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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 16, 2025

Miracle Babies Receives Ninety-Two Thousand Dollar Grant from the Samueli Foundation Breakaway Fund to Launch NICU Transportation Program in Orange County

San Diego, CA — Miracle Babies is proud to announce it has received a Ninety-Two Thousand Dollar grant from the Samueli Foundation Breakaway Fund to help launch its Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) Transportation Program in Orange County. This award comes as part of the Foundation's broader investment in nonprofit capacity building, recently highlighted by the Orange County Register.

The Breakaway Fund is designed to strengthen nonprofit operations and expand mission impact. This investment will allow Miracle Babies to rebrand and equip existing program vehicles, pilot a hybrid transportation model that includes rideshare support, and implement route optimization tools that improve access for families. The expansion is grounded in a simple belief: when parents can be close to their hospitalized newborns, outcomes improve and families experience greater stability and hope.

"Parents with babies in the NICU deserve every chance to be present," said Erin Kaufman, Executive Director of Miracle Babies. "Transportation is often the biggest obstacle, especially for families facing financial hardship. We are deeply grateful to the Samueli Foundation for recognizing this need and helping us launch a program that will remove a major stressor during an already overwhelming time."

More than seventy-five thousand infants are admitted to NICUs in California each year, and families often juggle long commutes, financial strain, and the emotional toll of having a newborn in intensive care. Research shows that consistent parental visitation improves infant weight gain, bonding, neurodevelopment, and overall outcomes. The new Orange County transportation program is expected to serve at least one hundred fifty families in its first year, building on Miracle Babies' successful model in San Diego.

This grant strengthens Miracle Babies' long term strategy to expand equitable access to NICU support services across Southern California. It also supports the organization's broader vision of increasing regional capacity and developing a scalable model that can be replicated in additional counties and states.



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About Miracle Babies

Miracle Babies empowers families during their NICU journey by providing free transportation services, mental health support, peer connection opportunities, and essential care items. Through partnerships and community engagement, Miracle Babies helps remove barriers, strengthen parent and child bonding, and improve long term outcomes for newborns and their caregivers.

About the Samueli Foundation Breakaway Fund

The Samueli Foundation Breakaway Fund provides targeted, one time capacity building investments that help nonprofits increase operational strength and amplify mission impact.

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