

NATE & KELLY ALVAR

FAMILY'S LOSS INSPIRES THEM TO HELP OTHERS

After getting married Nate and Kelly Alvar couldn't wait to start a family. Once they got pregnant they were absolutely thrilled ... but things quickly took a turn for the worse.

At Kelly's 20 week appointment the doctors began noticing problems with the child, already named Isaiah.

"Every appointment for these ultrasounds they would notice something that was worse or something different that was wrong, says Kelly.

Doctors found that Isaiah had severe health problems and birth defects.

He lived only for 20 minutes after his birth.

"He was passing away but there was a moment there. More than a moment ... minutes where she held him and had him in her arms," says Nate.

"He opened his eyes, he looked at us, he held my husband's hand. All of those things were just blessings that we still hold on to today," says Kelly.

Three months later ... Nate and Kelly found they were pregnant again.

This time they called their baby Mason.

Things were going well with Kelly's pregnancy until she went into premature labor, delivering Mason three months early.

At only two pound and four ounces Mason's little body was suffering.

"Over the process of a few days we realized we had to let him go. There was nothing left that any of the doctors could do despite how hard we tried," says Nate.

After Mason died Nate and Kelly became very involved in the March of Dimes.

"The March of Dimes is the champion for all babies not just premature babies and not just babies with birth defects. We want all babies to be born healthy," says Kelly.

The March of Dimes is researching the cause of premature births in seemingly healthy mothers.

They have also made great strides in developing vaccines that can save the lives of premature babies.

“Obviously we are very thankful for the treatment all of our children had and regardless of the outcome the treatment was the best that anyone could do and we are eternally grateful for the options we had,” says Nate.

Eventually ... Nate and Kelly gave birth to a third child.

Jonas was born prematurely but he is now a healthy and active one-year-old boy.

Nate and Kelly cherish every minute with their baby ... as they've learned how precious life really is.

“He’s just beautiful. He’s amazing,” says Kelly.

The March of Dimes is holding a fundraiser march on April 24th at 9:30a.m. outside Grandmas Sports Garden in Duluth.

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