



Chapter One
Blake's Unexpected Birth
Prayer For Premies



Blake Michael Johnson
Born: October 16, 2004
1 lb, 6 oz. - 13"

♥ **October 23, 2004 at 11:30 AM CDT**

Welcome Family and Friends! Thanks for visiting Baby Blake Johnson's Internet Web Page at CarePages.com. We hope this will be helpful in keeping you all up to date about Blake.

Blake is 1 week old today!! So let us recap last week. He was born on Saturday, Oct 16, fourteen weeks prematurely. Due to complications, doctors felt it was necessary to deliver him for his sake and Kim's. She had something called **HELLP** syndrome, it happens for no reason, but it occurs very fast. She had high Blood pressure, **H**emolytic anemia, **E**levated **L**iver enzymes and **L**ow **P**latelets. Within 6 hours, her lab work did not look good at all, so the only cure is to deliver the baby. Severe cases are life threatening to both mother and fetus.

Blake was intubated to help him breathe and has several other lines attached for drawing blood and giving feedings and medications. He spent several days resting and doing quite well. Mom went home from the Hospital on Wednesday. Blake had the breathing tube removed Wednesday for a while but had to have it put back in. This is normal for a preemie at this age. He does not need much ventilator support at this time. He also began receiving nourishment (breast milk) which he seems to be tolerating very well.

He is handsome with long arms and legs. His second toe is longer than the others are, just as his mom's is. He weighed 1 lb 6 oz, 13 inches long. The past two days the nurses have placed him on his belly and he looks so comfortable and peaceful.

We will try to keep you all updated as things progress. Blake is at Brackenridge Hospital in Austin in the Neonatal ICU. Please keep him in

your prayers and look for information to come about a PRAYER FOR PREEMIES Ribbon campaign. We love you all and are so thankful for your prayers and support. We have definitely felt everyone's thoughts and prayers.

Chad, Kim & Blake Michael :)

♥ October 25, 2004 at 09:57 PM CDT

Blake has good news to share with everyone today, although it started out somewhat rocky. There was news this morning that Blake may have had some sort of infection developing so blood cultures were taken for testing. Blake was put on antibiotics but as the day progressed, signs of infection seemed to clear. Way to go Blake!!

NICU staff proceeded with the plan for the day, which was to remove all of Blake's umbilical lines and successfully place a PICC line through his foot. The PICC line (a thin, threadlike tube) runs all the way to his aorta and will remain in place for quite a while to allow for IV fluids and medication to be infused. This line can stay in long term unlike umbilical cord lines. He also had the settings on his ventilator lowered to allow him to do more of the breathing on his own. It is possible that doctors will try to remove the breathing tube on Tuesday and place an oxygen supply over his nose for support. The goal is to get him off the ventilator sooner rather than later to avoid damage to his lungs from prolonged use. This is a big step for Blake, which could be long-term or last only a few hours depending on his strength to maintain breathing on his own.

Mom and Dad are doing well and ask that you continue to pray that each day brings results that are more positive for Blake. Look for more pictures to come in the photo gallery.

♥ **October 25, 2004 at 10:59 PM CDT**

Hello everyone,

I want to start by thanking everyone for all your thoughts and prayers for our son, Blake. Can you believe we have a child? We are trying to get used to it. Everyday it seems a little more REAL. He is just beautiful. He did gain 1.8 oz on Sat, Oct 23rd. I helped change my first diaper on Saturday! His little bottom is soooo cute. Best of all we saw his entire back and it just looks so HEALTHY--no Spina Bifida. Thank GOD!

Chad & I have been praying with him every day. We petitioned to have his name in the St. Jude Shrine in Chicago, IL and a candle will be lit in honor of Blake. I was already on the list for prayers by my neighbor Kathy, so we decided he needed to be on the list. Michelle gave Blake two prayer books and Kristen picked the first prayer she wanted us to read to him. Blake seems very relaxed and at ease when we read to him. So it was nice to read him his first bedtime story. We left him sleeping peacefully and look forward to seeing him tomorrow. We have told him about all his friends and relatives praying for him. Good night to you all. We love every one of you. Please continue to pray for Blake and all the preemies of the world.



♥ **October 26, 2004 at 11:16 AM CDT**

Just a note from Grandma Johnson.

I am staying with Chad & Kim this week. Each morning I listen for the sound of Kim softly talking to Chad as they arise. I can tell from the sound of their caring voices this morning that they are pleased with the reports they have been given from the hospital during the night. I find that my thoughts fly so often during the day and night to the caregivers for my grandson and it offers me contentment of heart to send my prayer waves like a rainbow from my heart, up to God's glorious heavens and back down to my grandson's tiny nest in the NICU surrounded by his caregivers there.

It pleases me to tell you that Kim & I are actually taking some time today to participate in planting a Fall Flower Garden at their church in Austin. It is dedicated to all babies and their needs with a special ribbon for Blake. So you know, if we can pause for a moment for this loving task, we feel confident that our special Blake is doing well today. Kim talks to me about the many small coincidences that bless her each day, such as, her devoted doctors and nurses have the same names that she had on her list of names they were considering for Blake. We are reminded that every tiny detail is a blessing to sense the hand of God in leading us through this time. We are amazed every moment of the power we are feeling here because of your prayers and thoughts. Please continue. . . every moment you devote to our grandson is monumental. Please know our immense gratitude and thankfulness to the blessings given by family and friends.

