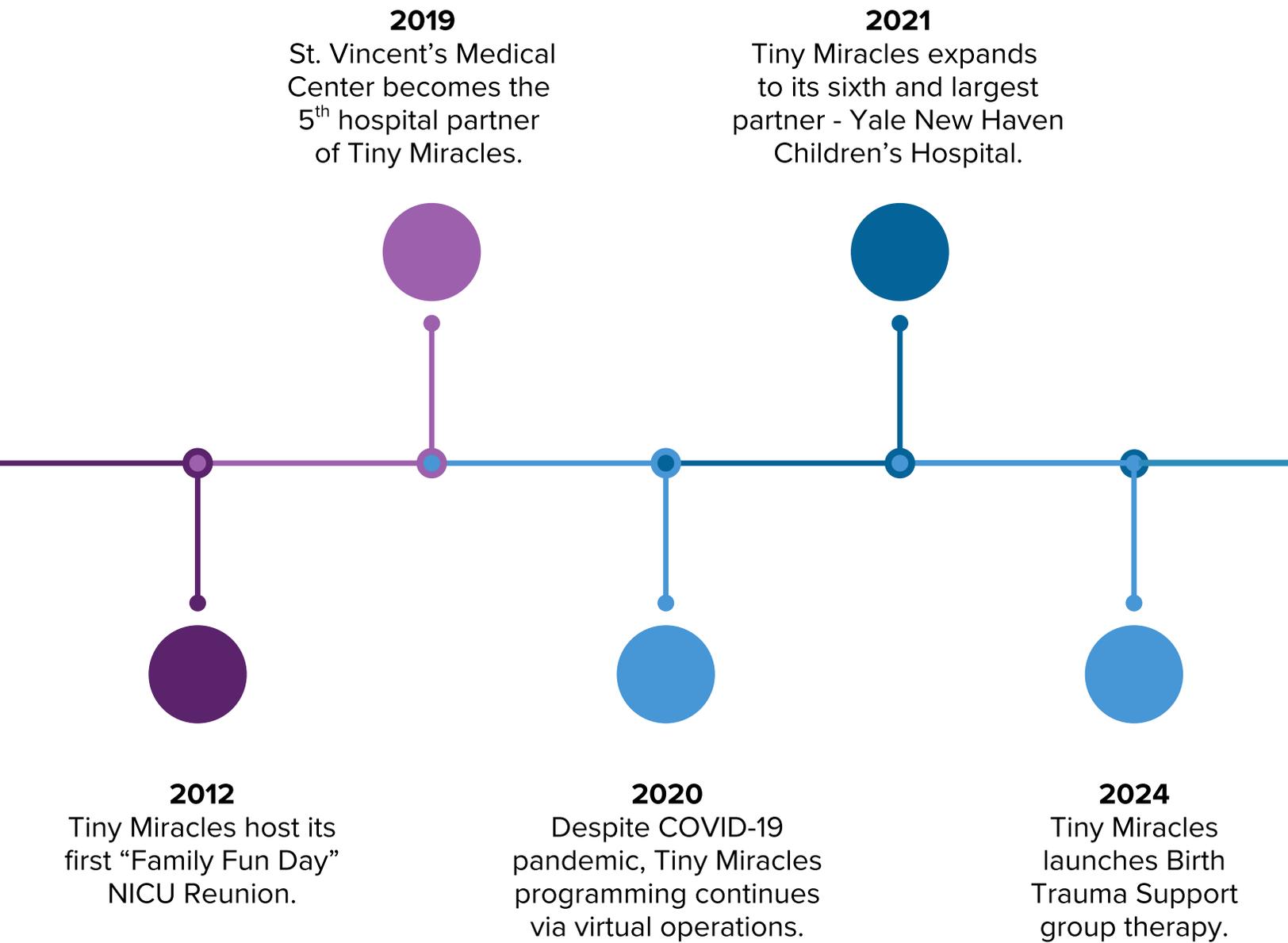


2005

Launch of Financial Assistance Program and Tiny Treasures bags.

2007

Tiny Miracles expands to Bridgeport Hospital. Launch of Blankets for Premies program.



The Power of Mentoring

Annual Impact

Every day, nearly 2 new families receive mentoring support from Tiny Miracles.

627

Total New Families
Mentored in 2024

6,000+

Families Mentored
in 20 years

Figures represent 2004-2024 data.

The Power of Mentoring

Zachariah and his Family

Parents Jelly and Russian delivered Zachariah at 25 weeks weighing 1lb 12oz. His NICU stay was shared between Bridgeport and Yale New Haven Children's hospitals over 101 days. During that time, Jelly met several Tiny Miracles mentors.

