

# Big support for tiny patients

Help us raise **\$1 million** to care for NICU babies at SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital.

Funds raised through this campaign will support investments in state-of-the-art technology for our tiniest and most vulnerable patients – from transport to NICU graduation!

Your generosity will impact thousands of newborns and their families while supporting the skilled caregivers who compassionately provide complex, specialized care.

Your gifts will allow SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital to move quickly on improvements now and replenish the NICU fund to meet emerging and unexpected needs for the future. Your generous support will:

- Help us grow to meet the increased demand for NICU care
- Provide the safest state-of-the-art transport for singles and twins across Wisconsin
- Upgrade infant accommodations and clinician access with new high-tech Giraffe® Omnibeds
- Reduce costs through investments in specialized ventilation
- Improve clinician communication and response with enhanced safety

## You can help deliver miracles!

Join us in support. Gifts of all sizes are welcomed. To learn more about naming opportunities and ways to give, please contact SSM Health St. Mary's Foundation at **608-258-5600**.

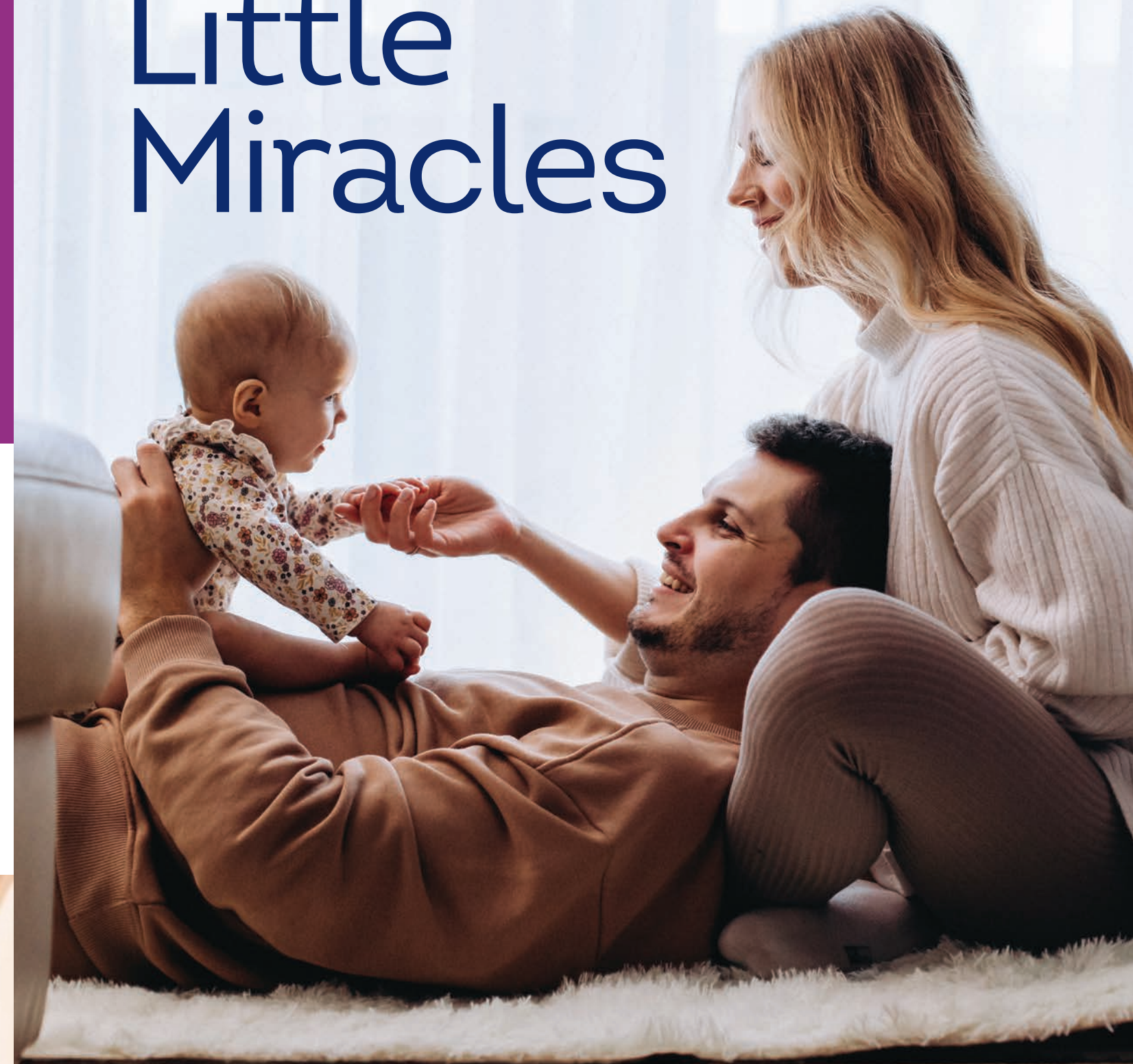
[givetossmhealth.org/LittleMiracles](https://givetossmhealth.org/LittleMiracles)

