



ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

About ICU baby



Mission

ICU baby unites NICU families and provides emotional, financial and informational support so that babies and families can thrive together.

Vision

To build a community of NICU families who empower each other to be confident and present in their own NICU journeys, leading to better outcomes.



History

ICU baby was founded in 2014 out of personal experiences and in direct response to the need for a greater framework of support for families with a baby admitted to the NICU. Our first program was launched on World Prematurity Day in 2015 at Baptist Health's South Miami Hospital and programs were launched at UM/Jackson Memorial Medical Center's Holtz Children's Hospital exactly one year later. Since then, ICU baby has continued to introduce critical and innovative programming to meet the needs of NICU families in our South Florida hospitals.



Our Hospital Partners



**South Miami
Hospital**

BAPTIST HEALTH SOUTH FLORIDA



UHealth Jackson
Children's Care

Welcome

Dear ICU baby Friends & Family,

Togetherness. It defined our 2022 year.

Togetherness meant we were once again able to lift parents' spirits at their baby's NICU bedside and connect them to one another at our hospital meals for peer support, after the pandemic shifted us to offer virtual support. Togetherness meant increasing the amount of transportation vouchers we awarded to parents so they could be together with their baby in the NICU when gas prices were at an all-time high. And it meant gathering volunteer teams together to pack NICU care packages, host hospital events, and embrace parents in the hospital on their darkest days.

All of this happened because we successfully blended the innovative programming we developed during the pandemic with the supportive work we'd been doing inside the corridors of the NICU since 2015.

And, while we celebrated togetherness, we didn't take a break from focusing on the ongoing needs of NICU families. We strengthened our emotional and financial support programming by adding an informational support program. The ICU baby team developed and launched NICU Empowerment Support Tools (NEST) which provides vital information to our parents, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, whether they're at their baby's bedside or at home.

Togetherness also meant we were once again able to be together face-to-face with you, our loyal supporters. Our community connection was brought back in full as we re-introduced another sold-out Celebration of Miracles gala event, held our first sponsor cocktail, and hosted nearly 1,000 people at Zoo Miami for our annual Hope Parade.

ICU baby emerged at the conclusion of 2022 well-positioned to expand into more South Florida NICUs in 2023. Our ability to grow so significantly during and after the pandemic was a sign of your loyal commitment to the wellbeing of families. You help us make our South Florida community a better place for families who have a premature or critically ill baby fighting for good health in the NICU. Thank you.

We have impressive plans for 2023 and are glad you will be together with us, by our side, along the way.

With gratitude,



Elizabeth Simonton
Executive Director | Co-Founder



Nichole Aldrich
Director of Finance | Co-Founder



3 Pillars of NICU Family Support

- NICU Parent Mentor
- NICU Pack
- Foster Care Kits
- Bereavement Support
- Meaningful Meals

Emotional Support

There for families in their greatest time of need.

- Transportation Assistance
- Burial Assistance

Financial Support

Easing life's additional challenges.

- My NICU Baby Book
- NEST Video Library
- NEST Guidebook
- Community Resources

Informational Support

Sharing what we have learned.

Volunteer Initiatives

Our 2022 Awards & Acknowledgments



**2022 Florida Blue Foundation
Sapphire Award**

Winner



**2022 Spring Leadership
Miami Program**



Programs



Bereavement Support

A memorial gift and grief support from parent mentors who also had a baby die in the NICU. Financial assistance with funeral arrangements for families of low-income levels.



Foster Care Kits

A tote bag filled with baby care items for babies that will enter the foster care system after being discharged from the NICU.



Meaningful Meals

Suppers of Support, Cuisine & Crafts and Coffee & Conversation events to provide a catered meal and to connect fellow parents with a baby admitted in the NICU.



NEST - NICU Empowerment Support Tools

A guidebook and journal, video library and online resources to provide parents with access to information so they can better understand and experience the NICU.



NICU Pack

A tote bag filled with essential NICU items to help parents care for and bond with their baby alongside the healthcare team.



NICU Parent Mentor

One-to-one mentorship for NICU families from a veteran NICU parent. Support is offered bedside in the NICU and via tele-support.



Transportation Assistance

Monthly stipends to offset transportation costs for families whose visits to the NICU are limited because of financial hardship.



Volunteer Initiatives

Opportunities to support NICU families through mentorship, hosting meals, packing NICU packs, supporting events, offering professional services or serving as a Youth Ambassador.

