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The Incredible Teddy Foundation
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Our Mission

The Incredible Teddy Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that supports families affected by congenital diaphragmatic hernia (CDH) through education, building awareness, and direct financial grants.

Based in New York State's Capital Region, the Foundation works to support families from local communities throughout the Northeastern United States.

What is CDH?

Congenital diaphragmatic hernia (CDH) is a life-threatening birth defect that occurs when a hole in the diaphragm muscle fails to close during prenatal development. The hole allows for contents from the abdomen to migrate into the chest, which prevents the lungs from developing normally.

CDH can cause reduced blood flow to the lungs and high blood pressure in the pulmonary circulation, as well as asthma, gastrointestinal reflux, feeding disorders and developmental delays. Approximately 1,600 babies are born with CDH every year in the United States.



Newborns often require specialized equipment such as an oscillator ventilator, heart lung machine (ECMO), or nitric oxide, and it is essential they have immediate access to these treatments.

Length of hospitalization can vary widely depending on each child's response to treatment. As babies receive this comprehensive and time consuming medical care, families require an extensive amount of help and support.

About Incredible Teddy

The foundation was created by Andi & Phil Lodico shortly after the birth of their son, Teddy Lodico in 2010 to help generate awareness about Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia and to provide direct financial assistance to families with children born with CDH.

Through their first-hand experiences, Andi & Phil realized both the limited amount of information on and awareness of CDH and how expensive having a critically ill child can be. While each patient and case is unique, it was clear that this was a community of families that needed help.



Today, the foundation has awarded over \$100,000 in direct financial grants, with over \$22k per year the past two years. Those grants help to cover expenses ranging from meals & parking at the hospital, to travel costs for medical visits, to electricity bills and generators so children sent home on a ventilator have what they need.

What We Do

The primary focus of The Incredible Teddy Foundation is to alleviate the financial burden on families affected by CDH in the form of direct financial grants, as well as through Teddy's Home Away From Home Fund established through the Boston Children's Hospital Trust.

Giving Back

The Incredible Teddy Foundation disperses funds to families in several ways:

- In 2014, the Incredible Teddy Foundation proudly established the Teddy's Home Away from Home Fund endowment campaign at Boston Children's Hospital to assist with lodging accommodations.
- Families can apply for a financial grant to help cover costs associated with CDH that are not covered by medical insurance. Grants are reviewed every other month and are awarded up to \$2,000 per family.
- The Incredible Teddy Foundation delivers care package tote bags to CDH patients graduating from the Medical/Surgical ICU at Boston Children's Hospital.

For more information, please visit www.incredibleteddy.org.