Thank-you from the bottom of my heart,
Grandma Johnson

♥ **October 26, 2004 at 08:48 PM CDT**

Hello from Aunt Becky and Uncle Michael! We hope you are enjoying keeping up with Blake on his FIRST Web Page. We just put some more pictures in the photo gallery. Be sure to check them out. Keep the prayers and positive thoughts coming.

Love,

Becky, Michael, Jessica and Gregory

♥ **October 27, 2004 at 06:07 AM CDT**

Good Morning everyone,

Blake continues to exceed the expectations of the doctors and nurses. We do need to pray for him to continue to grow, but especially to start breathing a little MORE on his own, so he can get rid of the respirator. I had a heart to heart talk with him last night. He opened his eyes for the first time for Chad and I. It was such a special moment. Blake is now digesting 10cc of breast milk every 6 hours. Go boy-fatten up!! He had an infection from one of his umbilical lines, but it was pulled out on Monday. The nurses still have to treat the infection with two antibiotics. Unfortunately, nearly all preemies end up having infections, just because of all the lines and tubes, but we will continue to pray for noooooooo infections. I read him his *First Baby Prayer Book* again last night & he seems to rest peacefully. There is a picture with me reading the prayer that Kristen (7 yr old, niece) wanted me to read first.

Yesterday, Grandma Johnson & I went to explore the Ronald McDonald house. It is only 2 blocks from the hospital. It is a place to go for just the day or stay overnight (\$5). It is extremely nice and clean. It is connected with Waterloo Park, so there are many trees and plants to make you feel right at home and get away from the hospital walls. There are 13 rooms for families-they are all full right now. It has a large dinning room, kitchen, playroom, 3 or 4 living rooms, playground and a screened in porch. I will probably use it more for a day pass, to eat lunch or snack and decompress from the hospital, because I don't want Blake to feel the tension or stress that comes over me as a parent now. I can also go there to walk the park, listen to the birds and feel the cool breeze rather than freeze in the hospital lobby air conditioning. I can bring friends and family too! Come and see me then you can come too.

I love each and every one of you for helping us get through this new & stressful situation.

Never stop Praying.

Love, Kimberly :)

♥October 28, 2004 at 05:27 AM CDT

Hello everyone. This is Becky filling in for Kim and Chad. Blake is in need of all your thoughts and prayers right now. Kim, Chad, Grandma Mary and Grandma Judy have been at the hospital for most of the last 18 hours as Blake seems to be having a very difficult time. As of 9:00 last night, Blake had developed a serious infection of MRSA or Methycillin-Resistent Staphyllococcus Aureus. Sounds bad because it is. It is a bacterial infection most commonly found in hospital and clinical settings. I'm not sure how

Blake got this infection but he is already on 2 antibiotics since Monday when his IV lines were changed out. Blake's platelets dropped very low yesterday evening and his nurse told Mary that the team had to work with him quite a while to stabilize him. However, this morning at 5:00 Grandpa Eddie called us to say that Kim, Chad and the Grandmas were called back to the hospital at 3:00 AM this morning because Blake's blood pressure has dropped very low. I do know that Kim and Chad called Pastor Fetter from their church who arrived at the hospital before 5:00 to be with them and Blake.

This is all very disheartening news so please pray for the family that they may feel God's loving hand in their time of need.

I'll try to keep you updated throughout the day.

♥ October 28, 2004 at 10:17 AM CDT

Aunt Becky again. I just received word that Blake's blood pressure is holding steady- although lower than it should be. He is receiving a blood transfusion and more platelets. There were x-rays performed this morning but no results were available yet. He is also on more antibiotics (we think a total of 2 at this time but are not completely sure). Blake was baptized this morning by Pastor David Fetter at Kim and Chad's request. I'm sure Kim and Chad can feel all your thoughts and prayers and are very appreciative of the fact that so many people care for their family.

I'll try to post more information as I get it.

Becky

♥ **October 28, 2004 at 01:22 PM CDT**

News from Aunt Becky: I talked to Grandma Mary (still at the hospital) at 12:40. There isn't much new to report other than Blake still seems to be holding a steady but increasing blood pressure, which is good. The doctors think he may have a secondary infection along with the MRSA. They believe it may be a fungal infection on his skin. So, a third antibiotic has been added to the mix.

Blake was supposed to be moved to isolation because of the MRSA but has not been stable enough to move. So, an area has been marked off around his bed and partitions put up to create a semi-safe environment. All who enter must be gloved and robed according to procedure. Kim and Chad have decided not to leave the hospital so both Grandmas will go home soon to freshen up and bring back all that they need.

Thank you all so much for the words of encouragement you have been posting. Since they don't have access to a computer and internet at the hospital, I've been passing them along as I get updates.

More later-

Becky

♥ **October 28, 2004 at 10:55 PM CDT**

Becky AGAIN!! I'm sorry this update is so late in arriving. Many of you seem to be waiting on pins and needles for these messages just as I wait anxiously for the phone to ring.

I spoke to Kim this afternoon and she seemed pretty upbeat. It appears that the late afternoon hours made a significant difference in Blake's situation. He became stable enough to attempt a move to his own isolette (suite) where Kim says he may have to remain for the duration of his hospital stay. She also reported that his blood pressure was making a climb back toward normal. He had been given lots of fluids and also had a catheter placed.

Like I said before, she seemed pretty cheery for having been up since the wee hours of the morning. And assuming that the move went well, Kim and Chad were considering going home for a while with Blake's Grandmas to rest, clean up and return later tonight to the hospital.