Although Zachariah made slow progress and experienced several setbacks with his digestive system, a staph infection and hernia surgery, Jelly and Russian found support in one another and the many connections made through Tiny Miracles.



Jelly reflected “Having a preemie means walking through uncertainty with courage you didn't know you had, and leaning on the quiet strength of those who lift you when your own heart feels too heavy. You discover the true power of love, hope, and support. It truly takes a village – and we're so grateful Tiny Miracles is part of ours.”



Birth Trauma Support

Our Newest Program

**60 to 70% of NICU
births result in
parent trauma**

For many parents, the trauma of a premature birth—or loss of a child—can linger for years, deeply affecting their emotional well-being.

Recognizing this ongoing need, Tiny Miracles established a Birth Trauma Counseling Group in 2024 to provide dedicated support.

Birth Trauma Support

Juliet and her Family

Anna and Chris had their first child, Juliet, at Danbury Hospital on April 5, 2024 at 24 weeks. Due to Chronic Lung Disease among other complications of prematurity, Juliet was transferred to Connecticut Children's Medical Center in Hartford at 3 weeks old. Juliet spent 271 days in the hospital. She was discharged home on both oxygen and a feeding tube.

Anna was one of the first participants of Tiny Miracles new Birth Trauma Support Group. That experience, along with the ongoing support of her Tiny Miracles mentor, was critical for Anna's mental health.



“Becoming a mother to an extremely premature baby is incredibly isolating because I didn't know anyone in my personal life that had been through a similar experience.

Being connected with women who knew what I was going through was life changing. I didn't feel alone in what I was feeling and experiencing.

They held me up when all I wanted to do was crumble.”



Financial Assistance

Lifting a Burden for Parents Rosemary and Alhassan



Rosemary and her husband Alhassan delivered girl/girl/boy triplets born critically early at 23 weeks weighing just over 1 pound each. They were immediately connected to Tiny Miracles by the staff at Yale New Haven Children's Hospital.

Their early days in the NICU were fraught with fear and worry especially over the health of their son who was struggling with the most complications. After 2 weeks, sadly, sweet Ishmael lost his battle while sisters Gracie and Miracle continued to struggle with the challenges of prematurity.

In time, the girls became more stable but not without the many ups and downs of a NICU journey. In addition to emotional support, Tiny Miracles recognized the financial need that these parents experienced after bedrest and an inability to return to work.

Through our Financial Assistance Program, Tiny Miracles was able to provide Rosemary and Alhassan assistance with transportation to the hospital and help with their mortgage payment. After 4 months in the NICU, Gracie and Miracle were welcomed home. Rosemary and Alhassan appreciated the support received during their hospital stay and know that Tiny Miracles is still there for them cheering them on.



Financial Assistance

Annual Impact

129

Families received financial assistance in 2024

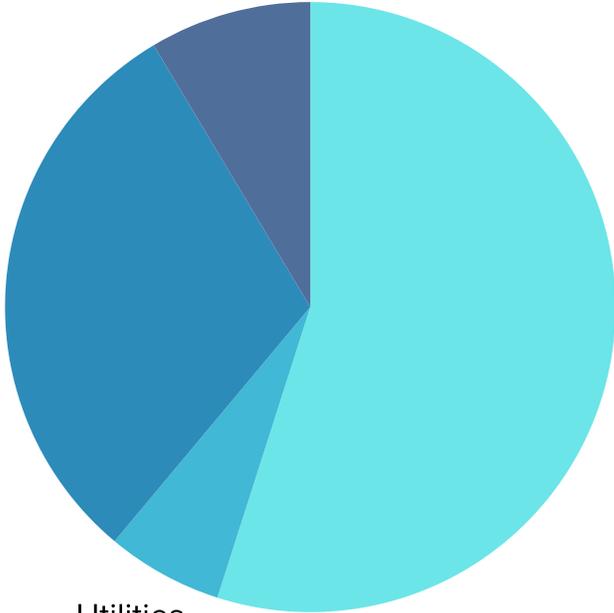
Distribution of Financial Assistance in 2024

Equipment (car seats and portable cribs)
8.6%

Transportation to/from NICU
30.3%

Housing (rent/mortgage payments)
54.9%

Utilities
6.2%



Figures represent service period January 1 - December 31, 2024

Blankets for Preemies

Created by Compassion and Community

A true community effort, the Blankets for Preemies program began in 2007 as a special activity at Middlesex Middle School in Darien. It was the vision of preemie parent and MMS teacher, Kelly Depiano, who initiated the project in honor of her friend's son, Sean James Maloney, who had passed away the year prior due to complications of prematurity. Kelly had premature twins herself in 2004 at 32 weeks after a month of bedrest so understood the trauma of a NICU experience.

