



**OUR MISSION,
YOUR IMPACT**

2019

“I’ve been a proud supporter of March of Dimes for the past 31 years. I give because the work March of Dimes carries out is critical.

In the fall of 1955, I was struck with polio. The entire experience is as vivid today as it was then. My parents didn’t have health insurance or the money for a long hospital stay. Years later my mom and dad told me that March of Dimes paid the entire bill.

I was one of the lucky ones who wasn’t permanently paralyzed. Once vaccines eradicated polio in the U.S., I think it is wonderful that March of Dimes focused its mission on the health of all moms and babies.

March of Dimes helped me and my family in our time of need. I want to do the same for others. That’s why I’ve contributed for all these years and always will.”

DAN P.

LOYAL SUPPORTER

HEALTHY MOMS. STRONG BABIES.

March of Dimes leads the fight for the health of all moms and babies.

We provide programs, information, research and advocacy to ensure the future is brighter for generations to come.

Dear Friends and Supporters,

No family should have to go through what Dan and his parents did in 1955. (Read his story at left.) But thanks to thousands of March of Dimes donors, advocates and supporters, Dan was able to receive the life-saving treatment he needed to recover from polio.



For more than 80 years we’ve provided programs, resources and advocacy to help moms and babies in communities like yours and across the country. We’ve funded lifesaving research and local efforts to unite communities, including those with the greatest need. We empower every mom and every family. It’s what we do. It’s what we’ve always done.

We believe that every baby deserves the best possible start and that every mom deserves support before, during and after pregnancy. Unfortunately, not all moms and babies get what they need. That’s why support from people like Dan and thousands of generous donors like you helps ensure the future is full of healthy moms and strong babies.

We’re grateful for your support, and honored to share how you’ve had an impact on our mission this year.



STACEY D. STEWART
PRESIDENT AND CEO
March of Dimes



MONICA LUECHTEFELD
CHAIR
March of Dimes Board of Trustees

WHY YOUR GIFT MATTERS

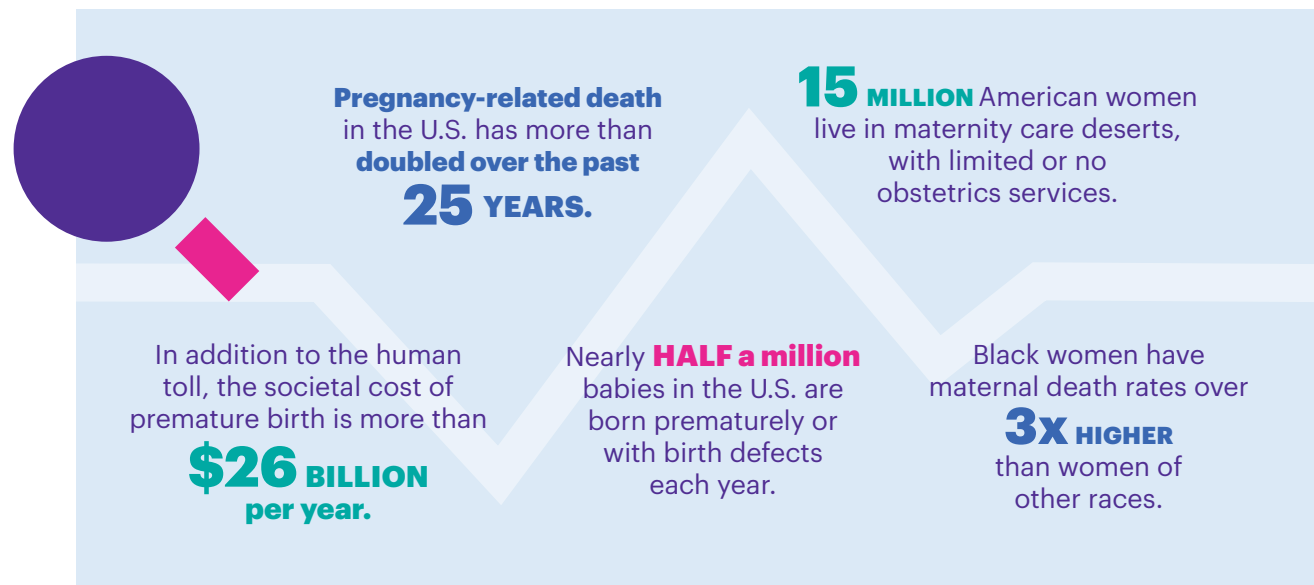


“A mother should never die as a result of pregnancy. Yet every 12 hours a mom dies giving birth. It’s time for accountability.”