Will let you know more as I learn more-
Until then, Aunt Becky is signing off.

♥ October 29, 2004 at 03:36 AM CDT

(Part 1) Greetings from the new Mommy--Kim

I'm soooooooooooooooooo very thankful that I have ALL of YOU to pray for us and of course the BABY of the MANY Hours--BLAKE MICHAEL!!! I'm so thankful I can say he is still with us and holding his BP at about 24-that is mean BP. For a premie, we want it above 35, Blake's BP started at about 18-20 yesterday am when we arrived at 3 AM. All the doctors & nurses since about 2pm, Thurs. are finally again feeling optimistic about Baby Blake--thank GOD. It would not have occurred, I repeat it WOULD NOT have occurred without the POWER of Prayer that is moving all over this world. Please keep it MOVING. The ribbons and web site for Prayers for

Preemies are on the way. I am forever in your debt and we extremely mean that to the bottom of our hearts.

Please know that one person can make a difference in another's life. In our case, it is MANY wonderful people, even those I don't know YET are truly making a difference in our life and, of course, our son. I can't say *Thank You* enough.

Becky, my sister-in-law has done a great job with this web site and she has been our hands and mouth to notify everyone quickly about Blake's progress. She is right, we do not have access to a computer at the hospital, nor do we want to, because we need to be with our son. Thank you so much, Becky, I know it is exhausting, but so important. He did finally get moved to his own suite, which makes us feel totally secure with the separate room. It is actually better than being out with all the other babies. It is quiet and that is exactly what Blake needs right now to grow. It is like his womb has grown, but now it is safer and very quiet. He will be in this room until he is discharged home, because he will continue to have this ugly bacterium, called MRSA on his skin. For the moment, it is in his blood, affecting all of his organs, not just where the cultures were taken. He is being treated with the appropriate antibiotics, but it just takes a long time to treat with babies that are compromised, just like with the elderly. We protect ourselves by wearing gowns and gloves and of course the idea we learned when we were in kindergarten---HAND WASHING, HAND WASHING, HAND WASHING!!!!!!! What do we do when we get home--hand washing & bleaching door handles, counters, you name it we clean it. We also started taking our shoes off at the doors, because being in the hospital EVERYDAY the bacteria will get on your shoes, unfortunately and we would track it all through our home. We are trying to protect ourselves from getting sick so we can still visit, BLAKE.

Yes this MRSA is in every hospital, clinic and any other public place---so what can you do to protect yourself and protect others----JUST WASH YOUR HANDS!!!!!!! Also use a separate towel or use paper towels and try not to put your hands in your eyes or mouth. That is your lesson for today, don't forget it! Don't forget to teach your kids--it's important. I'm finally done with my soapbox, thank you for reading.

I did not get to tell you all, just a couple of days ago, although it seems like a couple of weeks ago, Blake opened his eyes for Chad and I. It was such a special moment, because he would turn his little head toward us. He also reached out his hand and squeezed our fingers. I was so blessed to be able to touch Blake. As you can see in the pictures.

We have had signs that God is with us and Blake, you just have to look for them and He is there. It was interesting when we arrived home last night after the stressful and emotional day, Blake's Social Security card came in the mail (a sign that Blake will be growing up and needing a S.S. # one day).

♥October 29, 2004 at 03:40 AM CDT

(Part 2) from Kimberly :)

I want to let everyone know that now Blake is in an isolation room he has his very own window with blinds that we can open so you can get a glimpse of our handsome son. You don't have to worry about giving him an illness--only inner peace. I better be signing off, because the next feeding is in 3 hours, that is dairy production. Sorry men--TMI!!

Talk to you soon. Thank you again for your positive energy and prayer. NEVER STOP PRAYING no matter how bad it gets in your life.

Love,
Kimberly :)

P.S. Chad said hello, but he is resting so he can make it to work today. He has been my rock. I can't wait until you see him with his son.

♥October 29, 2004 at 01:06 PM CDT

Becky here. I talked to Kim this morning (10:00 AM) and she said Blake had a good night. His BP had dropped again but everything seemed to be staying steady.

Michael just talked to Kim(1:00 PM) and she said they were on their way back to the hospital that Blake wasn't doing well again. I don't have any more details than that right now. I will put more info here when I get some. Kim asked to everyone to rev up the prayer chain again.

♥October 29, 2004 at 09:18 PM CDT

Sorry I'm so late with another report. We just talked to Kim and they are taking a breather from another stressful day at the Ronald McDonald house 2 blocks from the hospital. Blake's infection is still present and doctors administered a very powerful antibiotic at about 3:00. The

procedure went well and Blake remains stable now. His blood pressure still needs to rise some though.

Kim and Chad will be returning to the hospital soon as the doctor wants to administer another dose of the antibiotic at midnight. If you get this before then, please pray that all goes well again and that Blake responds to the meds.

♥ October 30, 2004 at 01:57 PM CDT

Well, here we are. Blake's two-week birthday. Seems he might have crossed over the hump of this infection. He has now had 3 doses of his new best friend-- Mr. Antibiotic. All three doses have been administered without complications.

Blake's blood pressure has risen dramatically and is now back within the normal range. Uncle Michael and Grandpa Eddie went to Austin for the day to visit Blake. Uncle Michael reports Blake has a cute little double chin. He is still somewhat swollen from the extra fluids, medications,... but he has had a significant amount of urine output, which is great!! Blake has also progressed in his reliance on the ventilator. The settings have been turned down to allow him to practice breathing on his own a little more. Kim and Chad were able to rest easier last night being closer to the hospital at the McDonald house and knowing that the antibiotic seemed to be doing its job.

