

# Preemies Today Celebrates Our Second Anniversary!

On March 20, 2005, Preemies Today celebrated its Second Anniversary with delicious food, incredible music, fun children's activities, and a fantastic silent auction at the Sully Governmental Center in Chantilly, Virginia. In attendance were our V.I.P.s (Very Important Preemies), their parents, siblings, grandparents, friends, therapists, and nurses. We even had Alex Brown from Signing Time and his mother Emilie (co-producer of Signing Time) stop by and say hello.

The evening began with the wonderful vocals of Karen Young (grandmother to preemie Brenna) and accompanied by the talented Baxter. Later, our children were entertained in their very own VIP area with crafts, a "Hazard House" presentation by the Fairfax County Fire Department, and the fun songs and musical talent of Miss Mary Beth. While the kids were busy with in the VIP area, the adults had the opportunity to bid on auction items ranging from Parents' Night Out packages to tickets to events for the entire family. One of the grand highlights of the evening was a special slide show presentation depicting the history of Preemies Today. Our hats are off to Kathy Paz (President and Founder) and Deborah Leaf (Secretary) for putting together such a show.

The night's silent auction was a huge success and raised close to \$1900! All proceeds from the silent auction will benefit Preemies Today programs such as our "Friend to Talk to" telephone support line, Hispanic Outreach programs, Take a Break (Families in Need) Support programs, and local support groups. We thank all our generous bidders for their contribution to Preemies Today.

Preemies Today would like to thank all our families and friends for coming out and supporting us. We would also like to extend a special thank you to our major sponsors: Cooley Godward, Matt Chae of Keller Williams Realty, Jeremy Burch of UBS Financial Services, the March of Dimes, and the Noto family, donating in memory of their daughter Jennifer. We would also like to thank all the businesses and organizations who contributed

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*The VIPs (Very Important Preemies) and friends enjoying the evening's entertainment.*

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to the event/silent auction. Please be sure to support those that have supported us: Caribou Coffee, Einstein Bagels, Trader Joes, Whole Foods, DC United, the Great American Restaurants, My Gym, Olive Garden, Toys R Us, the Kennedy Center, Milwaukee Custard, Buy Buy Baby, Outback Steakhouse, Simply Create Photography, Peter Gaylor, Ronnie Elias, Sherri Hughes, Silverbrook Nursery, Elite Pressure Washing, Table to Table, Wegmans, American Tap Room, South Moon Under, Zaidee Coco, Edibles & Incredible, Alexandre de Paris, Main Event Caterers, Cindy Belsky, and Signing Time. Premies Today would also like to thank Robert Burt for taking his time to take pictures for us.



*Will Lundregren, Gabby Embry-Busch, Alex Paz, and Sagan Embry-Busch  
rocking out with Miss Mary Beth.*

And of course, a big thanks to the Events Committee for organizing the entire event, chaired by Mary Beth Hazelgrove. The other committee members included Sarah Chae, Deborah Discenza, Kelley Gillespie, Deborah Leaf, Mary Lundregren, Christine Miller, Elaine Noto, Kathy Paz, and Susan Salguero.

Thanks again to everyone who helped put together such a fantastic event, and we are looking forward to another incredible year as an organization.

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called Neutropenia. His white blood cells are lacking something called neutrophils which help fight infections and fevers. Because of this condition, we have to keep him secluded from crowded places and anyone who might be sick. We are hopeful that he will grow out of this very soon and we will not have to be so cautious. We also found out that he'll need glasses because his left eye was damaged from the ROP surgery. Thankfully his right eye is ok.

Overall, we are extremely thankful for all the wonderful care he

received from the staff at Fairfax Hospital and all the prayers from friends and family. We truly believe that Zachary is who he is today because of all the outpouring of love and support he received from the time he was in my womb. To read about Zachary's NICU journey and see more pictures, you can check out his website at: <http://zachary.teamchae.com>. Every time my husband and I look at Zachary's smiling face, we feel blessed 100 times over. He truly is our little miracle from heaven.

### **Mission of Premies Today:**

*The birth of a premature infant is an extremely frightening and life altering time. Premies Today strives to form a network of families to offer help, comfort, and understanding to one another through their knowledge and personal experience.*