

This Tiny Tyler Surprises Everyone!

Tonya and Brian Smith from Flushing were living the ideal life. They both enjoyed their careers, were thrilled with their new house and decided to complete their lives by having a baby. Tonya had a picture-perfect pregnancy... until July 2, 2003 ... the day their son, Tyler, was born. Only one in 3,000 babies is victim to "vasa previa" ... a condition in which the umbilical cord ruptures and hemorrhages during delivery. Tyler was that one. He and his mother lost a combined total of one *pound* of blood during this ordeal.



There was no time to spare. An emergency C-section was the only hope. While Tonya was being rushed into surgery at McLaren, a very important phone call was being placed to Hurley's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Dr. E. P. Aranas was summoned to McLaren. She remembers: "When I first saw Tyler, he was dead. He had no vital signs, no heart rate, no respiration." Dr. Aranas worked on this full-term, 6 pound 13 ounce baby for 15 minutes before there was any type of response. She refused to give up. Forty five minutes later, Tyler was stabilized. As they prepared to rush him to Hurley in a specialized transport unit, Tonya caught a brief glimpse of her son. She would not see him at all for the next four days while she was a patient in McLaren's Intensive Care Unit.

Both Tonya and Brian prepared themselves for the worst. They were warned that any child deprived of oxygen for such a long time would surely suffer serious neurological problems. It was likely that Tyler would live out his days in a vegetative and paralyzed state with little to no cognitive functions. Most likely, he would have to be tube fed forever. Their dreams for their new little boy were shattered. Tyler was having seizures. It was discovered that he had two holes in his heart. In the midst of all this bad news, Tyler's parents knew that he was in the best place possible. With Hurley's latest, high-tech equipment and the outstanding skill of their NICU team of doctors and nurses, Tonya and Brian began to feel a sense of hope.

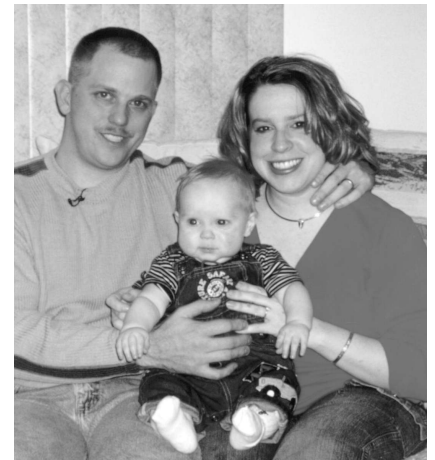
**"The only reason
Tyler is alive is
because of
Dr. Aranas."**

-Tyler's Mom

Things began to turn around for Tyler. Those little hands that were so weak managed to pull out his own feeding tube. Dr. Aranas suggested that Tonya try to breast feed and, sure enough, it went well! Day-by-day Tyler made amazing progress. To everyone's surprise, he was able to go home (with no monitors!) after only two weeks in NICU.



Today, Tyler is an active toddler. No more seizures and no more seizure medication. The cardiologist confirms that the holes in his heart are healed. He's crawling, learning to walk and babbling up a storm!



Thanks to the tremendous support of Tyler's family, their deep faith in God and the amazing team at Hurley, Tyler Smith is facing a bright and happy future. He is truly a miracle!