Working with her 7th grade students to create 200 blankets that first year, Kelly has continued her efforts each year with her middle school students.



Kelly Depiano in the early years of the program



Danielle Maloney

The Maloney family remains active with Tiny Miracles. Parents Danielle and Andy participate in the blanket making effort each year in memory of their son while their daughter Kathryn was President of the Tiny Miracles club at Ludlowe High School in Fairfield.

Blankets for Preemies is now the largest volunteer activity for Tiny Miracles. Through the years, hundreds of participants from local schools, scout troops, nursing home residents, corporate and community groups have produced thousands of fleece blankets for local NICU families.

The blanket is often the first gift a family receives upon entering the NICU. In hospital, the blanket acts as an isolette cover improving infant neurological development and sleep patterns, providing warmth and privacy and brightening the NICU space with color and cheer. The blankets also carry significant emotional value giving families a cherished keepsake.



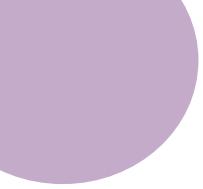
5,000+

Blankets distributed
to local NICUs since 2007



Blanket making volunteers through the years

Figures represent service period 2007- 2024



Tiny Treasure Bags

Practical Materials Thoughtfully Curated

97% of NICU families in partner hospitals received a Tiny Treasure bag with items to help with their hospital stay and the transition home.

Tiny Treasure Bags

Baker and Charlotte Pay It Forward

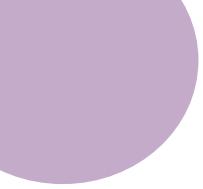


Baker and Charlotte were born in 2019 at 26 weeks gestation at Stamford Hospital. They spent 77 and 72 days in the NICU. Their mom, Lisa, received a Tiny Treasures welcome bag.

Baker took a particular liking to the Snoedel bonding doll included in the bag. He became very attached to his doll “lovey” also taking possession of his sister’s. Lovey even traveled with Baker for his first plane ride.



The family has stayed connected to Tiny Miracles through the years. Lisa, Baker and Charlotte were recently able to give back by helping to pack hospital supply bags for new NICU families. Baker may have gone home with the extra gift of a new bonding doll to add to his collection!

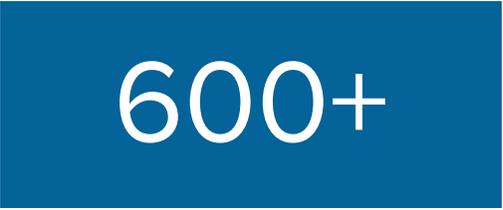


Holidays in the NICU

Recognizing Special Days throughout the year

Holidays are especially difficult for families with a baby in the NICU. Tiny Miracles has a tradition of providing special experiences for families who are spending holidays in the hospital, rather than at home with their newborn baby and the rest of their family.

Holiday Support in 2024



600+

Gifts delivered to NICU families for holidays including Valentine's Day, Mother's Day and Father's Day.