Emotional Support

NICU Parent Mentor

Our NICU Parent Mentor Program includes 23 mentors who have each experienced the difficulty of having a baby in the NICU. Now, they volunteer 1-5 hours, week-after-week, to ensure that families with a currently admitted baby have access to the emotional support they need. Mentors serve as active listeners and, when appropriate, connect parents to outside resources they may need to have a better NICU experience.

In 2022, mentors were able to return to the hospital to offer support to parents at the bedside of their baby each week. Parent mentors also continued to offer support via telephone as they had throughout the pandemic. In doing this, families who could not be in the hospital when the ICU baby team was present had another opportunity to receive support.



516 Families Received Emotional Support

761 Bedside
Visits

1,335 Telephone
Conversations

6,503 Text Messages
Exchanged

18,521 Minutes of
Tele-Support



NICU Pack

Designed to provide parents with essential items they can use to help care for and bond with their baby. Items include:

- Information Package
- Personalized Message
- Tote Bag
- My NICU Baby Book
- NICU Milestone Cards
- Laundry Bag Set
- Baby Blanket
- CuddlePea Doll
- Story Book
- Breast Milk Cooler
- Baby K'tan
- Water Bottle
- Baby Wipes
- Hand Sanitizer
- Knitted Items



389

NICU Packs Distributed
Valued at \$115+ Each



25

Foster Care Packs Assembled

Foster Care Kit

Our Foster Care kits are prepared with love for the babies that will enter the foster care system after leaving the NICU. The kits include diapers, onesies, baby blankets, bottles and other necessary supplies to help the baby transition into their new foster care home. In 2022, ICU baby partnered with the Junior League of Miami for a third year to create our Foster Care Kits.

Bereavement Support Program

Our Bereavement Support Program helps families who suffer with the death of their baby in the NICU. The grief support team includes volunteers who also experienced the death of a NICU baby and members of our Parent Mentor Program. Grieving parents choose to be paired with a parent who has experienced loss or to continue being supported by a Parent Mentor with whom they had an established relationship.



25

Families Received Bereavement Support



“

When a family loses a baby their life is turned upside down. The burial assistance program offered by ICU baby is one way that we are able to relieve some stress from our families. The program is vital to the community/population that we serve.

”

*-Christina Manning,
LCSW, Licensed Clinical Social Worker,
Holtz Children's Hospital & The Women's
Hospital at Jackson Memorial*

Meaningful Meals

Our Meaningful Meals Program offers families a catered meal and an opportunity for peer support from other families with an admitted baby, through our Suppers of Support, Cuisine & Crafts and Coffee & Conversation. For the first half of 2022, the ICU baby team hosted parents to gather in hospital spaces outdoors. As pandemic protocols were adjusted, the meals returned to indoor spaces. The bonds that form and the smiles that are had at ICU baby's Meaningful Meal events are a welcome respite from the stressors the families have in the NICU.

14

**Events
Hosted**

154

**Families
Attended**

198

**People
Attended**

*COVID Protocol limited ICU baby's meals in each hospital. Our full schedule has resumed for 2023.



“ Everything was great!
I painted. We ate together.
I laughed. I enjoyed it ”
-Anonymous Mother,
World Prematurity Day Cuisine & Crafts

Financial Support

227

**Families Received
Transportation
Assistance**



Transportation Assistance

Our Transportation Assistance Program provides monthly financial stipends to families of low-income levels to offset expensive home-to-hospital travel costs. For parents who are financially insecure, the cost of transportation can be a barrier to them spending consistent time caring for their baby in the NICU.



Parents share how this support helped:

- *"I live in Homestead and with the increasing gas prices, these vouchers helped me tremendously! Thank you."*
-South Miami Hospital Mother
- *"It provided a safer way for me to get from the hospital from where I'm staying currently because I go to the NICU everyday. Without the funds, I have to walk."*
-Holtz Children's Hospital Mother
- *"It makes the 4 hour round trip drive more tolerable knowing that our transportation cost is covered. Thank you!"*
-South Miami Hospital Mother
- *"The transportation assistance helped me out tremendously. It helps me to visit my baby in the NICU, take my son to school and provide a way to have someone watch my daughter while I visit my NICU baby."*
-Holtz Children's Hospital Mother

Transportation Stipends Distributed

36

Bus Passes

89

Parking Passes

70

UBER Rides

1,560

Gas Stipends

227

Families Received Transportation Support

Burial Assistance

ICU baby distributed financial assistance to 15 families of low-income levels to help pay for the burial costs of their babies.