Your powerful prayer and faith in God is what sustains them. I'm sure I speak for Kim and Chad when I say there can never be enough words to say or actions that speak loudly enough to show all of you how much

gratitude they have for your support. We are never truly alone in our trials and you all are living proof of that!

I hope to post more good news again next time-
Aunt Becky

♥ **October 30, 2004 at 11:23 PM CDT**

This is Uncle Michael. Aunt Becky needed the night off. Well deserved. Grandpa Kramr and I had a good visit in Austin today with Blake, Kim, Chad and the grandmothers. I got to see my nephews eyes opened today!! That was a thrill for the grandparents as well. When we left (6pm), Blake was still doing pretty well. His blood pressure was doing better, breathing about 50% on his own, and kidneys were functioning well. The nurse mentioned that while his liver does not appear to be a problem currently, its function may be tested due to the medications it must constantly metabolize . Please pray for this as well as his overall improvement. I took a few photos that should be on the site soon. Take care and many thanks for all of the emotional and spiritual support.

♥ **October 31, 2004 at 09:24 AM CST**

Happy Halloween everyone! It's Aunt Becky with more good news.

Blake had a great night and Mom and Dad got some much-needed rest for 2 nights in a row. YIPPEE!!!! I spoke with Kim this morning from the

porch of the Ronald McDonald House and she gave me the latest stats. Blake is still improving with the help of Mr. Antibiotic. His blood pressure is still improving and he is on fewer medications now to regulate that. He has decreased his support on the ventilator to 40%. And his urine output is steadily increasing and his catheter has been removed. Kim said, "He is peeing like a racehorse!" He still needs to increase his urine output more to flush his system but he's headed in the right direction.

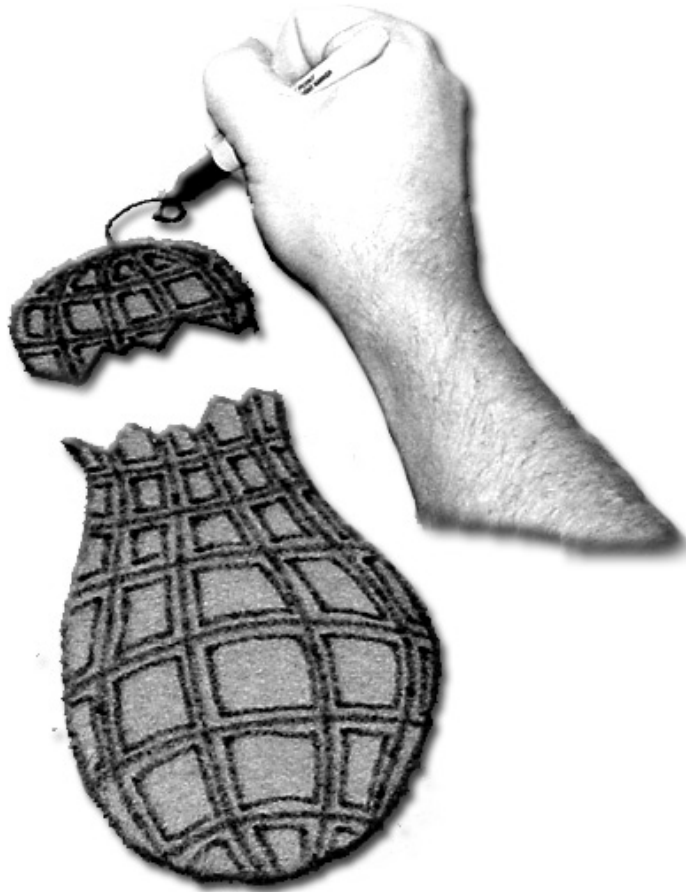
The next main concern like Michael mentioned last night is his liver function. Because he is on so many medications, his liver is working overtime to process them all. It's a tough job even for an adult much less a tiny tike like Blake. Tanya, one of Blake's nurses who also prays for him, mentioned to Kim and Chad that prayers need to focus some on his liver remaining strong and healthy.

On another note-

Some of you have asked about making donations. Kim and Chad are very thankful for your ongoing support and thoughtfulness. They have also been so impressed by the wonderful surroundings and hospitality of the Ronald McDonald House that they have requested any donations that are made to go to that foundation. It serves such an important purpose in the lives of those with loved ones in the hospital. Please check in your area to see if a Ronald McDonald House exists, if not I'll post contact information later about the one Kim and Chad are staying at.

Thanks again for all you do! Have a safe Halloween-

Becky



P.S. Chad has lovingly designed a “little peanut” costume for Blake, which gave his parents a special moment with Blake for his first Holiday. They are devoted to showing their son a positive, loving outlook on life.

♥ **November 01, 2004 at 07:14 PM CST**

Aunt Becky here. No, I'm not pulling a belated Halloween trick on all of you by withholding information about Blake. I had my own Mom duties to perform today and wasn't able to get to the computer.

I just talked to Grandma Mary and she says Blake had a good day today. Chad and Kim will be spending the night again at the Ronald McDonald house. They have access to a computer and the internet there so look for an update to come from Dad! Hope I didn't stress you out too much today!! Check out the new pictures in the photo gallery.