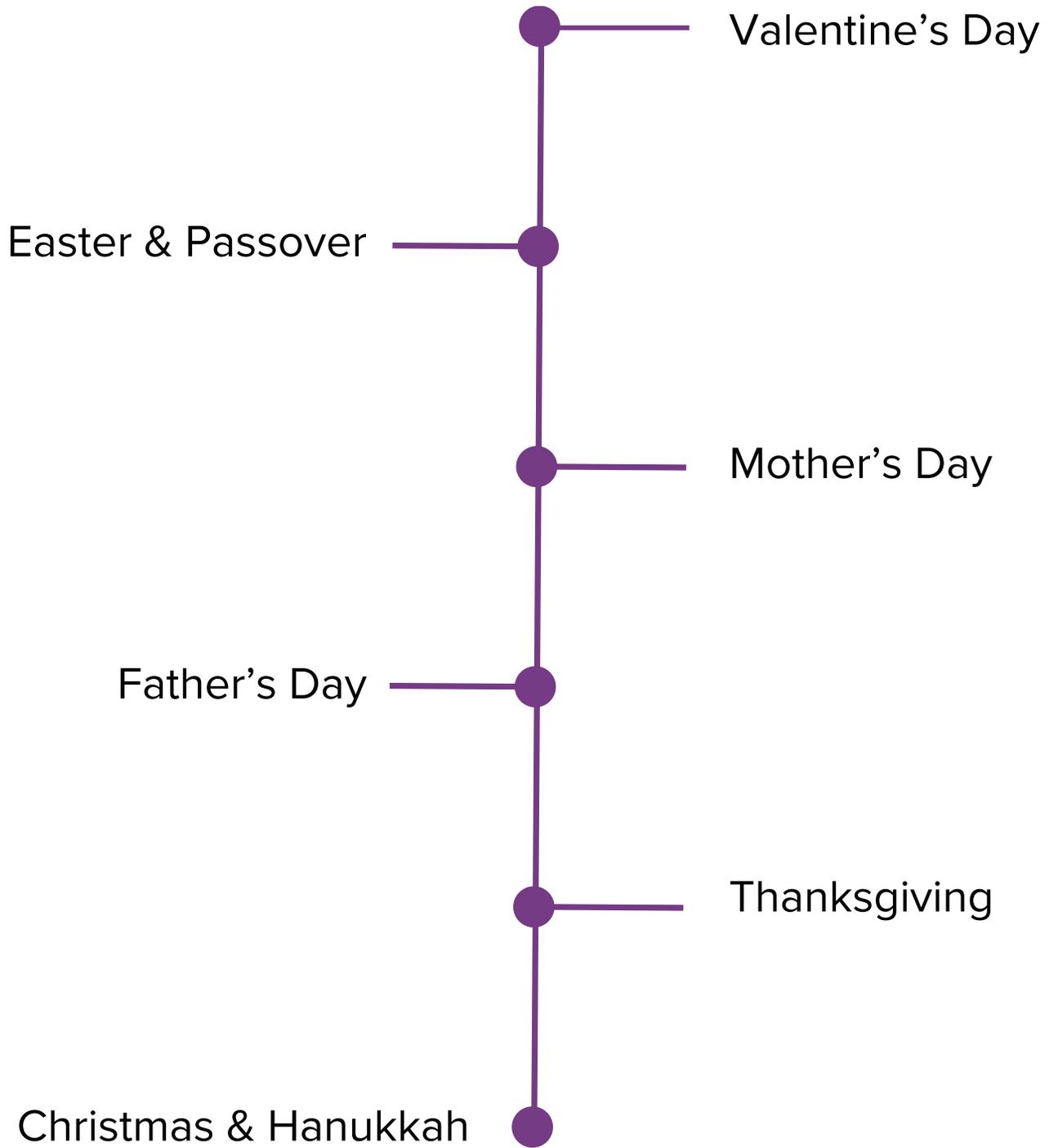


200+

Catered holiday meals provided to NICU families for Thanksgiving and December holidays.

Holidays in NICU

Recognizing Special Days throughout the year



After the NICU

Connections that Grow Through the Years

Tiny Miracles' support for families continues after discharge from the NICU.

In addition to ongoing mentoring support, specialized education sessions and workshops, the largest after the NICU program is the "Family Fun Day" NICU Reunion.

The free events now held every Spring and Fall provide families with positive social connections with those who have had a similar journey.

3,000+ people have attended NICU Reunions since they began in 2012



Figures represent 2012-2024 data

After the NICU

Connections that Grow through the Years



The faces of Family Fun Day through the years



Our Supporters

Our programs would not be possible without the generous gifts from these supporters received between January 1-December 31, 2024.

\$30,000+

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\$15,000 - \$29,999

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 Ellen O'Donnell Nalley RN
 Sarah A. Novack
 Cailleigh Quinlan
 Rachel (Tony Bonacci's sister)
 Kamila Kees Rivera
 Lily Rooney
 Nicholas J. Testa
 Paisley Jane Travis

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

In 2024, numerous people and businesses supported Tiny Miracles by generously giving their time, talent and resources in creative ways.

Please contact our office if you have an idea to support our mission via a special fundraiser or in-kind giving.

Special Event Fundraisers hosted by friends of The Tiny Miracles Foundation

Carter Family Community BBQ

Kristie Godina in honor of her birthday

J. McLaughlin Sip and Shop

Meta Platform (Multiple Campaigns)

Music for Angels (Organized by Janine Testa)

Star 99.9 Dance-A-Thon

(A Connoisseur Media event sponsored by Cadillac of Greenwich)

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“I, Ned Lamont, Governor of the State of Connecticut, do hereby honor and recognize the Tiny Miracles Foundation in the State of Connecticut and thank them for their efforts in assisting premature babies and their families.”

Cited from a Gubernatorial Proclamation
in honor of Tiny Miracles 20th Anniversary

The Tiny Miracles Foundation
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