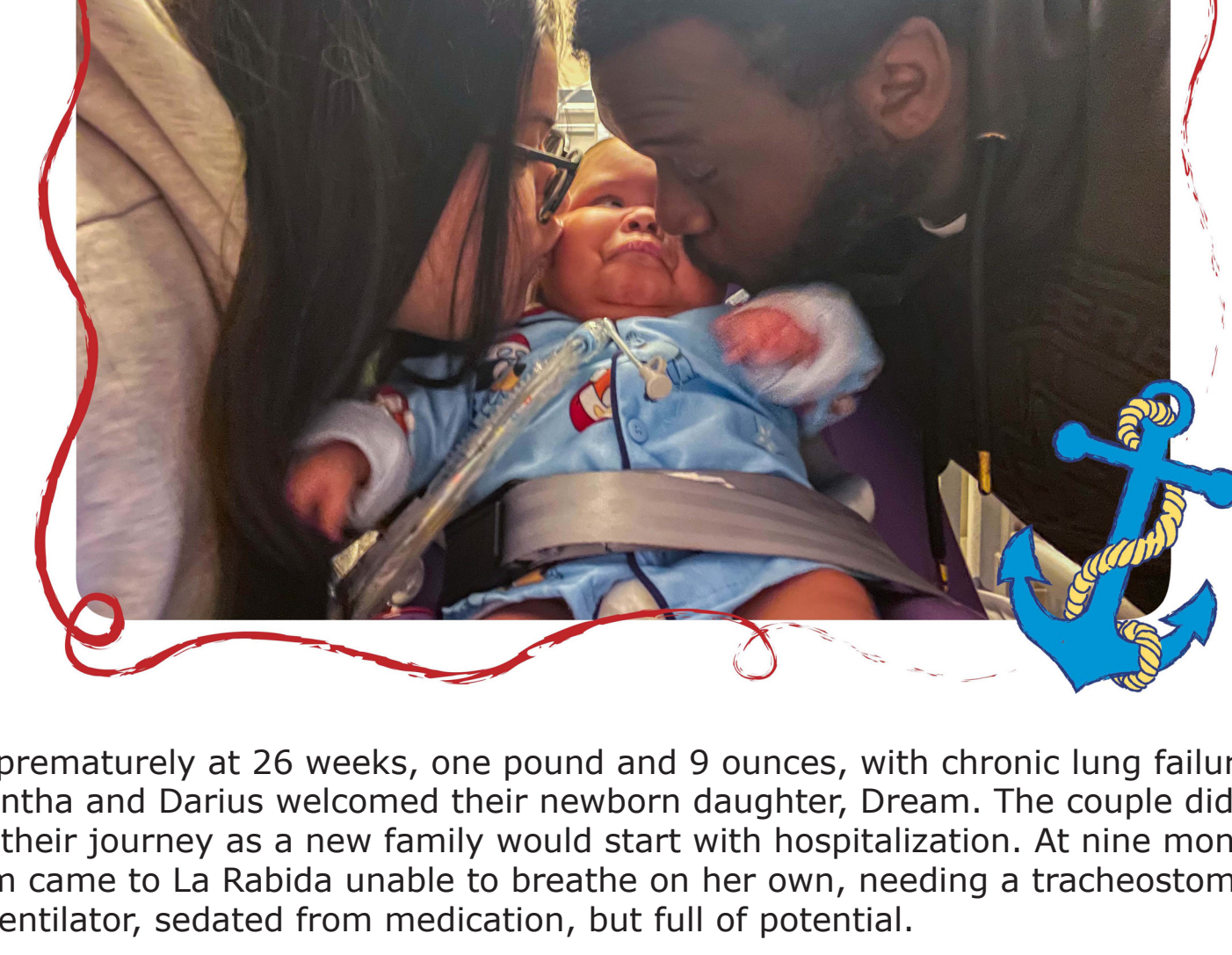




## Dreams Become a Reality, NASCAR Speedy Bears, and More!

### Patient Updates

#### Dreams Become a Reality



Born prematurely at 26 weeks, one pound and 9 ounces, with chronic lung failure, Samantha and Darius welcomed their newborn daughter, Dream. The couple didn't think their journey as a new family would start with hospitalization. At nine months, Dream came to La Rabida unable to breathe on her own, needing a tracheostomy and ventilator, sedated from medication, but full of potential.

**"I never thought I'd be able to have my own children, and I did. I never thought my daughter would get better and she is," said Samantha.**

It can be difficult to decipher a child's needs as infants, and even more so when they are persevering through complex and chronic conditions, like Dream. Laura Kahan, Infant Development Manager, leads a team who are solely focused on our patients' growth.

**"Even as an infant, you can learn so much about who they are, and that's where our care starts," said Kahan. "Dream is strong, motivated, and cautious. We worked together to evolve with new ideas and goals as she developed."**



Our staff carefully curated a plan for each day to help Dream progress comfortably at her own pace. With mom and dad by her side, and our expert care, Dream built bonds with her caregivers and family and her personality shined as she grew stronger and learned to breathe on her own. She smiled more often, welcomed physical and sensory stimulation during playgroups, and learned skills she needed to go home.

