





THERE IS NO FOOT
TOO SMALL
THAT IT CANNOT LEAVE AN
IMPRINT
ON THIS WORLD

ANNA GRACE



YANANTUONO

July 15, 2015

For all those who may not have heard, it is by the Grace of God that our baby girl was born on the stroke of midnight on our anniversary. She is 15 weeks early, but strong as can be.

Stephanie and I are proud to introduce our baby girl, Anna Grace Yanantuono, weighing in at 15 ounces and 10.25 inches. We have a long road ahead of us, but elated to share our joy with the world.





July 17, 2015

We want to thank everybody for all of your thoughts and prayers. We are overwhelmed by the amount of love and support we have received from everyone. Prayers go a long way - and this little miracle is a testament to that.

Anna is doing remarkably well. She's a feisty little fighter with just the right dose of stubborn Russian. She likes to point her fingers and tell the nurses what to do.

We love her more and more each day and thank you all for your support.

July 21, 2015

Seven days ago, you were the twinkle in our eye and today you are a beautiful baby full of heart and soul.

We love you more each day. Grow strong little one. You have an army of family and friends who love you.

Love always,
Mom and Dad





July 28, 2015

Little Anna,

You have had a few ups and downs this week, but it's to be expected. You're still a tremendous little fighter and looking better and healthier each day. Weighing in at just over a pound (YES!), we are elated to celebrate because today you are two weeks old. We are so proud of how far you've come and look forward to all the days ahead.

Love always,
Mommy and Daddy

August 4, 2015

Our little Anna,

The past three weeks have been an absolute blessing. You're a tough little cookie who certainly tells the nurses how to do their job. And though you are doing great - you're not quite ready to be off your ventilator, so for our sake - please stop pulling it out! We are ecstatic to have only good things to say after three weeks and can't wait to see what tomorrow brings.

Love always,
Mommy and Daddy





August 10, 2015

Look who came out to play!

August 12, 2015

Anna Banana -

Four weeks have flown by. You have grown not only in size (still grams) but in spirit. Today you have said "Enough is enough with this tube crap" and pulled it out once again! Normally, anyone in our position might be mad, however, the doctors thought "What the hell, let's give it a try" and allowed you to have it your way. And though you are getting a bit of help from some positive pressure and oxygen, you have been breathing on your own since 8:30 yesterday morning! And though we are well aware you might get tired and need a new tube, we are so proud that you have gotten as far as you have - beating odds, kicking ass and taking names.

As we prepare for your big day on Friday (your official one month milestone) we are so happy and blessed to have been on this adventure with you!

Love always,
Mommy and Daddy





August 15, 2015

Anna,

Yesterday was a milestone that we are so blessed to have witnessed. You have proven yourself to be smarter and stronger than children your age are expected to be. You are the talk of the NICU and have a lot to be proud of - second, of course, to our pride in you.

Love always,
Mommy and Daddy





August 19, 2015

Anna Grace,

Sunday at noon you were placed back on the CPAP machine (prepared this time) and were charged with beating your last attempt of 22 hours. Tonight, as we celebrate five weeks of joy, we are happy to report that, since Sunday, you have been breathing on your own with that CPAP machine for over 60 hours and counting! You have impressed everyone in the NICU - not to mention the Chief of Neonatology - who advised us you are the second smallest baby ever born at Winthrop (at only 420 grams). We are blessed to watch you grow, and so grateful to be a part of your life. #TeamAnna

Love Always,
Mommy and Daddy

August 20, 2015

My bestie 😊





August 25, 2015

Little Anna -

You have had an incredible week. Your second attempt at CPAP lasted a whopping 196 hours! (8 days and change for those doing the math). You are taking a break and resting up for your third attempt very soon. You deserve the break. We couldn't be happier with your progress. Not to mention all that growing you did - 770 grams! (Don't Google it - that's 1lb. 1loz.)