Informational Support

NEST

Our NICU Empowerment Support Tools (the NEST) are a targeted effort to increase parents' NICU health literacy so they can more confidently and competently care for their baby in the hospital.

The NEST is a series of three information channels - a book, a video series and online resources- designed to be accessible to parents with diverse backgrounds and different NICU journeys. All resources are distributed in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole.





Our NEST includes the following:

- ♥ A series of twelve, 5 minute informational videos
- ♥ My NICU Baby Book with space for parents to journal and track their baby's progress and have access to a guidebook about the NICU that correlates with the video series
- ♥ A parent portal offering online access to partners in our community who can provide additional support

Research shows that parents who are informed and involved in their baby's care leads to better outcomes and improves their experience in the NICU.



NEST Actor
Marvin Stvil



Volunteer Initiatives

4,760 Volunteer
Hours

274 Total
Volunteers





Our Volunteer Initiatives are the foundation of our ability to fulfill our mission throughout the year. ICU baby invites members of our community to come together to support NICU families in a way that is meaningful to them and every year we have hundreds of people unite to help.

Meet Our Different Groups of Volunteers!

23 NICU Parent Mentors & 7 Bereavement Mentors

Our ICU baby Parent Mentors & Bereavement Mentors have had a NICU experience and volunteer for up to 5 hours weekly, offering psychosocial support in the NICU and telephonically.

20 Youth Ambassadors

Our Youth Ambassadors are students from 7th-12th grades who have been NICU babies or NICU siblings or simply care about giving back, as they help facilitate a variety of ICU baby initiatives throughout the school year.

237 Project Volunteers

Our project volunteers are groups from around the community who gather to prepare NICU Packs and gifts.

32 Event Volunteers

Our event volunteers and our dedicated event committee members ensure our Celebration of Miracles and Hope Parade run smoothly, as they help us unite the community in support of our mission.

Professional Volunteers

Our professional volunteers include members of our leadership team helping with day-to-day operations and our Board of Directors guiding the strategic growth of the organization.

Pack-a-NICU Pack & Gift Prep
Volunteers Assembled 385 NICU Packs, packaged 285 Breast Milk Coolers, and wrapped 183 Gifts for our NICU families.

Fundraising Events

HOPE PARADE

Making Strides for NICU Families

ICU baby



853

Registered Participants

Watch This 3 Min.
Video Of The Parade



Hope Parade

Over 900 ICU baby supporters and volunteers joined together on November 6th at our second annual Hope Parade held at Zoo Miami!

Former NICU babies, NICU families, friends and community members came to celebrate their NICU journey, honor a loss or pass hope to those families who currently have a baby in the NICU. American wildlife expert and personality Ron McGill, released a rehabilitated hawk into the wild in a touching tribute to babies who do not survive the NICU.

The Miami HEAT Dancers, Miami Dance Project, Miami Lighthouse for the Blind Band & Coral Reef Elementary cheerleaders livened up the crowd, while children played in the Nicklaus Children's Hospital Kid Zone. Thanks to our volunteers, generous sponsors and the NICU teams from Holtz Children's Hospital and South Miami Hospital for making the morning so special.



Thank You to our 2022 Hope Parade Sponsors

Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsors



Bronze Sponsors



In-Kind Sponsors





Celebration of Miracles

ICU baby hosted its signature fundraising event, “The Celebration of Miracles | La Dolce Vita” presented by Novo on Thursday, May 26, at the Mr. C hotel in Coconut Grove.

The Honorary Chairs of the 4th annual gala were Miami Mayor Francis Suarez & his wife, ICU baby Board Member, Gloria Fonts Suarez. Event Co-Chairs were Ana & Eric Glass, Caryn & Mike Musaffi, Katie & Steven Nullman, and Gesy Lynn & Michael Rangel. One of the evening’s many highlights included a special performance by Radmila Lolly, an acclaimed opera singer and composer.

The event took its inspiration from La Dolce Vita, and the lifestyle of Portofino, San Remo and the beautiful coastal towns of the Italian Riviera. Guests mingled and dined on Bellini’s Italian delicacies while raising funds for una causa especial, a very special cause, ICU baby.

Thank You to Our Monetary Sponsors



Thank You to our Presenting Sponsor





Give Miami Day

Give Miami Day has become one of ICU baby's most critical fundraisers and this year we broke our own record once again!

**Give
Miami
Day**

With your generous support, we raised \$73,562 on our Give Miami Day platform and even more gifts came in from private donations made off-line.

