

2023 by the Numbers

\$128,120

Amount Raised

128

Number of Donors

IMPACT OF YOUR DONATIONS:

\$46,525 Transportation for parental bonding

\$3,556 Helping families say goodbye to those they lost

\$2,000 Baby supplies

\$512 Phones to keep in touch with NICU staff

\$1,238 Other important needs of our families



Ryan Basile, who tragically passed away on March 29, 2020 at the age of 25, was the son of Susan Basile, a neonatal nurse practitioner who has cared for babies and their families at Holy Cross for more than 30 years.

Ryan's memory lives on through this fund and your generosity.



Friends and family gathered to remember Ryan at the 1st Annual Ryan Donald Basile Open at Hampshire Greens Golf Club in Ashton, Maryland on September 22, 2023. With beautiful weather and an abundance of memories and love, everyone had a wonderful time enjoying one of Ryan's favorite pastimes. Special thanks to Nick and Emily Finnblade for organizing the outing. Pictured (left to right) are Laura Dragos, Gabrielle Descoteau, Janel Hino, MD, and Amy Gates.



On behalf of the families who have benefited from your generous support, kindness, and compassion,

THANK YOU!

You continue to be there for our most vulnerable families as they navigate the challenges and financial burdens of an extended NICU stay.

The Holy Cross Health System NICU

Most babies are born without serious complications or medical issues, and they receive care in a neonatal nursery, staffed by expert medical staff. But when babies need intensive care and support, Holy Cross Health offers sophisticated and specialized treatment in its Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Holy Cross Hospital.

Our NICU has always excelled in caring for the smallest, most fragile infants and their families. Still, all premature infants remain at risk for the many complications of prematurity including poor growth, neurodevelopmental delays, and chronic health problems.

One of Maryland's largest NICUs, Holy Cross Health's 46-bed, Level III facility cares for more critically ill newborns than any other in the state. It offers complex, quality care and access to a wide range of pediatric specialists and state-of-the-art technology for babies who are born early or require constant observation or specialized care.

Through coordinated, interdisciplinary team-based care, evidence-based education, and continuous quality improvement, Holy Cross Health is creating a more advanced environment for our lowest birth weight babies to thrive.

About the Holy Cross Health Foundation

A 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization, the Holy Cross Health Foundation exists to improve the health of our community through the generosity of our patients, colleagues, community members, foundations, and corporations. Your partnership enables us to continue providing equitable care to our most vulnerable patients and their families.

For more information, please visit HolyCrossHealth.org/Donate, email Foundation@holycrosshealth.org or call us at 301-557-GIVE (4483).



On the Bright Side Little Miracles at Holy Cross Health NICU



Ryan Donald Basile
Memorial Fund for
NICU Families in Need

2023 Impact Report

Marlyne, Oxide, and Baby Zion's NICU Journey at Holy Cross Health

For Marlyne and her husband Oxide, who live in Beltsville, Maryland, Holy Cross was their hospital of choice. Despite its proximity, they had only one car and faced months of travel back and forth to the NICU.

"It was great that support from the Basile Fund was available to us," Marlyne said. "If those funds had not been there, I wouldn't have been able to be there as much and bond with my son. I thank God the fund was there to help us with transportation."

Marlyne, who stopped working early in her pregnancy due to complications, entered Holy Cross Health's labor and delivery unit at 23 weeks and five days. After 19 days in labor and delivery intensive care, she gave birth to her son, Zion, at 26 weeks and three days, weighing two pounds. Zion spent the next 118 days in the NICU.

"People can't prepare you for having a kid in the NICU," she says.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A NICU PARENT

Most mornings Marlyne would call first thing to check on Zion, hoping to catch one of his night nurses. She'd eat, if she remembered, get dressed, then call an Uber. "To be able to order an Uber to get there on time and not have to worry about the money was a relief," she said.

She spent as much time as she could with Zion. Her husband picked her up on his afternoon break when he could. On the days that he couldn't, she took an Uber home.

At 9 p.m., when Oxide got back from work, they'd head back to the NICU and stay with Zion until 1 or 2 a.m. – the only time Oxide could go.

"I thank God for these nurses who encouraged us to be involved," said Marlyne. "They train you. They'd say, 'Here, change the diaper, hold onto this.' Our son went through a lot of machines. He even went home on a monitor."

"WE WERE NOT ALONE."

For Marlyne and Oxide, the greatest comfort was talking with other parents and making friends that will last a lifetime. "We celebrated victories together and shared heartaches. It was great to have a group of people who understood what we were going through," she said.

"The staff was great too. Nurses wrote little notes to us when they took the baby out of the bed – 'I'm off to lunch' or 'I'm hanging out with my favorite nurse.' Those small things are very important."

Zion is home now and no longer on a monitor, and at nine months, despite battling sickle cell anemia, is growing and "very chunky."

"The staff made us feel so comfortable during our son's stay. And now we're home," she said. "We thank God we're home."



WAYS TO GIVE

Please consider making a donation to the Ryan Donald Basile Memorial Fund in 2024. Your gifts are used directly to support our families and make a profound difference in their lives.



Visit HolyCrossHealth.org/Donate or use the QR Code to give our families and their newborns the extraordinary gift of health.

We also accept gifts at the following address, made out to the "Holy Cross Health Foundation":

Holy Cross Health Foundation
Attn: Ryan Donald Basile Memorial Fund
10720 Columbia Pike
Silver Spring, Maryland 20901



Holy Cross Health purchased a freezer for a mom who had so much breast milk that her freezer space in the NICU was full and she had no more room in her freezer at home. Just one more important way the Basile Fund supports our families.

NICU Nurse Nina Scott Sees Firsthand the Life-Changing Impact of the Basile Fund



The NICU staff sends their love and deep appreciation to all our supporters.

Things many of us take for granted are lifelines for families who receive support from the Basile Fund.

Nina Scott, RN, a NICU nurse who has been with Holy Cross Health for 33 years, says that providing basic things like transportation, phones, and safe sleeping equipment is a godsend for families in her unit.

"We provide family-centered care and involve the parents in their baby's care," said Nina. "We encourage parents to be at the bedside as often as they can. For many, transportation to and from the hospital is unobtainable or challenging. It's been incredible to be able to offer them gift cards for rides to the hospital to be with their babies."

The NICU staff builds strong relationships with families. They provide continuity of care, spend time with them at the bed-side, and take the time to explain what is happening.

For instance, nurses get parents involved in taking the baby's temperature, changing their diapers, and comforting them during interventions.

"We want to include them so they feel like part of the care team — because they are — they're

the parents," she said. "The more time spent in the NICU, the more prepared they're going to be when it's time to take the baby home."

Nina adds, "We offer the parents to do skin-to-skin care, even on our smallest babies. Once they're stable enough, even if they still have a breathing tube on a ventilator, we can place the baby onto mom or dad's chest and give them this beautiful experience. We know from studies that skin-to-skin care is good for family-baby bonding, neuro-development, and long-term outcomes."

The Basile Fund has provided inexpensive cell phones to facilitate frequent communication with staff; car seats to ensure baby is safe traveling home, and pack-and-plays that provide a safe place to sleep.

"I donate directly to the Ryan Basile Fund from my paycheck every 2 weeks. It's just a little that adds up and it feels nice to have this opportunity to support our families during their NICU stay," concludes Nina, with a smile that has inspired hope in countless parents.