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# A Big Campaign for Little Miracles



# You can deliver miracles!

Welcoming a new child into the world is both thrilling and stressful, even under the most normal of circumstances. Having a baby prematurely or with complications presents an entirely new layer of worry for parents and families.

Surrounded by the healing hands and caring hearts of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) team at SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital - Madison, our tiniest patients and their families experience a commitment to caring that is second to none.

## Today, we share the needs of our NICU and ask you to help deliver little miracles.

St. Mary's Hospital's Level III NICU provides advanced medical care for approximately 400 fragile newborns each year. Our specially trained team, which consists of dedicated NICU nurses, NICU respiratory therapists, neonatal nurse practitioners, and neonatologists are onsite 24/7 and are available to provide NICU support and services to rural and affiliate hospitals.

As a tertiary regional referral center, hospitals throughout Wisconsin turn to SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital NICU experts when they need advice about a patient or wish to transfer a newborn to St. Mary's Hospital via Med Flight helicopters or a partnering ambulance service.

At St. Mary's Hospital NICU, we provide comfort, quiet and privacy, including:

- **Rooms designed for families with multiples, including one for quadruplets**
- **Room for up to 38 neonates and respite spaces for parents**
- **Angel Eye Cameras for families to see their babies virtually from anywhere**
- **Overnight accommodations for parents in our Ronald McDonald Family Room®**

## “Your first breath took ours away”

Mother-to-be Amanda was only 32 weeks into her pregnancy when she went into labor unexpectedly. She was rushed to SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital where her daughter Sophia was delivered at 1.5 pounds and 12 inches.

Babies born this early often struggle to thrive and grow, but **SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital's Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit**, with its exceptional staff and specialized equipment, exists to handle these emergencies and deliver the best possible outcomes.

Because Sophia was born so early, her vital organ systems were not fully developed, and she was placed on a ventilator that provided gentle breathing support to her frail lungs.

As her lungs developed, Sophia was weaned from the ventilator. After 119 days, she graduated from the NICU and was discharged having grown to 6 pounds and 18.5 inches long in perfect health.



## Baby steps to grow and thrive

It's rare for a community hospital to have a high-acuity NICU. Thanks to generous philanthropic support and commitments to quality improvement, staff education and investments in state-of-the-art technology, St. Mary's Hospital NICU will continue to thrive.

With an anticipated 20% increase in NICU transports, we're taking steps now to meet the growing needs of the future. Improvements include:

- **New transport isolettes:** Last year, 70 newborns were transported to SSM Health St. Mary's from 17 different hospitals via a transport isolette, customized with integrated neonatal ventilators and cardiac monitors, that ensure all necessary equipment is readily available for medical staff during med-flight or ambulance transport.
- **Giraffe OmniBed upgrades:** Incubators are at the heart of a Level III NICU, providing controlled temperature, humidity, and oxygen levels, and with armholes through which the infant can be reached with minimum disturbance to the controlled environment. They are designed
- **Enhanced communication system:** Improvements to a special call system will ensure a quieter and safer healing environment. With hands-free, voice-activated devices worn near a nurse's shirt collar, they can speak very quietly to activate communication.
- **Ultrasound-guided line placement:** Placing IVs in a NICU baby is a challenging procedure. The use of ultrasound guidance makes the veins more visible and accessible to locate suitable veins quickly and accurately, significantly reducing discomfort for fragile NICU babies.
- **Jet ventilators and micro ventilators:** Babies born between one to three pounds often require specialized ventilators that provide gentle ventilation at a microscopic level, decreasing risks and allowing healing for babies with underdeveloped lungs at birth.

## SSM Health St. Mary's Level III NICU at a glance



26 rooms



Holds 38 neonates



Serves 18 counties in Wisconsin



70 transports annually



Ronald McDonald Family Room® with four sleep rooms



Angel Eye cameras