

Fetal Hope Foundation
9786 S. Holland Street
Littleton, CO 80127
Contact: Lonnie Somers, CEO & Founder
Day Phone: 303-932-0553
lonnie@fetalhope.org



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IDENTICAL TWINS SAVED BY IN-UTERO FETAL SURGERY INSPIRE HOPE!

Mother of TTTS Survivors Hosts Birthday Bash to Raise Funds

Charlotte — Three years ago, Talitha and Lee McGuinness were like most expecting parents of twins, wondering what life would be like raising identical twin girls. However, their world was turned upside down when the twins were diagnosed with Twin-to-Twin Transfusion Syndrome (TTTS). Thanks to life-saving fetal surgery, both girls, now three, survived and bring amazing joy to the McGuinness family.

Twin-to-Twin Transfusion Syndrome (TTTS) can strike at any time in a pregnancy with twins or multiples that share a placenta. An estimated 4,500 pregnancies each year are affected by TTTS. With TTTS, babies share blood vessels, which can lead one baby to receive an overflow of blood and nutrients, while the other receives little to none. Both babies are at risk from either heart failure or anemia.

Most people typically do not host their own birthday party, but on October 18th in Kannapolis, Talitha McGuinness will be doing just that. McGuinness is hosting the Fetal Hope Birthday Bash to benefit the Fetal Hope Foundation, a national support organization for families when diagnosed with fetal syndromes. This fundraising event will feature an evening of dining, entertainment, and silent auction (with nearly \$10,000 in items donated by local and national businesses). The goal is to raise at least \$10,000 to benefit the Fetal Hope Foundation. The guest list is in excess of 100 people.

“Knowing everyday that families are faced with little to no hope that they can save their babies, I wanted to do more to provide and show these families and the community this hope exists,” said McGuinness who is also serves as a Director, VP of Marketing/Fundraising and Race for Fetal Hope Charlotte Director. “Every day I get to hug and hold my daughters. I know many families that will not get this opportunity, which is why I am hosting my own birthday party. Instead of gifts, I am asking those people involved to participate in the silent auction and to donate to the Fetal Hope Foundation.”

Aligned with some of the world’s leading fetal medicine centers and doctors, Fetal Hope has been organized to provide support, provide information, fund research, increase awareness, and be an outlet for leading medical information pertaining to fetal distresses and syndromes. The organization arms families and healthcare providers with information and helps to save babies' lives. Some 800,000 pregnancies each year are affected by a fetal syndrome or distress, which is four times greater than breast cancer diagnosis per year.

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