In 2010 we spent 10 unexpected days in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Palmetto Health Children’s Hospital with our son, Cooper. Little did we know what a blessing those 10 days would be for they prepared us for a much longer stay with our daughter, Elliott.

Elliott was born in December 2012, three months early. She weighed just two pounds, four ounces. We prepared ourselves for every possible scenario.

Like many preemies whose lungs have not yet fully developed, Elliott required days of Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) treatment to help her breathe. She was treated for a GI obstruction and for jaundice and was monitored for brain bleeds. Her biggest challenges? To grow, breathe and eat like a normal baby.

During that time, the nurses and physicians became our family. Elliott was able to come home in February 2013 and is now an active toddler. We are forever grateful to them for the future they gave both our children.

Mama and Pops

Palmetto Health Foundation is hosting information sessions and tours of the NICU to raise awareness and generate support for the NICU. If you would like to learn more or to obtain a copy of the wish list detailing current needs of the NICU, please contact Anna Saunders at 803-434-2830 or Anna.Saunders@PalmettoHealth.org.