139

Total Donors



\$73,562

Amount Raised

Financial Highlights

Assets

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Cash | 458,518 |
| Accounts Receivable | 43,157 |
| Investments | 107,086 |
| Property & Equipment | 8,536 |
| Other | 753 |
| Total Assets | \$618,050 |

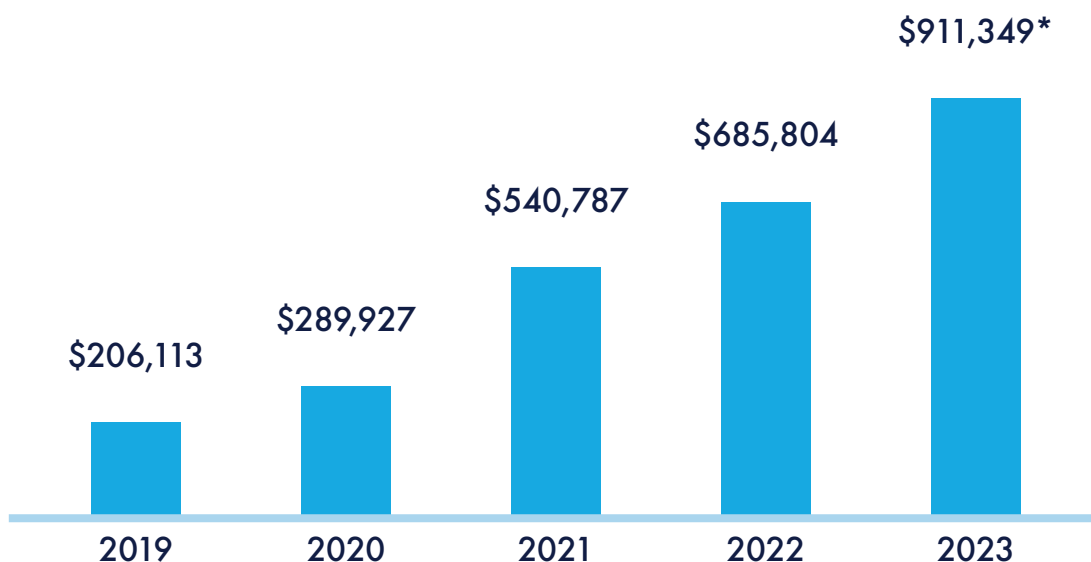
Liabilities

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Accounts Payable & Accrued Expense | 28,740 |
| Total Liabilities | \$28,740 |

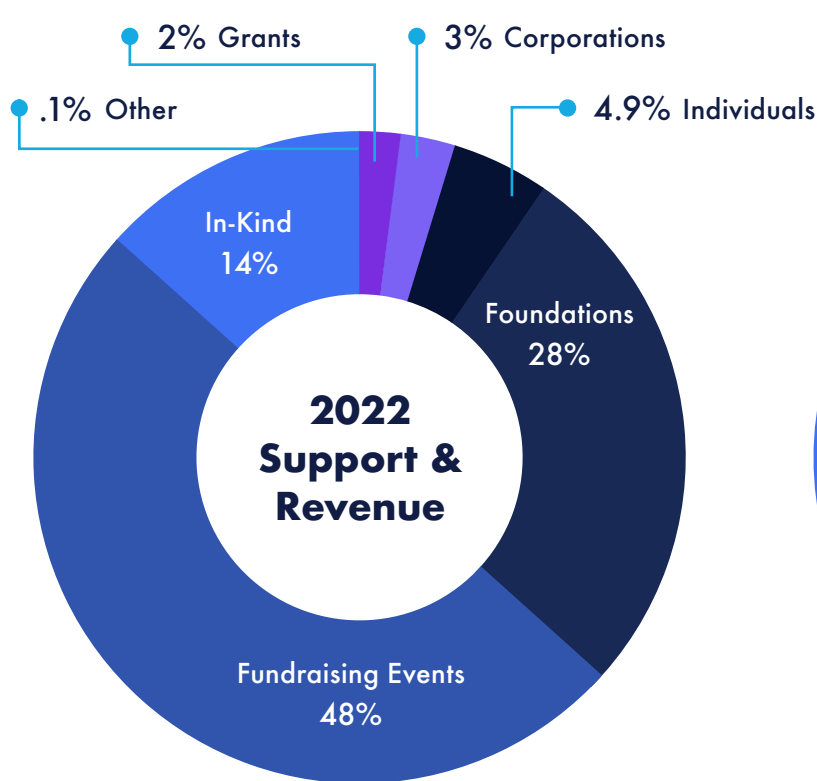
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|-------------------|------------------|
| Net Assets | \$589,310 |
|-------------------|------------------|

