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March
of Dimes®



On Sunday, October 11 the March of Dimes held their annual Signature Chefs Auction at the Summit Pointe Conference and Events Center. The evening began with a cocktail reception and guests enjoyed bountiful samplings from eight restaurants while bidding on silent auction items.

The evening's program began with a parade of chefs and awards for Best Taste, Best Display, & Best Presentation being given to Blue Fin Grill, Spartanburg Regional, & II Samuels, respectively. The live auction followed—featuring packages from restaurants and jewelers such as Lake Lanier Tea House, Blue Fin Grill, & B&D Jewelers. The heart of the evening was when the Clark Family—ambassadors for the event—shared their family's experience with premature birth. They lost their first son, Cameron in 2003. Cameron was born 16 weeks early, and did not survive his premature birth. In 2004, their son Brady was born 10 ½ weeks early and spent more than seven weeks in Neonatal Intensive Care. During his stay Brady battled infections and was plagued by conditions that affected his breathing and heart rate. He required multiple transfusions and needed a central IV line. Finally, after nearly two months, Brady was ready to go home. The Clarks thanked the March of Dimes for their role in the development of Neonatal Intensive Care Units like the one where their son spent the first critical weeks of his life.

The March of Dimes has also funded research for lifesaving medical treatments like Surfactant and Nitric Oxide therapies which help tiny babies breathe. Today, the





organization continues to raise money through fundraising events to help find the causes and ways to prevent premature birth. South Carolina has one of the highest premature birth rates in the country—with one in six babies are born prematurely in our state. In half of those cases there is no known cause.

November is Prematurity Awareness Month and the March of Dimes invites everyone to join the Fight For Premies by visiting marchofdimes.com/fightforpreemies. This web site offers educational information about prematurity including specialized topics for moms, families and professionals. There are also social networking tools—web site banners and badges—that can be downloaded and added to web sites or blogs to further raise awareness.

Families like the Clarks are grateful for the efforts of the March of Dimes and will continue helping raise awareness and funds to help make sure other families don't have to experience what they have. Event Coordinator, Tammy Gregg says, "We are inspired by families like the Clarks and we will keep working for the day when every family knows the joy of having a healthy baby. We thank the Spartanburg community for their support of our mission and their contributions to this event".

To learn more about how to get involved with the March of Dimes locally, visit marchofdimes.com/southcarolina or call 864-235-8576.



Photos by Lauren Gossett

Participating restaurants:

Brasserie Ecosse, Blue Fin Grill, City Range, II Samuels, Lake Lanier Tea House, Persimmons Bistro, Spartanburg Regional, Stone Soup Market & Café

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