



Artwork by former preemie Kensie, age 5
Born at 28 weeks gestation weighing 1 lb. 14 oz.

The Power of Love

Love. It's such a powerful thing. There is nothing in this world like the love a parent has for their child.

When we welcomed our first baby at 25 weeks, I was overwhelmed with how fiercely I loved this tiny person. I would, without a second thought, lay down my own life and well-being to keep him safe. For countless days, I sat beside his isolette and prayed that I could take his pain, that I could fix all that was happening to him because my body wasn't able to keep him safe. When we brought him home, I sacrificed hours of sleep, hobbies, time with friends and a few chunks of my own sanity to keep him healthy and growing.

We fight so hard for our babies as preemie parents.

Our team at Graham's Foundation understands the sacrifices that you make for your preemies. We know how exhausting, overwhelming, and lonely this journey often is. We hope you always remember that you are not walking this road alone.

We are with you every step of the way.

Heather McKinnis
Director of Development and Preemie Parent

Meet Our New Volunteer Coordinator



Jennifer and her husband, Joe, with their children, twins Andrew and Cecelia (6 years old) and Sophia (9 years old).

We are pleased to introduce **Jennifer Musson** as our new Volunteer Coordinator. Jennifer is responsible for developing and managing volunteer opportunities and working with volunteers to find an activity that is right for them.

Jennifer is the mother of three children that keep her on her toes. She and her husband, Joe, were blessed with a beautiful girl (born at 35 ½ weeks gestation) in 2011 and full-term boy/girl twins in 2014. They reside in Stow, Ohio.

Prior to starting her family, Jennifer worked as an Early Intervention Specialist at the Summit County Board of Developmental Disabilities for twelve years. Her passion for inclusion drove her to develop programs that enabled child care centers to better include children with special needs. She provided the centers with educational training, support staff, and other resources to ensure that all children could be included in daily routines and activities.

After a seven-year break to raise her children, Jennifer is excited to put her skills and expertise to work in order to support the Graham's Foundation community.

Some of the activities she leads include the relaunch of our Ambassador Program (post COVID-19), individual fundraising efforts on social media, and donor relations.

We're also excited to announce a new volunteer initiative for those who like to sew. Details about how to make our "Little Lovey" scent cloth are available below.

If you'd like to learn more about volunteer opportunities contact Jennifer at jennifer.m@grahamsfoudation.org



Calling Those Who Like to Sew

Do you have a knack for sewing? If so, we need you. Our [NICU Care Package](#) includes a "Little Lovey" scent cloth. Parents keep the Lovey next to their skin to absorb their scent. Then the Lovey is placed in the isolette so baby can continue to bond with its parents even when they're unable to be there.

We are no longer able to get the Loveys from our previous provider so we decided to invite volunteers to make these as a way to give back to other parents of preemies.

The Loveys are easy to make so even if you're a novice but enjoy sewing, you can do this!

[Download the Little Lovey Scent Cloth Recipe](#)

Jensen - A Tube-Feeding Success Story



Meet Jensen, a thriving 3-year old thanks in part to tube feeding. His mom, Ashlee, says "Tube feeding is all my son has ever known and we are grateful for the nutrition it has provided him to grow and thrive. And guess what? He gets all the veggies and fruits he needs of every color of the rainbow!" [Read their story](#) to learn about the ins and outs of tube feeding.

SHARE YOUR STORY

Many preemie parents share their stories with us in order to help other parents that may be going through a similar prematurity journey. We invite you to tell your story either as a guest blogger or for a Preemie Spotlight on our social media sites.

[Submit your story here](#), or [request more information here](#).



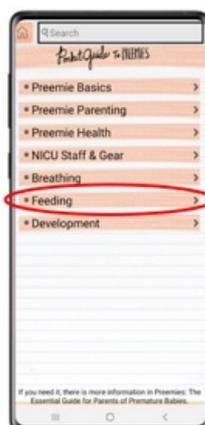
Introducing Monthly Themes for Preemie Art Submissions

We are excited to announce monthly themes for our [Preemie Art Gallery](#). We welcome all types of artwork but want to inspire your preemie by suggesting a few topics.

Artwork submitted by the fifth of each month will be considered for use in our upcoming newsletter.

Next month's themes: Spring, Favorite Flowers, St. Patrick's Day

Guidelines for submitting artwork are [available here](#).



Did you know that the [MyPremie App](#) includes a "Pocket Guide" that provides helpful information on a variety of topics? One of them is "Feeding" which defines and explains different feeding methods. This helps parents understand their choices and make the best decisions for their preemie.

[SUPPORT OUR MISSION](#)

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