Six weeks ago you graced us with your presence and have been our joy ever since. While we know it's a while down the road, we are working hard getting ready at home for your arrival. Your brothers and sisters are anxiously awaiting - and fully prepared to share the water bowl 😊

We love you and look forward to all your tomorrows.

Love always,
Mommy and Daddy

August 31, 2015

Mommy and me 😊





September 1, 2015

Our Dearest Anna Grace -

Seven weeks have passed since you decided "enough is enough."
Each day is an adventure, each day is progress.

We are proud to announce that this very night you have surpassed 2 (count 'em) TWO POUNDS and are doing great! You've graduated to the 'big girl' isolette and are strengthening your lungs one day at a time.

We still have plenty of time to go and, thankfully, you are loved by the wonderful NICU staff almost as much as mom and dad. They have and will continue to give you the best care you can get - and for that we are eternally grateful.

Love always,
Mommy and Daddy



September 8, 2015

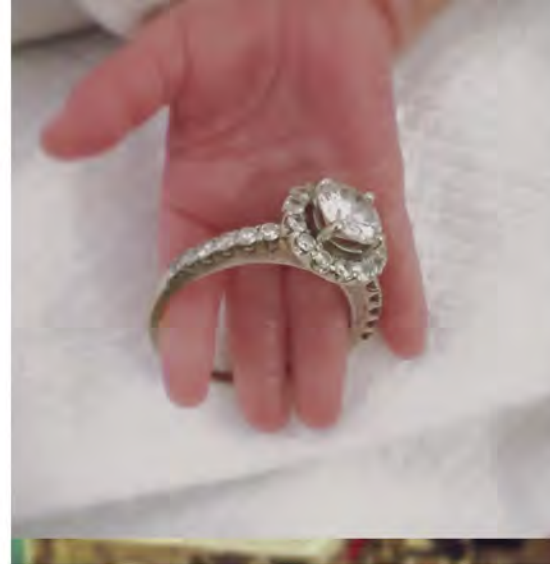
Little Anna -

Eight weeks have passed and you are getting stronger each day. You are over 2 pounds and gaining speed!

Yesterday, you started your fourth attempt at CPAP. Your doctors and nurses have prepared you for this next challenge with everything they have and are extremely happy with your progress. You have been breathing on your own with MUCH less effort than you have in the past - we are so proud. You're gonna do great, kiddo smile emoticon

Each day has been a blessing, simply because of you.

Love Always,
Mommy and Daddy





September 14, 2015

Anna Banana - 2 months already?

Tomorrow we will celebrate your ninth week of life, but today you are two months old ... your greatest achievement to date.

Yesterday you would have been 34 weeks along and (as Jane says) you're a big girl now. You have a new set of standards to meet and are knocking it out of the park!

You have reached 2lbs 5 ounces, have been on CPAP for over a week now, and are setting an example for tiny babies everywhere!

Tonight, we had you out of your little chamber. We held you. We rocked you. We kissed you. You slept ... at least that's what you wanted us to think - we caught you peeking!

You take each day as a challenge and every step like a champ. We are so proud to call you our baby girl.

We love you.

Love always,
Mommy and Daddy



September 22, 2015

Little Anna,

10 weeks. 70 days. 870 grams (gained!).

Tonight, your guardian is Erin. She was the first nurse to scoop you up in the OR, show you to daddy, and bring you to the NICU where you have been a "crowd favorite" ever since. She remembers you very well at 420 grams and is pleased with your progress.

It's been over two weeks since you've been on CPAP and, in that time, have graduated from your (horrible!) Hudson mask to the (lovely!) RAM cannula. Believe me when I say this means the world to those of us watching you move around and breathing with ease. Your backup vent pressures have been reduced by half. You, my dear, are inspiring.

By the end of the week we expect you to be 3 pounds. You are growing at a fantastic pace and tolerating everything they have thrown at you.

You impress us daily. We love you more than words can say.

Love Always,
Mommy and Daddy





September 23, 2015

Anybody recognize this baby?

