DANIEL

We named Daniel after my husband’s beloved brother who had gone to heaven the year before. Immediately upon his birth, the doctor told us he suspected he had Down Syndrome and possibly a heart condition, therefore dozens of tests were performed on this tiny, defenseless baby. Daniel spent the first 12 days of his life connected to oxygen and other tubes monitoring all his vitals therapists examining his muscles, etc, and finally on the 12th day we got to take our baby home completely healthy and strong to start his new life.

At the age of 8 months, Daniel was rushed to a children’s hospital in an ambulance because he had suddenly turned blue in my arms. Daniel died in the ambulance that day, and by the grace of God, was brought back to us. As we arrived at the hospital, I was informed my baby was diabetic. The next five days were spent next to Daniel’s hospital bed, watching him connected to machines again to keep him alive.

Daniel has been more than a hero, he has survived all adversities and remains strong. Daniel turned over for the first time at three months old, smiled at two months, babbled and laughed at a few months old. When Daniel was not able to craw, he moved and kicked until he was able to reach his destination, when he could not walk he would scoot to the places he wanted to get to. When Daniel is not able to talk, he will find a way to let you know what he wants. Daniel does not give up, Daniel is not defined by Down Syndrome or by Diabetes. Daniel teaches us every day to be strong, to be happy, to be grateful for what we have and achieve and has taught us compassion, patience and tolerance for others.