



Little Heroes



1 baby in 10 is born premature. Worldwide.

Behind every number, there is a personal story. A story of life, that must to be told and a little hero who is showing the world that life is worth fighting for.

We want to honour their fight for life and thank all those who went with them – their parents, their families but also the health professionals in the maternal and neonatal intensive care units, and after discharge from hospital.

We thank all parent organisations that contributed to this project for sharing their little heroes.

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Date of birth: 18.10.2010 · Gestational age at birth: 26 weeks · Birth weight: 900g

Albena Bulgaria

Albena needed ventilatory support and stayed in hospital for three months.

Today, she is an active girl who likes singing and drawing. She also enjoys climbing and playing with her friends outdoors.

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Date of birth: 17.02.1997 · Gestational age at birth: 25 weeks · Birth weight: 515g

Lukas Germany

Lukas and his twin sister Lena were born too early and too tiny. Sadly, Lena died one week after birth. Lukas survived his first weeks without further complications. However, many challenges lay ahead of him including numerous surgical procedures.

Meanwhile, Lukas has grown into a healthy teenager who attends high-school and counts playing the violin among his hobbies. His career goal is to become a profiler.

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Date of birth: 27.02.2009 · Gestational age at birth: 27 weeks · Birth weight: 1040g

Szymon Poland

Szymon was immediately intubated after birth and admitted to the intensive care unit where he remained for 110 days. He was ventilated for six weeks and underwent surgery for Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP).

After discharge, Szymon needed further neurological, cardiological, and ophthalmological care as well as physiotherapy. Today he is a happy and cheerful boy with a passion for cars, tractors, and construction machines.

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Date of birth: 25.03.2010 · Gestational age at birth: 25 weeks · Birth weight: 840g

Elžbieta Lithuania

After her early birth, Elžbieta's health condition was extremely difficult and life-threatening. She remained in hospital for 103 days during which she was treated with 21 different kinds of medicines and underwent two inevitable surgeries.

Today, her parents describe her as a strong-natured, brave and curious little girl. The quality her parents admire most is her ability to enjoy life.

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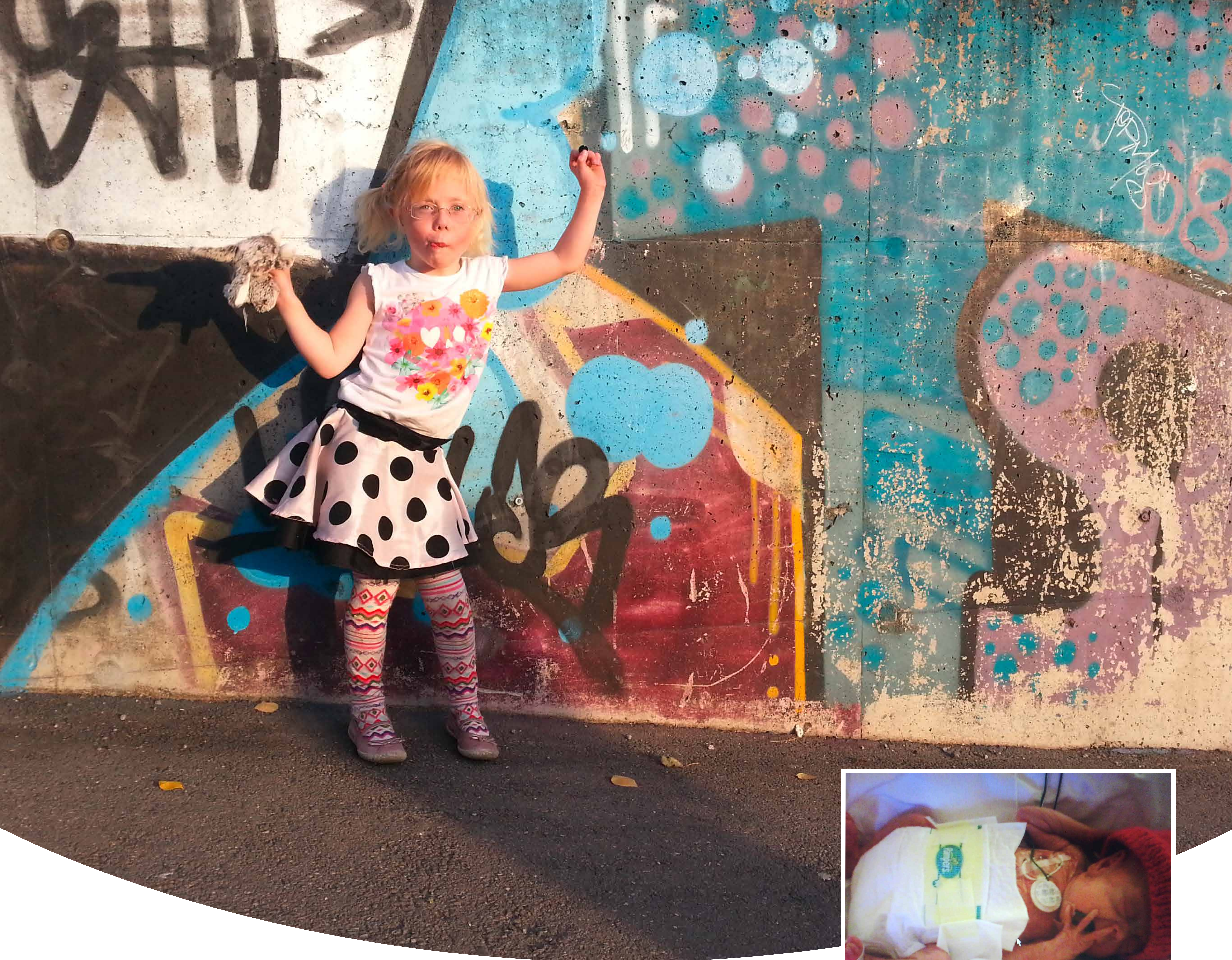
Despeena Greece

