

## THE POWER OF PARENTS

### Hope for Moms Who Need it Most

When Heather Barrow's water broke at 24 weeks, doctors were successful in stopping her contractions but gave her and her husband, Bennett, a dim prognosis: Their son would have a 50 percent chance of survival if he were born at 24 weeks, and even if he did live, he would face a severe and permanent disability. However, Heather chose to stay positive while on hospital bed rest and even imagined her son accepting his college diploma. Eight weeks later—much to the medical staff's surprise—she delivered a healthy baby boy,

Heather with her husband, Bennett, and newborn son, Hill



Hill. (Now 8 years old, Hill has hit every developmental milestone.) In 2011, Heather founded High Risk Hope (HRH), a nonprofit offering support and hope to women who have a high-risk pregnancy or a premature baby in hospitals

throughout Florida and California that treat the most critical preterm babies. Each week, HRH donates baskets to pregnant women on hospital bed rest and families with a premature baby in the NICU. Both baskets contain essential toiletries as well as items to help inspire positivity, including a calendar featuring an HRH premie survivor for each month of the year. "Once they leave the hospital, the calendar turns into a keepsake that I know they will treasure for years to come," says Heather. HRH also offers bereavement support and holds baby-book drives for premies in the NICU. Learn more at [highriskhope.org](http://highriskhope.org).

—Shanon Maglente