Babies in the NICU may have been born too small, too soon, or with a medical condition that requires intensive care.

Throughout the NICU experience, parents can be involved in their baby’s care in a variety of important ways. The March of Dimes has developed the NICU Family Support program to help support families during their baby’s time in the NICU. The program also provides professional development for NICU staff about supporting babies, families, and each other.

Hospitals with a March of Dimes NICU Family Support program are able to offer their families special materials including keepake books for their baby, a guide for parenting in the NICU, and a NICU glossary and guide. There are special materials for families with babies in the NICU less than 14 days, a common experience that can also be very frightening and stressful. As part of the program, March of Dimes also provides information for extended family members such as grandpar-

tons and siblings, and materials just for dads. In addition, families can access March of Dimes NICU resources online from any device with an internet connection.

The March of Dimes NICU Family Support also provides ongoing education for hospital staff. This education focuses on best practices in supporting families, and the benefits of appropriate staff-and-family-centered care for NICU babies at every stage of development. Education for staff is based on evidence based care, to help support staff in their important role.

The program is currently implemented in over 120 NICUs across the country including here in Hawaii at Kapiolani Medical Center for Women & Children.

March of Dimes makes a difference.

Our 2016 Platinum March for Babies Sponsors:

Hawaii Gets a “C” On March of Dimes Premature Birth Report Card

Hawaii earned a “C” on the 2015 March of Dimes Premature Birth Report Card, which for the first time graded the state’s programs and revealed permanent disparities between communities and among racial and ethnic groups. Hawaii’s premature birth rate was 9.8% in 2015, which was higher than the state’s March of Dimes 2020 goal of 8.1%.

The state did especially poorly in the regions of Oahu, Maui, and Hawaii Island, scoring an “F” in each of those categories. Honolulu had a premature birth rate of 10.4%, while Maui (9.5%), Hawaii Island (9.8%) and Kauai (8.8%) did slightly better than the statewide rate at 10.4%. The national premature birth rate was 8.6% in 2015, meaning the original March of Dimes 2020 goal early.

The March of Dimes Board of Directors set a new goal to lower the national premature birth rate to 8.5% by 2026 and to 5.5% by 2030. Reaching the March of Dimes 2020 goal of 8.6% will mean the 250,000 fewer babies will be born premature and surviving the 2020 goal will mean 1.3 million fewer babies will be born premature, saving the country nearly $70 billion.

The U.S. earned a “C” on the 2015 Report Card. Babies, Oregon, Vermont, and Washington earned a “B” while states earned a “C” on Hawaii, New Mexico, Delaware, North Dakota and West Virginia. The state did especially poorly in the regions of Oahu, Maui, and Hawaii Island, scoring an “F” in each of those categories. Honolulu had a premature birth rate of 10.4%, while Maui (9.5%), Hawaii Island (9.8%) and Kauai (8.8%) did slightly better than the statewide rate at 10.4%. The national premature birth rate was 8.6% in 2015, meaning the original March of Dimes 2020 goal early.

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March for Babies 2015 raised over $780,000 for the March of Dimes mission making it most successful ever. Thanks to our chair David Printed in Red.

2015 Executive Leadership Committee

March for Babies Chair

2015 March of Dimes Governors’ Ball honoring Carole Kai with the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Award for Distinguished Community Service. (Saturday, November 7, 2015) The March of Dimes Hawaii Chapter’s 20th Annual Governors’ Ball in Honor of Carole Kai was held at the Ilikai Hotel & Tower in Honolulu. The event featured dined on a Chef's Table and enjoyed a seven-course meal prepared by Executive Chef Chuck Makita and Executive Chef Alvin Ueki from the Ilikai Hotel & Tower. Guests were entertained by Cousin Entertainment and the Kamehameha Marching Band. Hawaiian Princess Cruises provided transportation. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Award for Distinguished Community Service to Carole Kai.

March of Dimes 8th Annual Tadd Fujikawa Invitational Golf Tournament

The 8th Annual March of Dimes Tadd Fujikawa Invitational Golf Tournament held on August 12, 2015, at Kapolei Golf Course was a wonderful day of golf, games and fun. Hawaii Gas, as the course food and beverage provider, provided all of the delicious food and beverage for the tournament.

Mahalo to our Sponsors!

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Belt Collins
Coldwell Banker Pacific Properties
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ACUTRON, LLC
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Hearts On Fire Diamond necklace donated by the Wedding Ring Shop. Mahalo to our honoree Carole Kai and event chair Stanford Carr. The event featured tables enjoyed special meals created by Guest Chefs: Halekulani Executive Chef Vikram Garg, MW Pastry Chef Michelle Karr, SUNWAY, Lance Tashima and Taste of Harmony. Guests enjoyed a fabulous meal from the Sheraton Waikiki, and Distinguished Benefactors Circle Sponsors enjoyed live entertainment by Cousin Entertainment and the Kamehameha Marching Band. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Award for Distinguished Community Service to Carole Kai, and event chair Stanford Carr took the stage to thank all of our sponsors.

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