March 2012 — Hillsborough March for Babies

WALKING TOGETHER FOR STRONGER, HEALTHIER BABIES

march for babies

Tampa Bay Times Forum
April 28, 2012

6:30 a.m.	Registration
7:00 a.m.	Team Photos Begin
7:45 a.m.	Opening Ceremonies
8:00 a.m.	March for Babies Begins
9:30 a.m.	Food, fun, entertainment, and AWARDS

sign up!
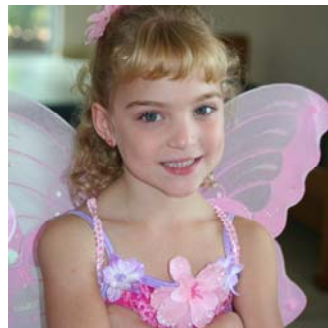marchforbabies.org

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meet ryleigh
hillsborough county march for babies ambassador

Cory and Melissa Butz were so excited to become parents and were looking forward to starting their family. At 27 weeks and 5 days, Melissa went into premature labor and was rushed to the hospital. By midnight that night Mellissa had an emergency C-section and delivered a beautiful daughter named Ryleigh who weighed 2 lbs. and 9.8 oz.

Their baby spent 6 weeks in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) and experienced problems common to premature babies: weight, feeding issues, body temperature and apnea. After 6 weeks they got to take their daughter home. Although it was an exciting time, it was also terrifying due to all the special care Ryleigh required. Unfortunately due to complications, Ryleigh needed to be readmitted to the NICU for an additional 2 weeks. After over 8 weeks in the NICU they were allowed to bring their baby home but carried a portable monitor everywhere they went.

Today Ryleigh is a healthy, smart, and energetic six year old. She is in the 85th percentile for height and 50th percentile for weight. The Butz' feel they are truly blessed to have such a positive outcome to a frightening situation.

hillsborough's top family team

The Butz family credits the March of Dimes with helping their child survive by funding research and other programs for stronger, healthier babies. They had the number one team in Florida and in Hillsborough Country by raising over $19,000 in 2011. This year they have a goal of $25,000 and are dedicated to making sure other parents have the same happy ending!

Raising money for March of Dimes is something the Butz family really taken to heart. "Thanks to the extraordinary effort of the doctors and nurses that were by Ryleigh's side during her premature birth, we are blessed to have such a wonderful daughter. The money raised by volunteers at the March of Dimes prior to Ryleigh's birth, helped her survive and helped those doctors and nurses have the resources they needed to be so successful."

"It's our way of giving back and saying thank you. We also believe that the money raised helps all families; those families with perfectly healthy babies are reaping the rewards that the March of Dimes funding provides to the latest in medical technologies."

"It all started with one person. It truly is a testament to what people can do when they ask the question, "What can one person do to help?"

Great job Butz Family! Go Team Ryleigh!

thank you to our sponsors

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.

march of dimes march for babies

as a token of appreciation, march of dimes offers the following incentives for your donations

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
Raise $1,000, receive a $50 Gift Card and March for Babies T-shirt
Raise $2,500, receive a $125 Gift Card and March for Babies T-shirt
Raise $5,000, receive a $250 Gift Card and March for Babies T-shirt
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.

Choice of Kmart or Macy's Gift Card

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.

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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.

march for babies on **The fun way to** facebook **fundraise**

GET IT NOW ▶

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...
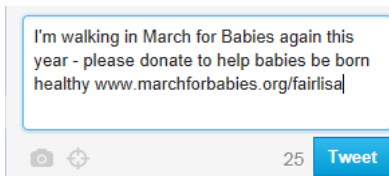Published: 25 January 2012, 11:05 am
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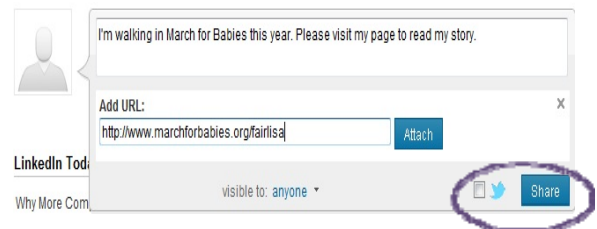Custom tabs: View example tabs
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Facebook: Instead of, or in addition to the Facebook app, friend "March of Dimes" and share their posts on your wall. Always enter the link to your March for Babies personal page in your status or comments. This helps 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

25 **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.

I'm walking in March for Babies this year. Please visit my page to read my story.

Add URL:
http://www.marchforbabies.org/fairlisa   Attach

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Why More Com   visible to: anyone ▾   Share

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.