



Kate's Team started out as a way to honor Brian and Susan Brendel's daughter, Kathleen "Kate" Brendel, through a March of Dimes (MOD) March for Babies Team in the spring of 2005. Since that time it has taken on an even greater purpose. The Kate's Team Foundation raises awareness for and conducts fundraising in support of the March of Dimes. These efforts enable researchers to develop ways to help babies like Kate that are born too soon and look for ways to prevent premature births and birth defects in the first place. In addition to raising funds, awareness and education for all newborn issues, we also focus on teaching our children and reminding ourselves that every person, no matter how small, can make a difference in our world. This is Kate's Story.

During the fall of 2004 Brian and Sue were anxiously anticipating the arrival of their second child due in early April. Sue experienced a normal pregnancy with their first child, Sam, who was at the time four years old. Although the couple had endured three miscarriages before they became pregnant with Baby Kate, they were optimistic that she would be carried full term.

Just days after Thanksgiving and only 22 ½ weeks along Sue began to "feel ill". Upon arriving at her doctor's office she learned that she was already in the early stages of labor. She was admitted to the hospital in an attempt to buy a few more weeks crucial to Kate's development and chances of survival. However, labor could not be stopped and the doctors were forced to perform an emergency cesarean section that same day.

Born nearly 18 weeks premature, Kate weighed just 1 pound, 1 ounce and was 12 ¾ inches long. Immediately she was intubated and whisked away to Kadlec Medical Center's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) where she was placed on a ventilator and three times received surfactant therapy, a medication developed by MOD research that helps premature babies breathe. In so many ways she was just like any other baby. Kate became agitated when her diaper was wet and calmed when she was changed and her vital signs improved when Sue would talk or sing to her; she knew the sound of her mother's voice.

Being a micro-preemie, Kate faced enormous odds. Of babies born at 22 weeks less than 10% survive. Three days later, despite the tremendous level of care provided by the staff at Kadlec and medical advances in treating premature babies, many of which were developed by the MOD, Kate died in her parents arms.

Each year over 480,000 babies are born prematurely and in fifty percent of those cases we don't know why.

Despite all of the progress that has been made in the fight against premature birth, stories like Kate's are actually on the rise in the U.S. Much work remains before this battle can be won. In five years Kate's Team has raised over \$107,000.00 through donations from friends, family, co-workers, neighbors and last year proceeds from the Untapped Blues Festival. The Kate's Team Foundation was formed in 2009 to enhance efforts in fighting this national health care crisis. Through the efforts of volunteer support, 100% of funds donated to Kate's Team support the March of Dimes. We are here representing Kate and the fight not yet won. Won't you join us and together we can help give every baby a healthy start to life.