Love ya!

Becky

♥ **November 02, 2004 at 11:31 AM CST**

Good Morning Everyone,

Yes, its Daddy...I know everyone has been anxious to get an update. I'm so pleased to let you all know that Blake has been riding a two-day swing of improvement. (Big breath, aahhhhh) Mommy and I have already visited with Blake this morning and he looks so much better than 3 days ago. His kidneys and pee-pee are working well and that is helping to relieve the fluids he ballooned up on due to the bacterial infection. He now has 'man breasts', due to the stretching and now un-stretching of his skin. But that's a good thing.

For all those stat. watchers here's his numbers from last night: BP- 30/19(good), O2- 47% (good, down from 100% Sat.), Heart Rate- 150 (good), Nitrous Oxide- 5% (down from 10%), O2 Saturation- 98% (very good).

For everyone else...Blake's doing mo' better. Blake's nurse Tonya even mentioned that Mommy may be able to hold Blake in a couple of days if this progress continues. Let's pray for that.

Now Daddy will have to take a moment, while holding back some tears I must say, to thank everyone for their prayers and generous support for our family. Kimberly and I have made it through some of these very tough moments because of all of your combined gifts of prayer. We have witnessed first hand Blake's improvements due to your prayers. Please continue to pray for Blake and all children and families of the world facing health concerns. These past weeks have opened our eyes to how many children and families are facing life-threatening circumstances. Send prayers also to all the doctors and nurses continually caring for the sick.

I hope this message finds all of you and your families well. Take time to appreciate your families, especially your kids...even if they are not kids anymore. We love you all, and will continue to send updates. Blake looks forward to getting hugs from all of you.

Holding Strong,

Daddy J.

♥ **November 02, 2004 at 04:45 PM CST**

Hello, from new Mommy Kim :)

I have not been online in about 3-4 days, so I haven't even read all of your messages. I wanted to thank you beforehand. I will read them after this message. We have been spending all of our time at the hospital or the Ronald Mc Donald house--2 blocks from the hospital. More about the house later. We have seen our little boy at his worst, but the last 3 days he has been making many little steps forward.

We are so pleased and blessed with these good days. We pray and hope the good days will continue. I want to thank each and every one of you for your love, prayer and support. Please continue to pray for Blake, nurses, doctors, RT, and all the staff at the hospital. I also want you to pray for all the families around the world that have children in the hospital and are experiencing this same tragedy.

A side note I would like to add a special person to our prayer chain: I have a patient at the clinic that needs your prayers. Her name is Kim Knowles, she has cancer. She has so much energy, love and a great spirit. She met Blake today and thought he was so cute. She was one of the patients that just found out I was pregnant and had a baby. Please keep her in your prayers. Thank you.

Note will continue...

♥November 02, 2004 at 05:32 PM CST

It's Kim again.

Today was also a special day with Blake, because we celebrated Halloween with him and yes we did dress him up, but very carefully. He actually has 2 costumes. I guess daddy only wanted the peanut costume online, but we will send the other also. Grandma Kramr and Johnson, Lee Ann and buddy Adam were there to celebrate with him. Grandma Kramr actually used the video camera for the first time. I don't know if we can get video on this site??? I guess you will just have to see the video when you visit. Get ready to start watching video of Blake when you visit us.

Another landmark to mark on your calendar. Chad changed his 1st diaper EVER!!!! He did a great job!! Tanya, one of our AWESOME nurses assisted us. She is just great. She is working 3-12 hour shifts, just to be with Blake. Thurs-Sat, another awesome nurse-LUC is working for Blake. One of the neonatologists, Dr. John Daniel Lloyd has been incredible-he worked 30 hours on Sat. I don't know how they do it. We have the best staff.

Everyone has been asking what they can do or call if you need anything. The most important thing we need is prayer. Other things you can do to help is donate blood to the Blood and Tissue center, let them know it is dedicated to Blake Michael Johnson. Blake can receive B+, B-, O+, O-. If you do not have this type give anyway, because so many people are in need. Also you can volunteer at the nearest Ronald McDonald house nearest you or donate money, food, or supplies. (Wish List, to be sent). We have been staying at the house that is only 2 blocks from the hospital. The Ronald McDonald House is a non-profit organization it is operated solely with funds raised through special events and donations made by individuals, organizations and corporations. Thanks to this support the

House in Austin is able to provide the following amenities for the families: 13 bedrooms, large living areas, spacious kitchen and dining area, two nourishing meals each day by donations, playroom for children, laundry facilities and supplies, playground with playscape, meditation library and quiet area and screened-in patio.

♥ **November 02, 2004 at 05:37 PM CST**

I know you all are going to think I am nuts. Oh well!!!

I had to send the last message quickly, because it was going to disconnect me. Can you imagine that! Ronald McDonald House wish list: stamps, copy paper, antibacterial soap, softener sheets, trash bags, detergent, zip lock bags, juice, deodorant, feminine items, toothbrushes, etc.

Daddy is on his way to pick me up to go see our son, Blake. More pictures to come.

We love you all,
Kimberly :)

♥ November 02, 2004 at 07:45 PM CST

Guess Who--it's me Kimmy,

We just got back from the hospital for a quick visit, before change of shift with the nurses. Blake is doing great!! Tanya our nurse was placing another IV line & Blake did very well. Of course Chad & I got there in just the right time. It was time for another diaper change. It's the start of many... All of you parents are probably shaking your head and giggling. We are learning fast.