September 25, 2015

Stop, please. No pictures 😊





September 27, 2015

Sleepyhead 😊



September 29, 2015

Little (or should I say BIG) Anna,

It has been eleven weeks of pure joy and we are so proud of your progress.

You are now up to 3.2 pounds! Measuring in around 15 inches and (with a little bit of O2) have been breathing completely on your own for so long now!

We've tried on a couple of outfits over the past few days - and with a little more weight we will be able to keep you dressed in all the pretty clothes you've received.

You're really picking up steam now (as we always knew you would) and are eagerly looking forward to the day they let you loose. Until then, you're in the best hands around 😊

Rest up, tomorrow is one day closer!

Love always,
Mommy and Daddy



October 7, 2015

Anna Grace - Today you are 84 days young.

Your journey is one to be admired ... growing like a weed and stronger every day. Over the past few days we've been able to share your story with new mommies and daddies who are just beginning their own journeys. They are able to see a small glimpse of the light at the end of the tunnel as we have seen from others many, many weeks ago. The NICU is a special place, full of inspirational stories and beautiful beginnings. You are one of Winthrop's brightest stars.

Tonight, we laughed and reminisced with many of our new friends who not only remember you the night you were born, but recall your many ups and downs along the way. In a way, we are glad to take this journey - as we would have never met these wonderful souls without you. Sorry you couldn't stay awake for your weekly picture, but don't think that stopped us from having fun trying 😊

Your journey in the NICU has an ending - and we are getting glimpses of the finish line. It's not tomorrow ... It's not next week - but it is soon. We know it.

Over the weekend - we celebrated you. Our family was graced with overwhelming support from family and friends - both near and far. You were visited by some relatives who couldn't wait to meet you in all your cuteness. We are so blessed to have such support and can't wait for them all to meet you! You really are a special girl.

"What is it you want, Anna? What do you want? You want the moon? Just say the word and I'll throw a lasso around it and pull it down. Hey. That's a pretty good idea. I'll give you the moon, Anna."

It certainly is a wonderful life.

Love Always,
Mommy and Daddy



October 11, 2015

Took my tubes off for a quick facial. Woohoo!



October 13, 2015

Hi Everyone!

I'm 13 weeks old today! I have TWO special days this week so I'm giving daddy the night off because he wants to share his special message with you all on my big day tomorrow.

I can't wait to meet you all!

- Anna Grace



October 14, 2015

Our Little Anna -

Just yesterday you were 13 weeks old ... and today we celebrate 3 months! These milestones are catching up to us quickly, but we are happy to report each and every one.

As of this update you have reached 1820 grams. If I did my math correctly (and properly manipulated the Google machine) you are OVER 4 pounds! You are feeding well, resting well and gaining steadily.

You have been cycling on and off your CPAP for 3 hours, then 6 hours and now 9 hours. All within a few days time. You can do it all and you're proving it to all the NICU angels who watch over you!

By the end of this week you may need a small procedure to make sure your eyes grow big and strong. We're not discouraged - Dr. Hanna made sure you got the best! You're a trooper and will pull through with flying colors - as you have throughout this whole adventure. Mommy and daddy have all our faith - in you.

As the weeks progress and you excel, we are delighted to share our joy with the rest of the world. We weren't kidding when we said you were something special. Today, part of your story was published. Check it out - <http://www.healthline.com/health-news/how-modern-medicine-is-saving-the-lives-of-premature-babies-101415>

Though we're still not sure when you will be coming home, you continue to be an inspiration. Keep up the great work. We are so proud.

Love always,
Mommy and daddy







October 20, 2015

Little Anna -

This has been an epic week. As of today, you are 4 pounds, 4 ounces! How did you get this way? By feeding directly from the bottle (and boob), of course. But wait ... how is it possible that you can do that with that silly cannula and vent on your face? Oh yeah, we got rid of that too!

