



Lindsay Rodriguez

Community Director-Heartland Division

P: 309-370-4282

F: 309-689-9714

lrodriguez@marchofdimes.com

March of Dimes Peoria Announces the 2010 Ambassador Family

March of Dimes of Peoria is proud to announce its 2010 Ambassadors, the Rennie family from Tremont, IL. The family was selected by the March of Dimes because of their first-hand experience with premature births. Due to complications, the Rennie's first child, Brian William, was born at 22 weeks gestation on July 11, 2006 and passed away thirty minutes after he was born. The couple's second son, Sawyer James, was born at 23 weeks 6 days gestation on March 31, 2007. Despite efforts to prevent further complications, Sawyer lived for 12 days in St. Francis at the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and passed away in the early morning hours of April 11, 2007, exactly 9 months after his brother.

In August of 2008, Mrs. Rennie became pregnant and received care at the University of Chicago Medical Center. On April 13, 2009, she gave birth to her daughter, Amelie Jane, via scheduled c-section at 37 weeks. Thanks to the help of the team at the Medical Center and

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advanced medical procedures, there were no complications. Because of what the family has been through, they are passionate about educating others and sharing their story through their work with the March of Dimes. The Rennie's truly share in the March of Dimes' hope that one day all babies will be born healthy.

The Rennie family will serve as ambassadors for both March for Babies, our annual walk on April 25th, and the 25th Annual Chocolate Fantasy Signature Chefs Auction on October 21st. March for Babies will take place this year at the Glen Oak Park Zoo. Registration begins at 12:00 p.m. and the walk will begin at 1:00 p.m. Registration for the event will remain open until April 24th, and walkers can start or join a team at www.marchforbabies.org.

The March of Dimes mission is to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth, and infant mortality. We carry out this mission through research, community services, education and advocacy to save babies' lives. March of Dimes researchers, volunteers, educators, outreach workers and advocates work together to give all babies a fighting chance against the threats to their health: prematurity, birth defects, and low birthweight.

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