

Maliah and Marley's Story (2018-2019)

No parent should ever have to bury their child but unfortunately that is our story. Due to consistent high blood pressure during my pregnancy and being diagnosed with Intrauterine Growth Restriction (IGR), I was put on hospital bed rest at 24 weeks in March 2018 and at 26 weeks, Maliah Karin was born at 1 pound 2 ounces. What a beautiful girl she was and I was encouraged because I knew that with all the technology in the world there was a chance that not only would she live but she would also thrive in the future. But unfortunately, that was not Maliah's story. After doing fairly well the first three days, Maliah started to struggle shortly thereafter and went to heaven on the 5th day. No one can ever prepare you to lose a child much less to bury one. It becomes a constant battle of what could we have done differently; what could the doctors do differently; where was the technology to help her live. Regardless of how hard it was to lose Maliah, we knew that our story was not meant to end there. The following year, I was pregnant again and I tried to take every precaution to not have the same outcome. Unfortunately, at 23 weeks, I was diagnosed again with IGR and was put on bed rest again. The choice was to keep her in and risk her heart stopping or take her out with the possibility she would not survive. So in July 2019 at 28 weeks, the decision was made and Marley Kyngston was born at 1 pound 13 ounces. Unfortunately, Marley struggled to breathe shortly after and was incubated for almost a week and lost weight and was down to 1 pound 8 ounces. My husband and I knew that nothing in life is guaranteed but we held onto our faith and supported Marley through her struggles. Marley spent a total of 5 ½ months in the NICU due to her prematurity and at 8 months old now, she still has struggles with breathing on her own and feeding on her own. But who knew that that 1 pound baby would be 15 pounds already and knows how to light up a room with a smile and a laugh. We march for the parents who've lost a baby while in the NICU and we march for all the babies fighting to make it home.

-Michael and Iyabo Campbell