The week started off a bit scary. Your eye doctor told us he was concerned with the way your eyes were progressing and that laser surgery to correct their condition would most likely be the fix. He didn't perform the surgery personally, so our good friends at Winthrop were on the move finding you an eye surgeon - as the one they usually use was no longer available. It turns out, there are only a handful that work in the tri-state area and almost surely you would have to be transported to Columbia to have the surgery done. The doctor simply did not have the privileges to work at Winthrop.

However, through some wizardry we're sure, Dr. Hanna was able to get him cleared to take care of your surgery within two days time. A feat, we are told, that is simply unheard of. It seems you are a special girl to more than just Mommy and Daddy.

The surgery went off without a hitch on Friday afternoon. You were tired for most of the weekend, but by Sunday afternoon into evening - you were back to being your lovely, vibrant self.

Did I mention you are breathing room air all by yourself? Marvelous.

Today is day 98 of life. By Thursday, it will be your 100th day in the NICU. You are rounding third (see what I did there?) and picking up steam. What lies in store is dictated by you and only you. Keep up the great work, kiddo. You're a rockstar!

Love Always,
Mommy and Daddy



October 25, 2015

Because, Anna.

Today is the day you were supposed to be born but, what we have discovered, it was not the day you were MEANT to be born. You have brought a family closer together. Moreover, you have brought a community closer together. For that, we all love you.





October 28, 2015

Anna -

You were born 15 weeks early and today you are 15 weeks old. What a difference "full term" makes.

As of tonight's weigh in, you are 4.6 pounds ... and cute as a button.

Our job now is to learn. You have to learn how to eat properly on your own, and we have to learn how to make that process as easy as possible. You are getting the hang of it, but still need to work on your skills. Thankfully we have wonderfully trained nurses to show us all the tricks.

The light at the end of the NICU tunnel is getting bigger and brighter. There are still obstacles to overcome before you leave, but none have been too challenging as to bring down your spirit.

You are truly a special girl. The light in your eyes warms our hearts - and your touch, our souls. We are forever grateful that you have chosen us, as we would not have wanted it any other way.

Love Always,
Mommy and Daddy

October 31, 2015

Happy Halloween from the cutest banana in the bunch!





November 4, 2015

Anna Grace -

Tonight as we celebrate 16 weeks of life, we can't help but notice you are tired - you can't even stay awake for your photo shoot! I guess we can't say we blame you - you've reached 5lbs, 4 ounces!

This has been an exciting week. Mommy and daddy got to spend Halloween with the world's cutest banana! All of our new friends wanted to see you in your costume we were allowed to put you in a crib and walk all around the NICU and trick-or-treat. We did this for two days straight! You did so well in your crib - they said you were ready to stay out. And out you stayed 😊

You passed your hearing test with flying colors and growing more and more beautiful everyday.

We had the opportunity this week to meet another family with a baby on a similar path. We met their son and spoke to mom and dad about their upcoming journey. They have a positive attitude - which is amazing. We explained that our positivity came directly from you. Your ups are our ups - and your downs are our downs. That must be parenting 😊

While it has yet to be talked about, your date is coming soon. Our biggest hurdle right now is making sure you can eat properly. It's difficult, but you will get it - you're already doing a great job.

Another week older, another week closer. We love you more and more each day. Rest up babygirl, the best is yet to come!

Love always,
Mommy and Daddy

November 11, 2015

Anna Banana -

17 weeks. 5 lbs - 15oz. Adorable as anything.

We did a bit of testing this week to see how well you eat. Turns out - not as well as we hoped. But not to worry - you're not the first. All is well in the world of the preemie.

Some of our new nurse friends have just started or are going on vacations and all have stopped by to say their goodbyes in anticipation of you not being there when they return - even though I'm sure they secretly hope you are. You're fun, you're cute. You're crowd favorite.

The nurses are looking to move you into a bigger crib - not because you're huge, rather, but because you are more awake than you are asleep. You need stimulation. You need mobiles, jumpy chairs - all sorts of things to keep you active. All good things.

