Published on *The Brooklyn Hospital Center* (http://www.tbh.org)

"Faithe" in The Brooklyn Hospital Center -- Our 23-Week Miracle Baby

A baby is considered premature when the pregnancy lasts less than 37 weeks. My daughter Faithe came out after just 23 weeks. The survival rate for babies this premature is just 10%. Fortunately, my baby was treated at The Brooklyn Hospital Center?s Neonatal Intensive Care Unit or NICU.

One Monday afternoon I felt a strange pressure come over me as I rearranged some furniture with my nephew. Later the same day, and for the next few days, I felt contractions. Then on Friday my water broke.

I was so scared. I wondered how this could possibly happen so early in my pregnancy. I have two daughters, one fourteen and the other eleven, and both of them came into the world perfectly normally.

I rushed to the Emergency Department of a hospital just a few blocks from my house. They treated Faithe well, but the doctors told me she needed The Brooklyn Hospital Center?s specialized neonatal facilities. Faithe weighed just 498 grams, just over one pound and one once.

Natacha Roachall (mother), neonatologist Dr. Patrick Leblanc and Nurse Mary Pappy with Natacha's 23-week "miracle baby" Faithe

A NICU provides everything a premature child needs to survive. Incubators give needed warmth and protection. Other specialized equipment?such as breathing, feeding and monitoring devices?are also used because the baby?s digestive system and other organ systems aren?t ready to function on their own.

I?m grateful for this advanced equipment, but I?m even more grateful for the specially trained doctors and nurses who cared for my baby, and for me. Faithe was in the hospital for four months. Throughout this entire period they treated both of us with the utmost care and compassion. Faithe is my ?miracle baby? and The Brooklyn Hospital Center my ?miracle hospital.?

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