I wanted to ask if anyone has extra baby or children's clothes if you wanted to donate them to the Ronald McDonald house. There is a young single mother here at the house that has a baby in the NICU & she also has a 2-year-old girl named, 'Heavenly' that is need of clothes.

Misha & Becky do you have girl clothes in your attic???? If you do bring them on your next visit if you would like to donate. Thank you so much--she is a sweet little girl.

Mom made stew for us tonight, so I'm going to go eat!!! Yummy!

Love you all & good night,
Kimberly :)

♥ **November 03, 2004 at 04:53 PM CST**

Aunt Becky here- I just received news that Blake's PICC line replacement went successfully!! If you remember, the PICC line is the main line for giving meds, etc. The one in his foot was believed to be the source of last week's infection. Doctors felt it necessary to replace that line as soon as possible and today was THE DAY. Blake now has a PICC line in his arm. He is a bit sedated this evening from the procedure but all of his vitals remain steady. Pray that this new PICC line continues to serve Blake well.

More later-

Becky

♥ **November 04, 2004 at 11:33 AM CST**

Good Morning Everyone, It's Kimmy!!

Baby Blake is doing great! I just spent a little time with him this morning after daddy went to work. I was able to take a nice stroll to work (all though I'm not getting paid, just having Blake) from the Ronald McDonald house this AM.

I'll be right back...

♥ **November 04, 2004 at 11:54 AM CST**

Sorry for the delay, I was campaigning for Carepages.com to the staff at Ronald McDonald. I love this site as well. I haven't been able to read all the messages, but as the days go by I will read a few at a time.

Blake is resting easy this AM, hopefully he will get to rest today. Yesterday he had a BUSY, BUSY day. His nurse for the last 3 days is off today-Tanya (single with 3 kids and beautiful), but his Buddy LUC is his nurse for the next 3 days. He is from Montreal, very interesting person. I have a great picture of the two of them to send to Becky to post for everyone and also one of his good-looking doctors--Dr. Lloyd.

Chad is on his way to eat lunch with us and pack up our things, because we are going to sleep in our own bed tonight. I know the dogs are missing us and we miss them also. We are hoping to work on a flowerbed at church this weekend!!!! Hopefully the grandma's can help.

Love you all,
Kimberly :)

P.S. Blake said hello & thank you for praying for him. He said he loves all of you and can't wait to meet you.

♥ **November 04, 2004 at 04:24 PM CST**

Good Afternoon- It's Becky again. Blake is having a great day today and we pray that this trend continues.

Kim called and asked me to post a correction about donating blood. Many people in the Austin area have asked about donating to Blake. While the thought is very noble, Kim and Chad found out that blood cannot be given and designated for one person. The blood and tissue donation site would need to have a list of specific people who would donate to Blake in order to specify a particular supply. Kim and Chad can't possibly make that kind of list.

SOO- Kim has asked that you still make blood donations if you are willing and able. While you are at the site, ask them for a coupon which can be given to Kim and Chad. Then give the coupon to Kim and Chad, the coupon will then be handed over to the billing department at the hospital and a deduction will be taken off the bill for the amount of blood that Blake is requiring.

I know it's very confusing but you are still helping Blake and countless others by donating blood even if he never receives your blood.

Thanks for your time, efforts and prayers. Our entire family is so thankful to have you in our lives!

Becky

♥ November 05, 2004 at 12:49 PM CST

Happy Friday Everyone. It is a happy day, Blake had another good night and has had a good start to this day. I talked to Grandma Mary this

morning and she said Kim and Chad stayed at home last night. I'm sure they were glad to be in their own bed. Not to mention the dogs were really missing them.

They rode together this morning and made a visit to Blake before Chad went off to work and Kim stayed at the hospital. That may turn out to be the routine for a while as long as Blake approves.

We'll keep you up to date as news develops. Until then, remember NO NEWS IS GOOD NEWS!!!

Lots of Love-
Aunt Becky

♥ **November 06, 2004 at 08:20 AM CST**

Good Morning Everyone!!

Blake continues to improve. He is looking more like the little person we met 3 weeks ago. He turned 20 days old on Friday. I can't believe it. He lost his umbilical cord on Thurs.

Yesterday the doctors felt he could tolerate not being on his BP med-Dopamine and he is stable without it!!!! Luc his nurse pulled out his arterial line, which is the line that the blood was being drawn for lab. Blake doesn't have blood drawn as often now. His bed has a lot less pumps in it now. He is holding the ventilator setting at a low pressure 26-30!!!! Just to compare we breathe at 21 pressure. Go Blake Go!!!!

Continue to pray for him. We hope one of his valves closes in his heart on its own. I have definitely had the opportunity to change his diapers and feel more comfortable. It seems as soon as I put a new one on him he feels it with urine. BOYS will be Boys.

Talk to you later. Gotta go get ready to see Blake.

Love,

Kimberly :)

♥November 06, 2004 at 10:17 PM CST

Hello Everyone,

Today as you could see on the pictures was an incredible day. I actually was able to hold Blake today. It was amazing!! Blake did great through the entire experience. His nurse Luc took me by surprise when he moved the rocking chair in the room and told me to sit down. I thought I was just going to help him turn him, but he said to sit in the chair-today is the day you are going to hold your son, 3 weeks is long enough to wait. I couldn't believe it. It was definitely a magical experience. I look forward to the day Chad has the opportunity to hold his son. I'm so glad we could share this experience with all of you.