Despeena stayed in the hospital for ten weeks. During this time, she could not breathe by herself and suffered both bleeding in her brain and sepsis.

These days, nothing reminds Despeena's parents of what she has been through as a baby. She loves horses, playing with her toy-guitar and to talk all day long.

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Date of birth: 15.08.2008 · Gestational age at birth: 27 weeks · Birth weight: 970g

Linnea Isabel Norway

Linnea Isabel was born by Caesarean section at 27 weeks and three days of gestational age. In the NICU, she had to cope with complications, such as immature bowels, Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) and severe sepsis. After 100 days, Linnea Isabel was discharged from hospital. However, she had undergone colostomy and needed tube feeding.

Today, Linnea Isabel is very active. She likes physical activities in general, and dancing in particular. Due to her ROP she continues to wear glasses.

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Date of birth: 30.08.1994 · Gestational age at birth: 29 weeks · Birth weight: 1080g

Francesco Italy

Francesco's preterm birth happened within few hours and his parents remember it as a traumatising event. Fortunately, no major complications occurred in the following months.

Francesco is now studying Communication sciences in Munich. Besides being an avid football lover, he is very interested in music, politics, history, and philosophy.

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Date of birth: 24.02.2004 · Gestational age at birth: 30 weeks · Birth weight: 1860g

Elise Belgium

Elise could not breathe by herself. She needed ventilation and stayed in hospital for seven weeks. Her preterm birth led to a movement disorder and a visual impairment.

Elise has grown into a happy girl and a good student. Besides art school, she enjoys swimming, biking with her tricycle and playing wheelchair basketball.

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Date of birth: 31.10.2009 · Gestational age at birth: 30 weeks · Birth weight: 1130g

Milo France

Little Milo needed to stay in the neonatal intensive care unit for two months.

Milo is now a healthy and headstrong child, always cheerful and full of energy. He enjoys drawing and listening to music. Also he is a fan of Spiderman. 'A hero like him,' his mother proudly adds.

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Date of birth: 09.07.2010 · Gestational age at birth: 25 weeks · Birth weight: 730g

Ella Czech Republic

Ella's preterm birth was very challenging for her parents. But they felt that their tiny daughter needed them to be there for her.

Now, Ella's parents describe her as a little girl who is smiling and singing all the time. They feel that they did the best they could for her then and that she is giving it all back to them now.

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