Dear Members, Supporters, and Colleagues,

Preparation an annual report is always an excellent exercise in reflection. I am delighted to share with you the growth and advancement of the NICU Parent Network. Our new name alone is the highlight of this report! Our leadership and members recognized that the name Preemie Parent Alliance no longer represented who we have become. Our members provide support to NICU families regardless of the circumstance or if their NICU stay is one week, one month, or one year.

NICU Parent Network members are key stakeholders and influencers in this healthcare niche where neonates, a patient population that cannot speak for itself, require strong advocates. Our job is to elevate this NICU Parent Leader community to ensure every aspect of maternal-infant health will be improved by shaping product development, research protocols, standards of care, and education. We began to question how we could claim to represent all NICU parents if our name only referred to preemie parents and not the diversity our members support in NICUs across the country? Did our name prevent individuals and organizations from joining our cause by promoting an exclusive environment rather than an inclusive culture? These were the questions we asked and the response was unequivocal. Yes, it is time for a change.

Changing our name in 2019 ushered in a new chapter in our organizational growth as we elected a new Board of Directors, restructured our committees, and delved into an intensive strategic planning process. Along with the 13 new member organizations that joined us in 2019, we also welcomed the tiniest of new members when I gave birth to my 37-week daughter, Mia Michelle. I am so very thankful to our newly elected Board President, Kristy Love, for keeping the organization humming in my absence. To each of our Board Members, committee volunteers, operations team, organization members, industry stakeholders, and supporters, thank you for allowing me the space and time to enjoy a full-term pregnancy and maternity leave.

I believe that each member organization is drawn to our network because they are aligned to our core belief that collaboration is the key to unlocking innovative solutions to some of the most complex social and medical issues in maternal-infant health. This network creates connection and community for a unique niche of leaders unmatched anywhere else in the US.

This is an extraordinary group of leaders, professionals, and advocates who happen to also be graduate NICU or bereaved parents. You all inspire me daily with seemingly endless determination and commitment to ensure that no NICU parent goes through life alone. I am privileged to lead this organization and to continue to build on the solid foundation formed over the last ten years.

Warmly,

Keira Sorrells, Executive Director
NICU Parent Network
**MISSION / PURPOSE:**

The NICU Parent Network (NPN) is a collaborative of NICU Support Organizations led by NICU Parent Professionals. NPN provides a platform for these leaders to come together as a collective voice representing the needs and best interests of NICU families in all facets of healthcare policy, care guidelines, advocacy, education and family support.

**MEMBER STORY: ME TWO BOOKS**

Ali Dunn is the founder of Me Two Books, a children’s book author, and the mother of preemie twins born at 28 weeks after 8 days of hospital bed rest. At that time, Ali knew nothing about the NICU.

Before Ali’s own NICU experience she didn’t even know anyone who had a preemie. When her then career veered into the maternal/infant health sector after starting Me Two Books, Ali began looking for professional support. She was delighted that after one email, she was connected to the NICU Parent Network’s leaders. Ali states, “they were a wealth of vital information that was a blessing to me both professionally and personally.”

Ali shares, “It was clear to me that this was a group of people willing to invest in me and my organization. I excitedly committed to attending my first Annual Summit, and it did not disappoint. In addition to the engaging sessions and professional networking, what was most beneficial to me was being in a room with so many other people who have had a shared NICU experience. That was something I had never experienced before. It was inspiring and healing to have candid conversations with people who just understood how you were feeling.”

It is this sense of community that brings her back to NPN year after year. Since that first summit, Ali has been an active participant and member of the Webinar Planning Committee, which allows her to utilize many of the professional skills gained from her previous career.

Another benefit of membership, Ali adds, “I have also been able to expand my brand through many collaborations and speaking opportunities at a national level. I never would have imagined that my NICU journey would have changed my life, my career, and my passion. But this experience changed me forever, and for the better.”
**Governance:**

**Executive Director**  
The Executive Director is responsible for overseeing the administration, programs and strategic plan of NPN and ensuring the core values of NPN are maintained and promoted.

**Board of Directors**  
The Board of Directors supports the work of NPN and provides mission-based leadership and strategic governance.