Good night,

Kimberly--"I finally feel like a mommy!"

♥ November 08, 2004 at 08:19 PM CST

Hi everyone,

Kimberly's three Aunts went to see her and precious Baby Blake today. To see the progress he has made is just wonderful. Kimberly is just glowing with happiness. She shows so much joy in showing off and sharing her new baby son. We can see how her faith in God has brought her through this difficult time and her confidence that He will be with her and Chad in the days to come.

Oh, what an impression we make on Baby Blake. We could almost see him chuckle as we made our entrance separately with Mom Kim. First was Aunt Henri. After the scrub down, while visiting, Kim asked her to read to him. To her surprise, she was forced to decline because she could not see without her glasses, which she did not have with her. After convincing Mom Kim, she prayed over him. It was then time for her to leave and let Aunt Mary Ann visit. Between these two visits Baby Blake had time to eat. Upon her arrival the diaper was full, so she got to watch Mom change the incredibly small diaper. What an experience. Now it was time for Aunt Bernice. Although she was last, she seems to think Blake enjoyed her the most. Ha Ha!!!! We know this can't be true, because they say we are all three alike.

Thank you Kim, for letting us share this day with you. Our thoughts and prayers will remain with you, Chad and Blake.

We love you,

Aunt Henri, Aunt Mary Ann, & Aunt Bernice (she is not the BEST!)

♥ November 08, 2004 at 09:01 PM CST

HELLO from new mommy Kim,

Blake and I had a great day together. First of all the nurse (Laurel) weighed Blake during the night---2lb 8.6 oz!!!! A small amount is fluid weight. He just looks so much better. He definitely doesn't look like the small boy that he was the first week of life. Thank you Aunt Bernice, Henrietta, Mary Ann for visiting Blake today, it meant a lot. Thank you also for sending a news update. I can't believe he will be 1 month old on Saturday, which is also Grandpa Kramr's & Aunt Sasha's Birthday!!

The doctor increased his feeding to 4cc/3 hours, which today he tolerated well, we hope it continues, but most of the time it has to be adjusted. His oxygen requirement has been great 22-30% on the ventilator today, which is good. Dr. Zeb showed Chad & I Blake's x-ray from today and 4 days ago. We definitely noticed the improvement!!! Well I better go because I'm a little sleepy.

Talk with you later. Keep praying!

Love,

Kimberly :)

♥ **November 09, 2004 at 01:03 PM CST**

Good Morning All,

Just a brief update from Daddy this morning. Early this morning the doctor's replaced Blake's breathing tube and his feeding tube. Now Blake has all new lines into his body, this a good thing... especially since the infection is nearly out of his systems. Mommy and Daddy were a little worried when we got the 5:30 am call, but it's all good now. Dr. Zebb is going to be with Blake for the next two weeks during the day, and has taken extra time to educate and discuss Blake's care with Kim and me. Another amazing doctor. Daddy listened to Blake's breathing this morning and reviewed the x-rays with Dr. Zebb. Dr. Zebb wants to keep increasing Blake's nutrition with Mommy milk to lead up to attempts to extubate the breathing line and try the p-scan (air to his nostrils, instead of into his lungs). If Blake continues to do well with the feeding and low FIO2, we'll be looking at making a move to extubate in a week or two. We'll keep praying for continued daily improvements...

Thanks for all the latest emails and new arrivals to the website. Watch for new photos soon. Have a wonderful day,

Blake's Daddy

♥ **November 10, 2004 at 04:56 PM CST**

Good afternoon everyone. This is Aunt Becky. I just talked to Kim with an update about Blake. She asked me to get the prayer circle buzzing again as

Blake has developed a few small clots. His nurse is putting in an IV line to get meds on board to break up the clots.

Blake also needs to have a procedure done to close an open valve in his heart. This open valve is making his heart and lungs work overtime so it must be closed soon to help his lungs grow. Because of the clots, he cannot have that surgery done right now.

Kim said to reassure everyone that both of these conditions are very common among preemies. So please be sure to pray these medications work to break up the clots so the procedure can be done to close the open valve.

Thanks and I'll keep you posted.

Becky

♥ November 10, 2004 at 07:15 PM CST

Hello,

I wanted to let everyone know that Blake has gained weight--2 lb 12 oz!!!!
Sorry Becky I forgot to tell you. Thanks for the update--great job!! He looks great!

The doctors and nurses think he looks great too! We are all praying for the little fighter. Dr. Zebb told us he was kicking him while he was trying to get an arterial line, even though he was suppose to be sedated. Blake is definitely a fighter!!!! We love him soooooooooooooo much.

I will talk to you later with GREAT NEWS!! Thank you so much for your support and prayer. We love all of you too.

Love,

Kimberly, Chad & Blake :)

♥ **November 11, 2004 at 09:07 PM CST**

It's Becky again. I talked with Kim this evening and she wanted me to update you all on Blake's progress. He started medication last night to reduce the blood clots and today an ultrasound revealed that one of them had been reduced somewhat. It was not as significant or as quick as the doctors would have liked so they put him on a new drug this evening that will run for 6 hours. At the time of this posting, Blake has been on the new drug approximately 5 hours. Tomorrow he will have another ultrasound to see what's up with the clots. We are hoping (and praying) that this stronger medication will do the trick.