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Total Liabilities & Net Assets | \$618,050 |
|---|------------------|

Total Expenses



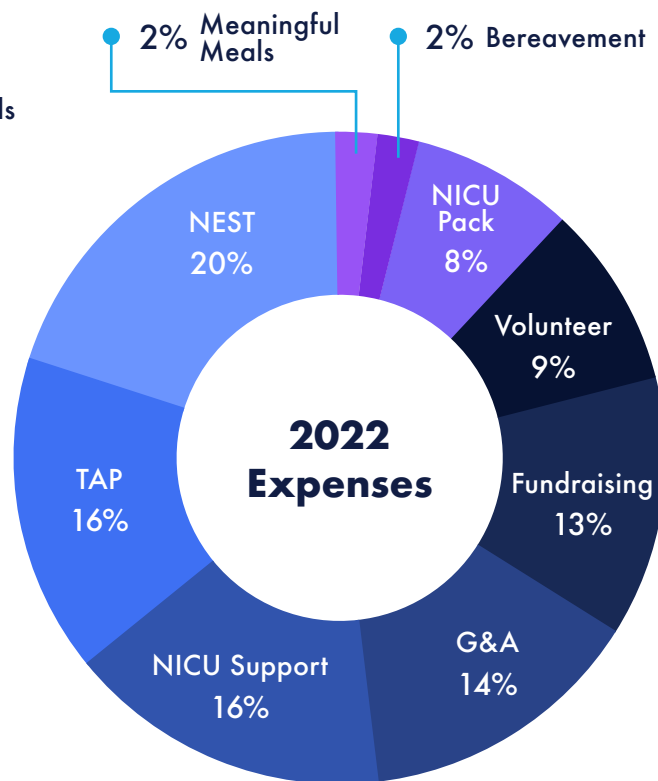
*Budgeted



Support & Revenue

| | |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Individual Contributions | 33,930 |
| Corporate Contributions | 19,227 |
| Foundation Support | 216,770 |
| Government Grants | 16,133 |
| Fundraising Events | 373,518 |
| In-Kind Contributions | 109,273 |
| Other | 585 |

Total Support & Revenue **\$769,436**



Expenses

| | |
|----------------------|---------|
| Program Services | 498,973 |
| Management & General | 96,293 |
| Fundraising | 90,538 |

Total Expenses **\$685,804**

Partners

Monetary Donors

Preemie Partners \$5,000+

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Anonymous | Global Law Ltd | Peter & Anna Kolchinsky Foundation |
| Anonymous | Hamilton O'Neill PLLC | Roger Stoudt & Yosbel Ibarra |
| Aldrich Family Charitable Fund | Hess Foundation | Stacy & John Bolduc |
| Errin Siagel & Teresa Koster | Impact Deposits Corp. | The Children's Trust |
| Fernandez Pave-the-Way Foundation | Juan Hernandez | The Miami Foundation |
| Florida Blue | Meredyth Anne Dasburg Foundation | United Way Miami |
| Giving Grousbeck Fazzalari | Ocean Reef Community Foundation | |

Preemie Patrons \$1,000-\$4,999

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Adam Jacobowitz & Philip Teitelbaum | Elizabeth Simonton | Nancy & Keith Stuart |
| Adam & Nathan Mendelson Foundation | Eric Santa Maria | Nathalia Ashworth |
| Arthur Conlan | Frank A. Simone & Margaret Nocero | Pascale Van Kipnis |
| AJ & Erica Nahmad | Henry Parra | Richard & Susan Arregui |
| Alberto Perlman | Hope Aldrich & Vytas Simas | Robert Parks |
| Ana & Wayne Ramoski | Ivanna & Alberto Omechevarria | Robertha & Pablo Ortega |
| Bruce & Amy Baird Charitable Fund | James & Rebecca Suarez | Sarah Briggs |
| Caleb & Alyce Aldrich | Jeffrey & Gina Liberati | Scott Powers |
| Carolina Mazuera | Joe & Ayesha Sigelman | Sylvia & Christoph Westphal |
| Chanin & Adam Carlin | John Marchionda | Tim Deal |
| Daniel & Mo Harwin | Justin & Betsy Sherwood | The Jake and Anna Flournoy Family Fund |
| Deepti & Anup Patel Foundation | Justin Joy & Drew Kovacs | W Randall Bassett |
| Easton Family Foundation | Key Biscayne Community Foundation | Westminster Christian Private School, Inc. |