Now, Dream has blossomed into a 23-pound adventurous and playful child, happy and living the life Samantha and Darius had hoped for all these years.

[Read more about Dream's reality here!](#)

### La Rabida News

#### Sickle Cell Awareness Month Resolution



Dr. Radhika Peddinti, Director of La Rabida Sickle Cell Program shared powerful words about the work our team does every day as they treat more than 400 kids with sickle cell disease.

Thank you to Commissioner Donna Miller who presented a resolution at La Rabida designating September as Blood Cancer & Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month in Cook County. We appreciate the community support igniting the conversation for more education and awareness to this disease taking a toll on our patients' lives.



#### NASCAR Speedy Bears

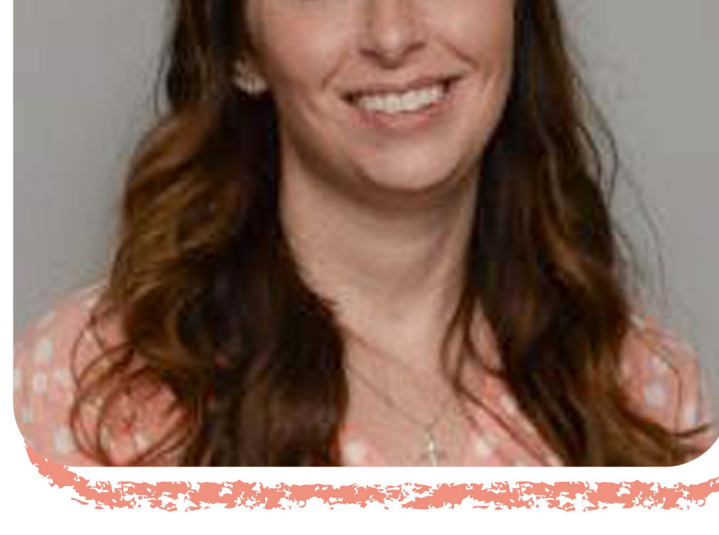


We shifted into gear with **NASCAR Foundation & NASCAR Chicago**. Our patients celebrated National Teddy Bear Day with a gift of a Speedy Bear! Their doctor's visit ended in a photo finish with a NASCAR Chicago Pace Car. We appreciate the organization's generous support through its Speedy Bear Brigade program.

#### 40 Under 40 Emerging Nurse Leaders



Ashley Black, Nurse Practitioner, MSN, APRN, CPNP-PC



Colleen Hennigan, Clinical Educator, MSN, RN, CCRN

Congratulations to two of our very own La Rabida crew members, Ashley Black, Nurse Practitioner, MSN, APRN, CPNP-PC and Colleen Hennigan, Clinical Educator, MSN, RN, CCRN Both have been awarded as the **40 under 40 Emerging Nurse Leaders by the Illinois Nurses Foundation!** This recognition celebrates their impact on healthcare, the nursing profession and influencing the future of the profession. Congratulations, Ashley and Colleen!

#### Cultivating Community Award Winners



We are honored to be recognized at **Just Roots Chicago** as the **Cultivating Community Award** winner. We've had a successful four-year partnership through our outpatient Fresh Food Pharmacy program, where produce goes from farm to table in homes where it's needed most. Finding common ground in holistic care for our patients, watering the seeds of health equity, and empowering wellness are the ingredients we're grateful to share with our families.

### Support Our Mission

#### Leaving a Legacy at La Rabida



We are incredibly grateful to our former patients, volunteers, employees, and board members who have seen La Rabida's mission in action and pledged to include our hospital in their future plans. These gifts of support will allow us to continue to make a difference in children's lives for many generations. Thank you to everyone who attended our inaugural Legacy Society Luncheon.

To look through photos from the event, please click [here](#).

If you'd like more information on the Legacy Society, please reach out to Anne Wilson at [awilson@larabida.org](mailto:awilson@larabida.org)

#### Getting in the Halloween Spirit



Getting into costume is always an adventure! Take a shopping trip to support our families, as we are yet again the local hospital beneficiary for Spirit Halloween's Spirit of Children campaign. Whether you dress up as your favorite superhero, animal, or celebrity, **you will get 10% off AND another 10% will be donated to La Rabida.** Be sure to save this coupon to present it at purchase.

#### Friends of La Rabida Gala



We invite you to join us to *Imagine the Possibilities* at the annual Friends of La Rabida Gala! Proceeds benefit our children living with complex and chronic conditions, disabilities, and those who have experienced trauma or abuse and the families who support them.

### Life at La Rabida

Take another lap and visit our [Flickr album](#) to see our patients race to take pictures with an official NASCAR pace car. Plus, check out other special moments we've captured at La Rabida this month!



#### Connect With Us

