

Event Details:

To make an online book donation, please visit our Amazon Wish List at <https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/13Y2EVNBQ6M9G>. At checkout, simply choose the option to have books shipped directly to Project: Cameron's Story. Select "this is a gift" and send us a note telling us what you would like the label inside the book to say. (Donor name, family, etc.)

Partnering Hospitals:

We currently partner with 18 hospitals in NY to supply their NICU's with books. Every baby in the NICU at these locations receives a book. This ensures that even babies who are born too sick or too soon and are not able to be held or touched, can still bond with their families.

- Albany Medical Center (850 babies)
- St. Peter's Hospital (450 babies)
- Crouse Hospital (900)
- Stony Brook University Hospital (1,000)
- UHS Wilson Medical Center (400)
- Golisano Children's Hospital (1,200)
- Bellevue Women's Center (450)
- The Joyce Stock Snuggery/Special Care (400)
- New York Presbyterian/Stanley Morgan (1200)
- New York Presbyterian/Weil Cornell (1100)
- John R. Oishei Children's Hospital (900)
- Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital (100)
- North Shore Hospital (1000)
- Mount Sinai Kravis Children's Hospital (1100)
- Mount Sinai West Hospital (500)
- Flushing Medical Center (500)
- Vassar Brothers Medical Center (500)
- HCH at NYU Langone (1200)



Mission Statement

"The goal of Project Cameron's Story is to support the bonding of parents with their premature babies in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), through the use of children's literature and storytelling. We strive to empower parents to form unique and profound connections with their babies within an environment that is often uncertain and intimidating. Our mission is to place a brand new, quality, children's book in the hands of every parent of a premature baby upon admission to the NICU. We, at Project Cameron's Story, are committed to providing information regarding the benefits of this type of bonding and continue to seek ways to encourage parents to utilize this as one important way to interact with their new little one."

Book Guidelines

NEW BOOKS: Books will be delivered to babies in a sterile environment (NICU), so all books **MUST** be brand new with as little handling as possible.

RELIGIOUS BOOKS: Due to the various religious beliefs of the families in the NICU, please avoid donating books that are overtly religious in nature.

TYPES OF BOOKS: Typically when choosing books for babies, the suggestion is to choose books with just a few words on each page. These suggestions are great for a full-term baby. **HOWEVER**, for parents who are trying to connect with their premature/sick babies through oral communication, the suggestion is for the books to be "picture storybooks". It would be helpful if the books were of medium to large size, with lots of pictures, and a long storyline (ie. lots of words!). The purpose is for the parents of the premature babies to have an opportunity to engage in an experience that involves a 10-15 minute period of time involving storytelling and bonding with their little one.

Some of "Cameron's Favorites" include:

- Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel
- Stellaluna
- Love You Forever
- Where the Wild Things Are
- Danny and The Dinosaur
- The Giant Jam Sandwich
- The Poky Little Puppy
- The Little Engine that Could
- The Gingerbread Man
- Rainbow Fish



Support our 14th Annual
"Bookraiser" to Benefit:

Project: Cameron's Story

February 16th-20th



"Before I could hold him...before I could touch him...I read to him..."



<http://www.projectcameronsstory.org/>



A Miracle is Born!

On February 16th, 2009, our son, Cameron Jace Quartiers was born. He came into this world under some of the scariest of circumstances, 16 weeks premature, weighing 530 grams (equivalent to just under 1 lb 3 oz.). He was just 10.2 in long.

The first time I ever walked into the NICU to see my baby boy, he looked so fragile. I was a very scared mom. For a short while, I could barely touch him due to the doctors and nurses wanting to keep a "womb-like" environment. Then while he was on a special ventilator, I was unable to hold him. For those first few days, every day I went to the NICU and just sat quietly staring at him for hours and hours. I finally decided I needed to find a way to bond with this beautiful little boy so I bought some picture books with lots of words in them -and I just sat with the incubator door open and read. I read, and read, and read, and read. The payoff? Cameron and I created the closest bond two people can ever have. No matter where I was in a crowded room, if Cameron could hear my voice, he would turn his head and look all over just to find me.



Cameron, at 6 weeks old

Our Brave Fighter...

From the second he was born, Cameron defied all the odds. Doctors said Cameron would probably not make it through the delivery....but he did. They said he probably would not survive his first 48 hours ... but he did. When he had heart surgery at less than 3 weeks of age, the surgeon told us that Cameron probably would not make it through the procedure... but he did. After struggling for months with severe Broncho-Pulmonary Dysplasia (BPD) coupled with a secondary diagnosis of Pulmonary Hypertension, Cameron's only option to sustain his life was a tracheotomy. Due to the fact that he still required a ventilator along with his trach, his care was immense. For these reasons, doctors said we might never get to take our precious boy home...but after 213 days in the NICU/PICU... we did.

After a short time at home, Cameron was readmitted to the PICU. After battling infection after infection, our beautiful little boy was granted his angel wings on October 20, 2009. And although the pain of losing him seems unbearable at times, we feel so grateful to have had every blessed moment with our precious Cam. And right to the very end, I read and talked and told stories to Cam...those are some of the finest moments of my life...

We have named our foundation, "Project: Cameron's Story" for 2 powerful reasons. The first, is because of the power that reading and storytelling had in helping us bond and assist with Cameron's development. The second, is because despite the fact that our precious boy never spoke a single word, it became clear to us, and all of those who were touched by his journey, that Cameron absolutely had a story to tell....a story of strength, hope, and love. As his parents, his family, and his supporters...we are blessed with the responsibility of sharing his story.

The Project...

The goal of Project Cameron's Story is to support the bonding of parents with their premature babies in the NICU, through the use of children's literature and storytelling. We strive to empower parents to form unique and profound connections with their babies within an environment that is often uncertain and intimidating. Our mission is to place a brand new, quality, children's book in the hands of every parent of a premature baby upon admission to the NICU's at 18 of the largest hospitals in New York State

So, when a scared new mom enters the NICU to see her baby for the very first time...there, sitting on the incubator, will be a beautiful new children's book for her to have and read to her baby and eventually take home. It is my greatest hope that others can be helped by Cameron's story, that they can develop new and powerful ways to bond with their babies. I like to believe that we tried desperately to give Cameron a chance. There are other babies who deserve that opportunity too. Maybe, in some small way this gesture can help other families in similar situations.