Preemie Pals \$500-\$999

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Anonymous | Francis & Gloria Fonts Suarez | Rebecca Dorfman |
| Alex Rodriguez | Jaimin Rangwalla | Roger & Joann Stoudt |
| Alba Davalos | James & Julie Kittler | Shelley Daniel |
| Ana Avila | Jennifer Keller | Stephanie Choate |
| Anthony Martinez | Katrin Katz | Stephanie Rosado |
| Ashley Campbell | Lauren Cantor | Susan Simonton |
| Benjamine Valle | Maria Valdivieso | Theresa Campbell |
| Bernadette Seablom | Mark Englert | Thomas McIntyre |
| Craig Miles | Mary Billard | Thomas Spulak |
| Eduardo Fons | Philip Collins | Valerie Hernandez |
| Edward Perry | Prakash Mahtani | Vital Cares Foundation, Inc. |
| Frederick Chicos | Rafa & Bricen Urquidi | William & Peg Perry |



THANK YOU

to our monetary and in-kind donors for your commitment to ICU baby. You have helped us make an impact in the lives of NICU families in our community.

Thank you for helping us to fulfill our mission.



In-Kind Donors

\$500-\$999

Preemie Pals

United Way
The Stitching Groups of:
Miami Jewish Health Systems
Miramar Memorial Hospital NICU
Palace at Coral Gables
Plymouth Congregational Church

\$1,000-\$4,999

Preemie Patrons

McGlannon School
Miami Diaper Bank
OneVision
St. Stephen Episcopal
Day School

\$5,000+

Preemie Partners

Greenberg Traurig, P.A.

2022 Team

Board of Directors

Drew Stoudt, M.D | Chairman of the Board - Principal Partner, Gables Pediatrics

Nichole Aldrich | Co-Founder & Director of Finance

Ani Buraglia | Chief Executive Officer, The Fernandez Pave the Way Foundation

Shayna Dominguez | Asst. Director of Workplace Learning, Broward College

Ana Glass | Director of Premium Client Services, The Miami HEAT

Prakash Mahtani | Director, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC)

Carolina Mazuera | Consultant, McKinsey & Company

Stephanie Rosado | Partner & Social Media Director, Cultivate PR

Elizabeth Simonton | Co-Founder & Executive Director

Gloria Fonts Suarez | Owner, Cymbidium Events



Prakash Mahtani, Carolina Mazuera, Nichole Aldrich, Drew Stoudt, Elizabeth Simonton, Ana Glass, Gloria Fonts Suarez

NICU Parent Mentors

Nichole Aldrich
Lisa Banegas
Celeste Bared
Mariana Chaluja
Elizabeth Espinoza
Haviva Gelman
Katia Herminio
Valerie Hernandez
Karina Kalb
Fabiana Lacayo
Charkivia Lovett
Kristen Lovinger
Isabella Lundeberg

Jenna Luque
Tasha McKain
Cristina Pravia
Adriane Rodriguez
Alexandra Sanchez
Nicole Shay
Elizabeth Simonton
Pascale Van Kipnis

Bereavement Mentors

Nichole Aldrich
Celia Alvarez
Renata Aurelius
Adriana Del Vecchio

Bereavement Mentors (Cont.)

Leah Jayanetti
Vanessa Martinez

Meal Volunteers

Celeste Bared
Adriana Del Vecchio
Valerie Hernandez
Karina Kalb
Nicole Shay



Leadership Team

Co-Founder & Executive Director

Elizabeth Simonton, JD

Co-Founder & Director of Finance

Nichole Aldrich

Founding Board Member & Director of Programs & Education

Leah Jayanetti, DT, DPT

Director of Programs & Operations

Vanesa Salvo

Director of Communications & Events

Megan Gerstel

Director of Transportation Assistance Program

Karina Kalb

Director of Social Media

Valentina Rodriguez

Marketing Advisor

Valerie Hernandez

Bereavement Support Advisor

Naomi Rosenkranz



ICU baby

THANK YOU!

Join us at Our Fall 2023 Events!

Hope Parade | November 5, 2023

Give Miami Day | November 16, 2023

World Prematurity Day Luncheon | November 17, 2023

**Please continue to support our
work by making a donation**



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