

march 2012

miami-dade/monroe division

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march of dimes
miami-dade/monroe division
8323 NW 12 Street, suite 208
Miami, FL , fl 33126
305-477-1192

met the vidal family



Manuel Vidal and his family have been deeply affected by the mission of the March of Dimes. His son, Adrian was born at 30 weeks.

It was a very rough beginning for mom, Monica, as she had to be admitted to the hospital early to protect the baby.

When Adrian was born, he received specific and unusual treatment because doctors had to disqualify Hirschsprung's disease. He was also intubated for respiratory issues due to lack of surfactant. Adrian also received blood transfusions because nurses thought he'd become septic. He spent 35 days in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) at South Miami Hospital and had various other health challenges until he was healthy enough to come home.

Manuel and his wife are thankful to the staff for being so kind and caring to them and Adrian. The family goes back every year for the annual NICU reunions so they can proudly show off Adrian.

They Vidal's also have a beautiful 6-year-old daughter named Nina Victoria. They feel grateful to the March of Dimes. Having a baby born so prematurely, they realize the impact programs, research, community service, and advocacy has for families.

Manuel participates in March for Babies every year for Adrian and for stronger, healthier babies. He is a proud top walker, earning a spot in the Battered Boot Society for raising over \$7,000 in one season.



volunteers hit the hill to advocate for stronger, healthier babies

Dozens of volunteers advocated on behalf of March of Dimes at the 2012 PREEMIES & Policy Advocacy Day in Tallahassee. These energetic individuals met with eleven Senators and twenty two Representatives to bring forward two very important issues for Florida's babies.

The first was to ask for support of SB 402 and HB 227 relating to prescription drug addiction with newborns. This issue, Florida knows way too well. Attorney General Pam Bondi met with volunteers during lunch to share her passion in shutting down the prescription drug problem in our state. She was the author of the legislation and brought it forward to Senator Joe Negron and Representative Kelli Stargel to run. After a morning full of lobbying by the volunteers the bill passed out of it's last committee in the House of Representatives and is headed to the Floor for a vote.

The second was restoration of funding to the Florida Birth Defects Registry. Over the years the registry has taken a hit in the budget and is truly limping along now. The volunteers must have made an impact because the following day the Senate made their offer

to fully restore the funding. Of course, it's not over until the white handkerchief is dropped and the Legislature *Sine Dies*.

Governor Rick Scott, Lieutenant Governor Jennifer Carroll, and Chairman Negron also stopped by to visit with the group. Governor Scott even sat for a photo with the group.



"March of Dimes PREEMIES & Policy Advocacy Day was overwhelmingly successful. Thirty six passionate volunteers swarmed the capitol and created a buzz for babies that legislators couldn't ignore. The result

was advancement of key legislation that will save lives and money for the people of Florida," said March of Dimes Florida Chapter Public Affairs Chair Art Kimbrough. "Congratulations to all volunteers and staff who worked tirelessly to plan and carry out this monumental effort during one of the toughest legislative years imaginable."

If you are interested in participating in future Advocacy Days or hearing about legislation that affects the health of women and babies, sign up for our Advocacy Network at marchofdimes.com/florida.



If your pregnancy is healthy, wait for labor to begin on its own.

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Badges: Log in to your account and click the "Get Custom Fundraising Badges" button. Grab a dynamic fundraising badge for your blog, website or e-mail signature. Choose from three sizes, personalize with your picture, message and fundraising goal - It's easy!

Send Animated E-cards ▶

Animated e-card: Add some fun to the messages you send asking your friends to donate. Log in and click the "Send Animated E-cards" button to create your own personalized, animated e-card. The card includes a link back to your March for Babies personal page.



Facebook application: Log in to marchforbabies.org and click the button on the left side of your dashboard to get the app. You can tie your March for Babies account to your Facebook account and use our app to access a variety of sharing tools: post to your wall, post to friends, invite friends to walk with you, tweet the link to your March for Babies personal page.



March of Dimes

Honoring Chloe and Isabelle

March for Babies blog - March of Dimes

As a way to honor their twin daughters, Chloe and Isabelle, Paulina and Levine began raising money through March for Babies. The Levine's twin were born at just 26 weeks in May of 2006; Chloe lived for two days and Isabelle lived for five weeks. "We love that March..."

Published: 25 January 2012, 11:05 am

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Facebook: Instead of, or in addition to the Facebook app, friend "March of Dimes" and share their posts on your wall. Always enter the link to your March for Babies personal page in your status or comments. This helps your friends understand why you're asking for their support and easily link to your page to donate.

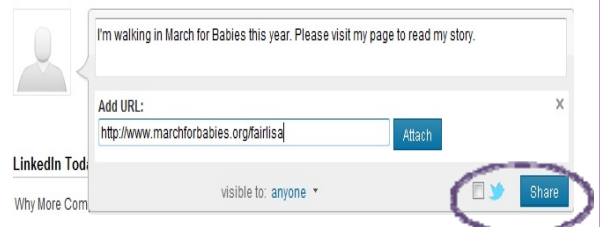
I'm walking in March for Babies again this year - please donate to help babies be born healthy www.marchforbabies.org/fairlisa

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Tweet

Twitter: follow "@marchforbabies" so their tweets will show on your timeline; tweet about your fundraising or your team and ask your followers to help, always include the link to your March for Babies personal page.

LinkedIn: Login and share your participation in the status box or post team updates. Be sure to include the link to your March for Babies page. You can post to Twitter from LinkedIn too, if you'd like.



Mobile Applications: Fundraise on the go! Click on the graphic on the left side of your dashboard or go to the App Store/Marketplace to download the March for Babies iPhone or Android app; you can update your page, send e-mails and record donations anytime, anywhere.

Mobile website: We've optimized marchforbabies.org for smartphones so it automatically detects when you're visiting on your smartphone and makes it easy to see on a mobile device.

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your fundraising dollars at work

This year the March of Dimes Florida Chapter has been very busy awarding grants to organizations that can help us accomplish our mission of improving the health of babies by preventing premature births, birth defects, and infant mortality. We have two separate state grant processes: Community Awards, which fund projects of \$3,000 or less and State Grants, which are larger grants, usually in the range of \$15,000 and up.

Seventeen Community Awards were made to various groups such as hospitals, institutions, health departments, and community based organizations totaling \$43,136 for this grant cycle. The awards will help fund programs throughout Florida in areas such

as Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) prevention, safe sleep practices, and smoking cessation education and improved prenatal care, as well as several post polio support groups, which help survivors of the polio scourge that was March of Dimes' first mission. Seven State Grants totaling \$400,000 were awarded to hospitals, educational institutions, and community based organizations to assist in the prevention of premature births by reducing risk factors, educating consumers and healthcare providers, and improving the quality of care.

For more details on specific grant projects, please visit our website marchofdimes.com/florida.



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march for babies

as a token of appreciation,
march of dimes offers
the following incentives for
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- Raise \$200, receive a March for Babies T-shirt
- Raise \$350, receive a \$15 Gift Card and March for Babies T-shirt
- Raise \$500, receive a \$25 Gift Card and March for Babies T-shirt
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- Raise \$10,000, receive a \$500 Gift Card and March for Babies T-shirt
- Raise \$20,000, receive a \$600 Gift Card and March for Babies T-shirt

Online fundraising is optional, but the average participant raises more money online with less effort because donors can pay online by credit card or by PayPal. Be sure to use both online and offline fundraising some people prefer being approached in person.

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