



Isabel's Gift

“Thank you, Isabel’s Gift, for your help during a very difficult time in our lives. Your support truly helped our family cope!”

Dear Friend of Isabel’s Gift:

Another year is coming to a close, and Isabel’s Gift is celebrating another year of helping Maryland’s NICU families in need. We are delighted to report we have helped *more than 400 families* with a premature or critically ill infant this year! It is so rewarding to **offer much-needed support to families whose children are admitted to the neo-natal intensive care unit (NICU).** We created Isabel’s Gift four years ago to help ensure families with children in the NICU don’t feel alone or forgotten, and since that time we have been able to support more than 1,500 NICU families in need in Maryland.

Our unique *Comfort Bags* provide a variety of hospital necessities to families waiting long hours by their child’s bedside, and our signature publication *The NICU Parent’s Advice Guide* has become a trusted resource for families seeking advice.

Our **Pink Heart Families** assistance program continues to provide much-needed assistance to NICU families struggling to keep their “financial heads above water”. NICU families call on us for small cash assistance grants to help **offset the financial hardships often endured when a child falls ill.** Our grants of up to \$250 per family help cover transportation costs to and from the hospital; mounting medical bills; and daily necessities like formula, medication and diapers. This year, we bought many car seats, cribs and other necessities for families bringing their children home from the NICU!

“Thank you so much for your great organization. It is a wonderful resource for parents struggling with a sick baby.”

Our Isabel’s Gift volunteers are busy organizing new, creative fundraising opportunities for the coming year, including a *“Bunny Brunch” Easter egg hunt and family Easter celebration this spring; as well as a boat excursion around the Chesapeake Bay this summer.* Stay tuned for more details about these exciting new events, and we hope you will consider joining us to help us raise much-needed funds to continue to support those **families who find themselves anxiously sitting at an ill infant’s bedside.**

We are also pleased to announce the addition of some wonderful new **Isabel's Gift merchandise available for sale** on our website. We have Isabel's Gift baby "onesies" available in a variety of sizes, as well as some lovely jewelry including custom-made pins in the shape of our signature Isabel's Gift heart/balloon logo. We are also offering our custom-made Isabel's Gift water bottles for sale. Take them with you to the gym, show your Isabel's Gift spirit, and share the Isabel's Gift story with others! *Please visit our website for more details about our terrific new merchandise line, and help us continue to raise money to support our critical programs.*

We have accomplished much since our inception in 2004, but there is so much more still to do. We want to continue to expand our programs to other hospitals nationwide, and we *plan to hire an executive director* to help take our organization to the "next level" in early 2009. In order to accomplish these goals, *we need your help!* *Please consider making a contribution* with the enclosed envelope to help ensure our continued growth and success. With your continued support, we can accomplish these goals and **provide comfort and support to families with critically ill infants.**

Thank you for your generous support of our programs, and we wish you a blessed and Happy New Year!

All the best,

Christa Grim, Board President
Isabel's Gift

P.S. Please remember your gift is tax deductible and can be made online at www.isabelsgift.org where you can allocate a one-time or a monthly donation. Online, or by mail, your gift is appreciated by families in crisis.