

## **Trying to Live**

Tina Coleman, Parent

On January 16, 2013 my life changed forever with the birth of my twins, Mason and Nevaeh.

I was distressed after the birth of my premature twins, followed by the death of my baby, Mason. I experienced many emotions including sorrow, guilt, anger and regret. Love and joy are there, too, but sometimes the pain can overpower these good feelings.

One of the hardest things about being blessed with twins is seeing one and not the other. I went through a harrowing birth experience and the fragility of my babies', then straight into "The NICU!" Needless to say, I'm grateful and very humbled by our experience in the NICU. Having a baby in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) can be a heart-wrenching, overwhelming, and potentially traumatic experience. The NICU itself is full of sights, sounds, and smells that are unfamiliar and anxiety provoking.

My baby girl and I are trying to learn to live without her twin brother. I've followed my precious baby girl, Nevaeh, through the most difficult time in her life, the long journey through the NICU, and she has proved that she is a very strong baby girl who isn't just surviving but also thriving! As I face and learn to cope with my painful feelings, it takes time to be able to get to know and love my baby and experience the new joys of being a mother.

The NICU stay was like a rollercoaster ride, with ups and downs, triumphs and setbacks. I was along for the ride. The experience is one that no parent should ever have to go through. Especially losing one baby then watching the other one fight for her life!

Tragedies such as these are even more heart breaking when friends and family members, who should have been there by my side, were not. This is a double smack in the face. I was able to get through it all by the grace of GOD and organizations like Texas Parent To Parent.

Thanks for the continuous support for myself and my precious babies.

"By remembering, we keep what is precious and most special, as treasures in our heart forever."

When someone comes into our lives and they are too quietly and quickly gone,

They leave footprints on our hearts.

And their memory stays with us forever.

## Mason Artez Coleman Jr.

Our baby boy, you will be truly missed but never forgotten! We Love you so much and miss you every day. Your life forever changed ours.

Love you baby boy, Mommy, Daddy, and Siblings

## Texas Parent to Parent

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