DR. RAHUL GUPTA CHIEF MEDICAL AND HEALTH OFFICER, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, March of Dimes



“Your ZIP code and race shouldn’t determine the quality of health care you receive. However, for the fourth year in a row, the rate of premature births is rising, and inequities in health outcomes persist.”



“It has been a long year and I have struggled with anxiety and PTSD from this whole experience. Often people would ask how I’m doing, and I would always respond with ‘I’m good.’ But I wasn’t.” – **LINDSEY**

“Joey Albert came into the world and left us at 4:29 p.m. that November 8. None of the doctors could tell us what went wrong.” – **JOSEPH AND RENEE**

HEAR OUR VOICES

- ADVOCATES
- DONORS
- EVENT ATTENDEES
- FAMILIES
- GLOBAL PARTNERS
- RESEARCHERS



Photo Credit: Courtesy of Tasos Katopodis / Getty Images for March of Dimes

“I’m so grateful for this opportunity to change public policies across the nation to support March of Dimes’ mission and acquire the skills to lead others to do the same.”

BREANN BIERMAN-VOGT
GRETTCHEN CARLSON FELLOW

“Being able to see the babies and the memorial garden is so impactful. It is a very emotional and positive day that my family enjoys. This year my daughter was able to do the superhero sprint and cross the finish line which was very emotional for us since we were so unsure what her life would look like with her encephalocele”

MARCH FOR BABIES SUPPORTER



“From high level technical groups at the World Health Organization to grassroots civil society organizations in Africa, we advocate to improve the health of women and girls everywhere before, during and after pregnancy.”

DR. SALIMAH WALANI
VICE PRESIDENT OF GLOBAL PROGRAMS, March of Dimes



“We’re happy to support March of Dimes with a pledge of over \$225,000, which directly funds a NICU Family Support program in the Minneapolis area. This is a major step towards supporting families’ experiences in the NICU, and has a huge impact on the March of Dimes mission to fight for the health of moms and babies. Moreover, this achievement means we can carry on Colton’s legacy in a profound and meaningful way.”

ANDY AND JENNY BROWN
MARCH OF DIMES ROOSEVELT SOCIETY MEMBERS

HOW WE PUT YOUR DONATIONS TO WORK

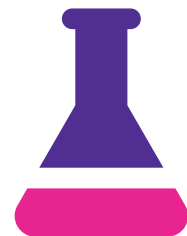
With your support, we're funding research, creating programs and advocating for moms and babies everywhere.

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

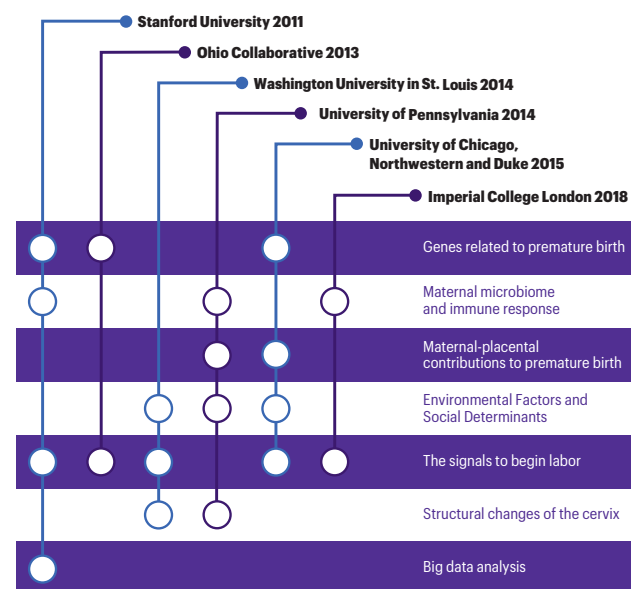
Seven research papers were published at four March of Dimes Prematurity Research Centers in the last year.

