2011 was an exciting year for Nate and Kelley Follett. They not only found out that they were becoming parents, but they were expecting twins. The couple was excited, yet scared at the same time. However, they soon came to realize that caring for two babies at once was the least of their worries. At 27 week’s gestation Kelley was having severe pain and other labor-related symptoms. Her doctor told her to go to the ER, just to be safe. She was horrified to discover that baby A’s water had broken. Thankfully, with bed rest and treatment the doctors held off delivery.

Kelley made it to 28 weeks and 3 days before her babies made their entrance into the world. They came out screaming. Jordan was born at 2lbs 11oz and 14.5” long and Peyton was born at 2lbs 8oz and 13.5” long. Due to their premature birth the twins were rushed to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). They were both initially put on breathing treatments in the first few days. Those early days were stressful and frightening. Kelley kept thinking that if they made it this far, they can conquer anything. Finally Jordan came home after 52 days and Payton would soon follow after 67 days and the Follet family was able to bring their babies home.

Four years later the Follets found out that they were expecting a new baby. In spite of her doctor saying the pregnancy was going great, Kelley ended up having her third son at 32 weeks and 1 day gestation.  Trenten was born at 4lbs, 10oz and 18” long.  He was put on oxygen right away, but taken off the following day. Trenten was born with a small hole in his heart, which closed up before he was six months old. He had apnea and bradycardia episodes quite often while in the NICU, which required stimulation and monitoring. Having to experience a second NICU stay was terrifying for the parents. Kelley remembers seeing Trenten turn purple while fighting to breathe.  After 38 days and still on an apnea monitor, Trenten was discharged.

Fast forward to 2016 and all three Follett boys are thriving and enjoying life. Jordan and Peyton love superheroes, reading books, playing outside, getting messy and Kelley’s favorite - snuggling. They are excelling developmentally and are looking forward to starting preschool this fall. Trenten absolutely adores his big brothers and wants to be a part of everything they do.

Throughout both pregnancies, Kelly found it incredibly helpful being able to speak to representatives from the March of Dimes, neonatologists and other woman going through the same thing. From intubation, CPAP, bilirubin “tanning”, heart murmurs, apnea, Bradycardia, PDA's, infection scares, food therapy, developmental therapy and hernia surgery to immune system vulnerabilities and more, life as a premature newborn is tough. During a March of Dimes NICU Family Support Program luncheon for high-risk pregnant woman on bed rest, they were able to ask questions and express their fears. Kelly stated, “Then, when the boys were born, the March of Dimes along with the Helen DeVos Children's Hospital saved my babies lives. Without their research, expertise and phenomenal care, my boys may not be as healthy as they are today, or even here at all. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts.”