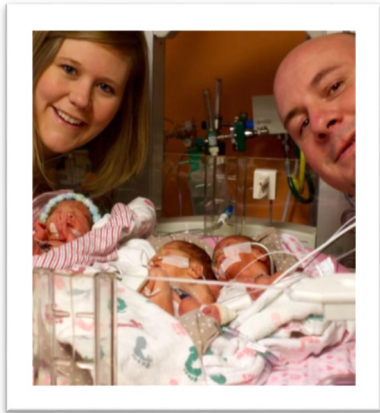


# *The Payseur Family*



In June 2015 we found out that we were expecting triplets therefore we were considered a high risk pregnancy and we knew the babies would arrive a little early. At all of our check-ups everything looked great, we were told at every appointment "you're going to make it to 36 weeks, that's your goal!" Little did we know that only 2 days after a perfect check-up I would go into back labor at 28 weeks. The doctors did everything they could to stop the labor however on November 5th at 6pm we welcomed our three 28 weekers into the world, Eli, Wade & Lizzy Payseur. Eli was 2 lbs. 8 ounces, Wade was 2 lbs. 10 ounces & Lizzy was 2 lbs. 15 ounces. It was an exciting yet scary time in our lives. Being first time parents we had no idea what to expect and being parents to premature babies that would not be able to come home with us made it that much harder.

All babies were put on breathing support when they were born and many tests were performed. Our daily conversations with doctors revolved around premature lungs, possibility of lung collapses, bradys, infections, brain bleeds, feeding tubes, the list goes on. Any parent is scared for their children and their safety. However being a parent to a premature infant you are not only scared but you know there is not much you can do but trust the doctors and nurses that are treating your babies around the clock. Our babies ended up spending 60 days in the NICU at Catawba Valley Medical Center. The nursing and medical staff as well as the other families we met in the NICU were amazing and helped us get through this difficult time. The up's and down's of premature infants in the NICU is something that is hard to explain, it is a daily struggle where you have to take each day at a time and hope that your babies stay strong and fight for their lives. We celebrated little moments that are often taken for granted with a full term baby. We had to wait several days before we could even hold our babies, we waited almost a month before they could wear their first outfit, and it was a month and a half before they attempted to drink from a bottle. All of these small milestones helped us reach our long-term goal, to bring home 3 healthy babies. Our 2 boys came home on January 1st, 2016 and Lizzy followed a few days later. They are quickly growing into their own personalities. Eli is known as our "con-man" and knows exactly what to do to get you to pick him up. Wade, "the charmer" can melt your heart with his smile and Lizzy, "the diva" is always sure to be heard in order to get her way. We are so thankful for the doctors who delivered the triplets and the neonatologists and nursing staff with all of their medical knowledge that helped bring home our miracle babies. March of Dimes is currently funding five Prematurity Research Centers to find out why babies are born preterm. We are honored to support the March of Dimes at the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Signature Chefs Auction. We hope to gain support from you.

With love,

Ben, Jennifer, Eli, Wade & Lizzy Payseur