Very soon we will be celebrating your fourth month of life. You are becoming more beautiful as the days progress. You've knocked it out of the park at every stage and eagerly await you're next move - keep impressing all of us. We know you will.

Love Always,
Mommy and Daddy







November 15, 2015

Anna -

Tonight we celebrate four months of pure joy.

When we think of how far you've come - we can't help but smile. Your pain is our pain, your smiles are our happiness.

You have developed quite a personality. Be it smiles, smirks or the occasional whimper - your face says it all.

Our house is almost ready for your arrival and we eagerly await the day you are ready. Until then - you're in great hands.

Love always,
Mommy and Daddy

November 16, 2015

Funny girl 😊



November 25, 2015

Anna -

19 weeks - and boy do we have a lot to be thankful for.

While we would have loved to have you home for Thanksgiving - we are just as happy knowing you are cared for as we would care for you. Your days, however, are definitely numbered 😊

You've broken 3 kilos - weighing in at 6lbs 12oz.

You know when you're hungry and eating very well. You sleep like a champ and enjoy being entertained when you're awake.

You're a special girl that crushed every test put in front of you. We know you will continue far into the future.

We've prepped the pooches for your arrival. Molly, however, refuses to believe that we didn't make a special room just for her. We think she is going to be your best bud 😊

We see big things coming this week and are overjoyed with how far you've come.

Happy Thanksgiving, baby girl.

Love Always,
Mommy and Daddy







November 27, 2015

Happy Thanksgiving from our Anna Grace!

December 1, 2015

Anna Grace,

Our little darling, our baby girl ... today you are 20 weeks old. You have spent 140 days in the NICU at Winthrop. You are over 7 pounds and picking up steam. You are an inspiration to all and tonight ... you are home.

Today starts a new adventure. In the story of your life, the preface has ended and chapter 1 has just begun. You've faced every milestone head-on and have impressed us every step of the way.

If it were not for the inspiring, amazing and talented nurses, doctors and staff of the NICU - we don't know where we would have ended up. They challenged you, tested you and pushed you to the limits. You showed them what it is to be a fighter and you came out on top - as you always have.

Tonight we are home as a family - all six of us. The puppies are smitten. They sat and watched you have your first meal on the couch and only tried to steal your booties twice!

Tomorrow is a new day and we are so excited to have you home!
Life is good!

Rest easy baby doll - Molly wakes up early!

Love Always,
Mommy and Daddy





Item	Qty	Unit Price	Total Price
101	100	1.00	100.00
102	200	2.00	400.00
103	300	3.00	900.00
104	400	4.00	1600.00
105	500	5.00	2500.00
106	600	6.00	3600.00
107	700	7.00	4900.00
108	800	8.00	6400.00
109	900	9.00	8100.00
110	1000	10.00	10000.00



December 31, 2015

Anna Grace,

Most people look forward to the new year as a chance to start something new or make up for lost time - but your Mom and I are looking forward to the new year to discover a new world. That is, the same world - just with new eyes. We are eager to help you discover life - crawling, touching, tasting, seeing, walking, talking ... learning. Perhaps it will be an opportunity for us to see the world in a new way.

We look forward to taking you to places we've been to share our experiences with you and traveling to different places to discover new things together. We look forward to learning from you as much (if not more) than we can ever teach you.

As we reflect on the past year, we can't help but think how none of this would have been possible without your strength, courage and undeniable willingness to live - being born too early, too small and yet, surpassing all odds. We are and will forever be the lucky ones and thank you for choosing us.

Look forward, baby girl. See. Touch. Experience. Take it all in. 2015 was our best year yet but 2016 is bound to impress!

Happy New Year sweetheart.

Love Always,
Mommy and Daddy



“ AND THOUGH SHE BE
BUT LITTLE
SHE IS
Fierce ”

– SHAKESPEARE –

Made with ♥ for our Anna Grace

