

On the Bright Side

Little Miracles at
Holy Cross Health
NICU



Ryan Basile, whose memory and legacy inspire support for NICU families through the Basile Fund, with his mother, Susan, a neonatal nurse practitioner.

About the Basile Fund

The Ryan Donald Basile Memorial Fund for NICU Families in Need ensures that no parent is ever kept from their baby because of financial hardship, transportation challenges, or unexpected crisis. Created to honor the memory of Ryan Basile, the fund provides practical and compassionate support to families facing the emotional and financial strain of an extended NICU stay.

Your generous support keeps parents close to their babies by providing ride-sharing gift cards for reliable transportation. It also gives families the essentials they need for life at home, including bottles, formula, clothing, and car seats. These resources allow families to focus on what matters most during a critical time: caring for and connecting with their newborn.

YOUR IMPACT IN 2025

In 2025, the Basile Fund provided **more than \$38,000 in direct support** to mothers, infants, and families experiencing hardship. This support was made possible through the generosity of **76 donors** who contributed a total of **\$80,480** to the fund. These resources helped remove financial and logistical barriers that often prevent parents from being present with their babies during long NICU stays.

\$33,200

in ride-sharing transportation, allowing parents to travel to and from the hospital to visit their babies in the NICU.

\$2,120

in essentials, providing families with clothing, diapers, and basic care items.

\$1,210

for Safe Sleep spaces, ensuring infants had a secure place to sleep at home.

\$900

for journals, giving new families a therapeutic outlet during a stressful time.

\$551

for breastmilk storage bags, supporting mothers who pumped while their babies remained in the NICU.

\$133

for Heartbeat Bears, offering comfort to families during separation or loss.

These investments helped families stay connected to their infants, meet basic needs, and experience compassionate support during moments of stress.

A Family's Commitment to Compassion

Across three births, the Clark family spent months in the Holy Cross NICU, forming close relationships with nurses, physicians, respiratory therapists, and even the front desk team. With every visit, they saw not only exceptional clinical care but also a community committed to supporting families during their most vulnerable moments.

During their first long NICU stay with their son Luke, they became aware of how different each family's experience can be. Night after night, they noticed another mother arriving around 9:30 p.m., exhausted and alone, coming straight from a long workday followed by a bus-to-bus commute just to reach her baby. It was clear that this mother faced enormous barriers simply to hold her child.

This stayed with them. They saw how isolating and overwhelming the NICU can be for families without reliable transportation or support from work. As they said, "Our child was fortunate to have access to a parent all day long. This woman was exhausting herself every day to get here. She would arrive late at night, stay as long as she could, then do it all

again the next day. That is someone who needs help getting from point A to B, someone who needs less stress, not more."

A hospital volunteer quietly told them about the Ryan Donald Basile Memorial Fund for NICU Families in Need, a resource created to ease these burdens. For the Clarks, learning about the Basile Fund offered a way to turn empathy into action and help ensure that a parent's ability to be with their child is never limited by the cost or complexity of traveling to the hospital.

They describe the fund as "deeply Holy Cross," a reflection of the family-like atmosphere that defines the NICU team. As Basile Fund donors, they are committed to supporting a parent's greatest wish, which is to be near their baby.

"It may feel like a little thing, but it is incredibly important," they shared. "When the best thing you can do is simply be there, and something prevents that, it breaks you." The Basile Fund makes sure families can be where they are needed most.



The Clark family, proud supporters of the Basile Fund.



A Mother's Gratitude



During her twins' NICU stay, one mother faced overwhelming challenges. She had little financial stability, no permanent housing, and was caring for her other children while preparing for the arrival of her newborns.

She received direct support through the Basile Fund, which helped ease her daily burdens. The fund provided essential clothing for the babies, arranged transportation so she could visit them every day, and ensured she had two car seats when the twins were ready to go home.

She also received exceptional care from the NICU team. The nurses, doctors, and staff supported her through moments of deep uncertainty. She did not know whether her twins would survive, and today both babies are healthy.

She credits their recovery to the skill, dedication, and kindness of the Holy Cross NICU team, along with the vital assistance she received from the Basile Fund.



This story is a reminder of the compassionate difference your generosity makes through the Basile Fund at Holy Cross Health.



THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE

On behalf of every family who benefited from your kindness in 2025, thank you for your compassion and your commitment to the Holy Cross Health NICU.

Your commitment ensures that every family in our NICU feels supported, valued, and connected. The Basile Fund continues to be a lifeline for parents facing some of the hardest days of their lives, providing practical support when it matters most.

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 scan the QR code, visit giving.holycrosshealth.org/RDBM-Donate, call us at 301-557-GIVE (4483), or email Foundation@holycrosshealth.org



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