- **Kristy Love**  
  President

- **Lisa Grubbs**  
  Secretary

- **Jennifer Degl**  
  Vice President

- **Gigi Khonyongwa Fernandez**  
  Treasurer

- **Audrey Cohen**

- **Bob Selby**

- **Erin Whaley**

**Operations Team**  
The Operations Team handles daily administrative, communications, marketing and financial duties.

- **Bonnie Berglund**  
  Administrative Support

- **Cristal Grogan**  
  Graphic Design

- **Cortney Maury**  
  Digital Marketing

- **Danielle Wesolowski**  
  Finance

**Committee Chairs**  
Committee Chairs ensure the purpose and initiatives for each committee are carried out.

- **Member Engagement**
  Co-Chair: Bob Selby
  Co-Chair: Ashley Mann

- **Partnerships & Collaborations**
  Co-Chair: Erin Whaley
  Co-Chair: Tracy Pella
  Co-Chair: Ali Dunn (Webinar)

- **Standards & Review**
  Co-Chair: Jennifer Degl
  Co-Chair: Stephanie Vaughan

- **Finance & Strategy**
  Co-Chair: Audrey Cohen

- **Summit Program Planning**
  Co-chair: Lisa Grubbs

“I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; Together we can do great things.”  
- *Mother Teresa*
PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS:

The Journal of Pediatrics
Remembering the Power of Stories in Pediatric Research
Authors: Jennifer Degl, Deb Discenza, Keira Sorrells

Neonatology Today
The 7 Module Online Course "Caring for Babies and Families: Providing Psychosocial Support in the NICU"
Authors: Sue Hall, Sara Mosher, Keira Sorrells

Advances in Neonatal Care:
Improving Staff Knowledge and Attitudes Toward Providing Psychosocial Support to NICU Parents Through an Online Education Course
Authors: Sue Hall, Mobolaji E. Famuyide, Sage Saxton, Tiffany Moore, Sara Mosher, Keira Sorrells, Cheryl Milford, Jenene Craig,

TOP 2019 Conference Presentations

Three NPN members, Kelli Kelley, Ali Dunn, and Jenne Johns, guided attendees on a visual journey of the NICU experience through the eyes of a parent, from admission through discharge at the National Association of Neonatal Nurses.
MEMBERSHIP:

Welcomed 13 new members in 2019

Implemented New Member Welcome program resulting in 90% member retention rate

58 Total Members
Offering support and resources to NICU families

NICU Support Organization Members: 41
Parent Insiders: 12
Industry Collective: 4
Professional Affiliate: 1

Proudly Launched NPN's Industry Collective!

These select companies are engaged in a year-long relationship with NICU Parent Network and are entirely devoted to improving support, education, and resources for families with an infant in the NICU.
OUR MEMBERS:

NICU Support Organizations Members

Industry Collective

EMPOWER LEVEL

EMPOWER LEVEL

ENCOURAGE LEVEL

CONNECT LEVEL

Professional Affiliate Circle
2019 Year in Review:

**ELEVATE**  Our Collective Voice
NICU Parent Network provides a platform to bring the collective voice of NICU families to the forefront.

1. **Official name change to NICU Parent Network**

2. **Elected Board of Directors**

3. **Began NPN’s Strategic Planning Process**

4. **Increased Annual Revenue by 50%**

**REPRESENT**  Best Interests of Families
NICU Parent Network represents NICU families in all facets of healthcare policy, care guidelines, advocacy, education, and family support.

1. NPN membership grew to 41 organization members, 12 Parent Insiders, 4 Industry Collective members, and 1 Professional Affiliate.

2. NPN members participated on an Advisory Board for Sobi. Feedback from the engagement helped to inform all levels of the company.
2019 YEAR IN REVIEW:

EDUCATE  Emerging and Established NICU Parent Professionals

Educate emerging and established parent professionals about the urgent needs, concerns, and policies affecting parents with a critically ill baby in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

Highest Summit Attendance to Date!

1  Implemented new LMS & updated course for My NICU Network

2  My NICU Network Collaboration launched Advanced Practice version of "Caring for Babies & Their Families"

3  Produced 7-part webinar series based on the NPA’s Interdisciplinary Recommendations for the Psychosocial Support of NICU Parents

4  Highest Summit Attendance to Date!

5  Implemented new LMS & updated course for My NICU Network

6  My NICU Network Collaboration launched Advanced Practice version of "Caring for Babies & Their Families"

7  Produced 7-part webinar series based on the NPA’s Interdisciplinary Recommendations for the Psychosocial Support of NICU Parents

8  Highest Summit Attendance to Date!

FINANCIALS:

2019 INCOME SUMMARY
TOTAL INCOME
$100,453

- Membership $82,975.00
- Summit $13,353.00
- Educational Resources $4,125.00

$100,453.00

2019 EXPENSE SUMMARY
TOTAL EXPENSES
$85,536

- Summit $41,573.00
- Operations $35,602.00
- Programs $8,361.00

$85,536.00
“Nonprofits are the intermediaries between generosity and social change.”

- Laura Arrillaga-Andreessen
We Appreciate Your Willingness to Help. Your generous support will help foster the continued growth and success of NICU family support programs, collaborative parent/provider relationships and initiatives across the country.

The NICU Parent Network offers a variety of ways for support organizations, graduate NICU parents, industry stakeholders & providers to be a part of our mission.

Let everyone know you support the NICU Parent Network!

Facebook  Pinterest  Twitter  You Tube  Instagram

nicuparentnetwork.org  connect@nicuparentnetwork.org  601-345