The Ohio Collaborative broke unprecedented ground by locating the first six genes to be associated with the duration of pregnancy and the risk of premature birth. Next the team will try to prove what those genes do and how they interact to affect premature birth.

Research we've funded at Washington University in St. Louis is exploring how electromyometrial imaging can be used to "see" contractions as they happen. This will further our understanding of why contractions start when they do, and how to stop them if they come too early in a pregnancy.



Around the country and across the pond, our Prematurity Research Centers are making extraordinary discoveries. They are each investigating multiple factors that contribute to preterm labor.



EDUCATION AND PROGRAMS

We continue to grow the **NICU Family Support program** thanks to donors like you. Right now the program **helps more than 50,000 families in 68 hospitals**. Even more receive information and comfort through our **My NICU Baby® App** and **Mi Bebé en la NICU**, which was publicly launched in February 2019.



We launched the **Supportive Pregnancy Care** program last year. Through group prenatal sessions with a provider, moms better understand pregnancy, labor and delivery, infant care, family planning and self-care after delivery.

In 2018, nearly **6 million users** visited **marchofdimes.org**, another 4.8 million visited our Spanish-language website, and we hosted **33 bilingual Twitter chats** on pregnancy and health, **reaching 46 million accounts**.

ADVOCATING FOR MOMS AND BABIES



In October, we launched **#BlanketChange** to speak up for those who couldn't speak for themselves. We laid **700 blankets** across the National Mall for each woman who died of pregnancy-related causes last year.

Congress passed the **PREEMIE Reauthorization Act of 2018**. It's the only federal law dedicated to the prevention and treatment of preterm birth.

We're working with the Trump Administration and Congress to implement more than **40 recommendations in the Protecting Our Infants Act strategy**, which tackles the impact of the opioid crisis on moms and babies.

Through our advocacy, **39 states have now established maternal mortality review committees** to investigate each time a woman dies due to pregnancy or childbirth.

We've been an outspoken leader on **protecting access to health care**, including protecting coverage for preexisting conditions as part of the Affordable Care Act and advocating against onerous work requirements for Medicaid. Quality, affordable health care is vital to improving the health of moms, babies and families.

We hosted **16 state advocacy days** across the nation, where over **500 champions** for moms and babies advocated at their state capitols for good health policy.



YESTERDAY

As polio swept the nation, President Franklin D. Roosevelt challenged every American to make a donation—just a dime—to support the fight for a cure. March of Dimes was born, and less than 20 years later, we pioneered research leading to the disease’s eradication in the U.S. **With polio halted, we shifted gears to focus on birth defects, premature birth and improving the health of families.** And we pioneered a new model for supporting our work: our iconic Walk-A-Thon.



TODAY

We lead the fight for the health of all moms and babies, no matter who they are, where they live or what they can afford. We’re advocating for policies to protect them. We’re working to improve the health care they receive. We’re pioneering research to find solutions. We’re empowering families with programs, knowledge and tools to have healthy pregnancies. By uniting communities, we’re building a brighter future for us all, and donors from around the world champion our work.



TOMORROW

We imagine a world in which every baby is born healthy regardless of wealth, race or geography. We’ll mobilize millions of people in support of improving health outcomes for moms and babies. Through the research and innovative programs we fund and our targeted and tireless advocacy, we’ll reduce premature birth and maternal mortality rates, focusing on populations and regions that need our help most. **Together we’ll give every mom and baby the best possible start.**



We simply could not do this incredible work without our millions of friends and supporters like you. THANK YOU.

MARCHOFDIMES.ORG