As it stands right now, Blake is in a holding pattern of sorts. Here's the rundown: Blake needs to be off the ventilator and on oxygen through his nose. In order for that to happen, the extra stress needs to be reduced from the heart and lungs. The way to reduce the stress is to perform the clamp procedure on the valve near his heart. But, while he has a few blood clots, the valve procedure has to wait. WHEW!! I know it pretty complicated but I've tried my best to simplify it.

ON the lighter side, Kim said she read Blake stories today and all the numbers on his monitors went up indicating that HE LIKES TO HEAR MOM READING TO HIM!!! Also, Blake will be one month old on

Saturday, we are all traveling to Austin for the weekend to celebrate Grandpa Eddie's birthday and Blake's one-month milestone. It's really an important day for some of Blake's cousins because it's the first time they will get to see him. Brooks, Kristen, Jessica and Gregory have all been awaiting this weekend since Blake was born and they are so excited to get to meet him, even if it's through the glass of his room. We'll be sure to post pictures when we return.

Thanks for keeping this beautiful boy and his family in your prayers. You'll never know how much it means to all of us!!

Love,
Becky

♥ **November 12, 2004 at 10:27 AM CST**

Good Morning to Our wonderful friends & family,

I walked back over to the Ronald McDonald house to relax. Blake has not had his ultrasound yet to check if the clots dissolved. We expect it to be anytime, then we have to wait until it is read by the doctor. We will let you know, hopefully by this evening.

Blake looks great!!! I told him he is going to meet 4 of his cousins today. I think he smiled :) I continue to read his prayer books and play the Jesus lullaby CD. He responds well to it. Last night the nurse brought in a device that has different sounds like the ocean, brook, womb, bird, rain

sounds. Chad & I thought we would leave it on the brook sound to make him pee pee more. Ha! Ha! I think it is working. We will talk to you soon.

Love,
Kimberly :)

♥November 14, 2004 at 11:12 AM CST

Good morning everyone. It's Aunt Becky here at Kim and Chad's house. We went to see Blake last night and the kids had their first look at their cousin. What a sight they were. They were glued to the window with awe. Jessica thought he was sooo cute, Kristen showed him a bear the kids brought for him, Gregory wanted Blake to wake up so he could see them and Brooks thinks he'll be a fast runner because he kicks his legs so much. After our visit, we all went to a restaurant nearby for Eddie Joe's birthday. It was a good break for Kim and Chad to leave the hospital and spend some time with the family. They spent the night at the Ronald McDonald House again.

His progress has been up and down since Friday. Ultrasounds yesterday revealed that the second dose of clot-busting medicine didn't work like expected either. Dr. Zebb seemed to think that it just may be something Blake has to live with. Blake seemed a bit distressed yesterday morning so he spent the day Saturday with a bit of R&R. This morning at this posting, doctors are doing a surgical procedure to insert a central, arterial line so that Blake doesn't have to be stuck every time they want blood drawn. He has needed this for a while, but if you remember, he was too swollen to have it done before now.

As it stands right now, he will probably have the next procedure to clamp the valve near his heart either tomorrow or Tuesday. Please keep this little fighter in your thoughts as he has shown he responds well to prayer.

Thanks for your support and I'll keep you posted and get pictures up on the web as soon as possible.

Love,
Becky

♥ **November 15, 2004 at 12:48 PM CST**

Good Morning Everyone,

Quick update from Dad. Blake looks good this morning and is waiting for the green light to start his PDA surgery. The doctors will look at an echocardiogram this morning and verify if the valve is open or closed. If it is open, as they suspect, they will start coordinating everyone for the surgery. The cardiologist will be doctor Fox, who is spoken very highly of throughout the hospital. We hope the PDA procedure will happen today, but will certainly be today or tomorrow.

The surgically placed arterial line was completed Saturday so that blood products and meds can be provided more easily. Hopefully the nurses will also be able to draw blood from this line for all the tests he endures during a normal day, instead of having to prick his sensitive heels every time. We understand Nurse Debbie was able to draw from it last night. (good news)

I'll try to update everyone as soon as we hear the plan for the day. Thank you for all your continued prayers, and messages. Blake is looking stronger everyday. Nurse Debbie weighed him last night....2 lbs. 13 oz. and nearly 15-1/2" long. He has a little swelling, but not as much as before. I think his hair is turning blonder everyday, though Grandma Kramr wants a redhead.

Proud Grampa Kramr celebrated Blake's 1-month birthday Saturday with his own 60th birthday. It won't be long before Blake his riding with his grandpas on their tractors. Let's look forward to that.

Have a safe and quick Monday, and keep the Prayers rolling. Tomorrow is 'Pre-maturity Education' Day- I believe mommy wants Blake to be the poster child next year, as she works for the cause. Thanks everyone for keeping Blake surrounded with love and positive energy.

Take Care....

Chad

♥ **November 15, 2004 at 09:05 PM CST**

Good Evening everyone. Uncle Michael here with a brief update.

Blake had a good day today. He rested today in anticipation for a big day tomorrow. The cardiologist decided that tomorrow will be the day to perform the PDA surgery. This is scheduled for 4pm. This usually takes 15-30 minutes but is crucial to get the blood flowing where it needs to go. We will post another update tomorrow evening after we get information.

Kimberly also wanted me to mention that tomorrow is National Prematurity Awareness Day sponsored by the March of Dimes. A group in Austin will set up at a "Babies R Us" and will also hand out Kim's Prayer for Premies ribbons and cards. If you are in Austin, please stop by.

That's all for now. Please keep Blake and other premies in your prayers tonight and always.

Michael

