# After Two Years Online, Tiny Miracles Foundation Again Has In-Person Fundraising Gala — Coming May 6

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The Tiny Miracles Foundation, headquartered in Darien, will host its annual fundraising event on Friday, May 6, at The Loading Dock in Stamford.

Inspired by the Roaring 20's, the theme of this year's event is "Miracles ... And All That Jazz," and it will honor three community leaders who have shown great support for The Tiny Miracles Foundation and its mission.

— an announcement from The Tiny Miracles Foundation

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<sup>&</sup>quot;After two years of hosting our gala virtually due to COVID, we are thrilled to be able to come together in person once again in support of families of premature babies," said Tina Tison, executive director of Tiny Miracles.

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"It promises to be a fun-filled night, but most importantly, it will celebrate local leaders who have made a difference in the lives of families in our community experiencing the trauma of pre-term birth, while raising necessary funds to support the vital work of Tiny Miracles."

The event will honor Meltem Seli, MD, and Réal and Tara Leclerc. Dr. Seli is an attending neonatologist, Connecticut Children's Specialty Group, Nuvance Health at Norwalk and Danbury Hospitals. She is an outstanding advocate and advisor for her tiny patients, as well as for the mental health of their parents.

Réal and Tara Leclerc are the parents of twins born at 28 weeks. After experiencing firsthand the devastation and challenges of premature birth, this couple went on to make a tangible difference in the lives of parents of premature babies over the past decade through their long-standing dedication to Tiny Miracles.

The night will feature catering by Abigail Kirsch, signature cocktails from Drink Sponsor The Vale Fox Distillery, a live auction for signature jewelry, dynamic music, a thoughtful presentation and many more surprises.

It will be a night to celebrate the organization's success over the past year and The Tiny Miracles Foundation's vision for the future. The Roaring 20's theme will inspire the décor — but not the attire.

#### Thanks to ...

This special event is supported by Presenting Sponsors Mr. and Mrs. Michael F. Klein and the Bauer Family Foundation as well as many individual and local corporate sponsors, including:

The Godina Family, Réal and Tara Leclerc, CD, Ginger, Christopher and Lilly Wilson, Twenty Four Wealth, Stamford Health, Yale New Haven Health System, Ivy Rehab/Ivy Rehab for Kids, Gwen and Tom Noto, Eileen and James Thomas, David and Kim Januszewski, Mr. and Mrs. Scott Srolis, Eila and Jeff Johnson.

Other wonderful sponsors are Mr. and Mrs. William Cunningham, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Ruehlman, Nedder & Associates, LLC, Ashley and David Dineen, Heath and Alyssa Kent, Bankwell, Mr. & Mrs. Peter Streinger, Cross Private Client Insurance/Pure Insurance, Richard Freedman, M.D. and Darien Sport Shop.

### **About the Tiny Miracles Foundation**

Tiny Miracles provides a full array of compassionate support and assistance, which each year touches the lives of more than 1,000 pre-term babies and their families. This past year was an exciting one for Tiny Miracles. Thanks to a new partnership with Yale New Haven Children's Hospital that began in May 2021, Tiny Miracles is supporting more families than ever before through parent mentoring, financial assistance, after the NICU support groups, and much more.

The Tiny Miracles Foundation, a 501C3, was founded in 2004 by two local mothers of severely premature

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twins after they experienced the trauma and devastating impact of pre-term birth.

Through their experiences in different NICUs, over many months, multiple life-threatening conditions, and numerous infant surgeries, Tiny Miracles' founders recognized the lack of emotional, educational, financial, and practical support available for NICU families.

Today, Tiny Miracles provides comprehensive support and assistance to the families of pre-term infants in Fairfield and New Haven Counties and works to enhance the critical and family-centered care provided by our local neonatal intensive care units (NICUs).

Through its programs, The Tiny Miracles Foundation strives to improve the lives, care and outcomes of children born too early, and those who love and care for them.

#### Tiny Miracles By The Numbers:

Since its formation in 2004, The Tiny Miracles Foundation has touched the lives of nearly 6,000 preemies and their families.

In 2021, the organization had its biggest single-year impact:

- —Provided 3000+ hours of mentoring to families of premature babies during and after their NICU journey
- —Granted nearly \$100,000 to qualifying families to assist with transportation, utilities and rent/mortgage payments
- -Expanded to its 6th hospital partner, Yale New Haven Children's Hospital

Learn more about The Tiny Miracles Foundation or the upcoming gala by calling (203) 202-9714 or go to the organization's website.

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