

The day started out great. I felt strong movements and we had a good feeling about the fetal echo. Later that morning we went to Sick Kids Hospital across the street and were excited to find out how both of our boys were doing. Expecting to hear from the doctor that both of the boys were going to be keeping me uncomfortable for the next thirteen weeks, our world came to a sudden and frightening halt with the words “I’m sorry, your baby’s heart isn’t beating”. We were completely blown away and devastated.

Dr. Ryan came to visit us, trying to comfort us, at the same time explaining that he needed to ensure that Cameron was okay and that the passing of his brother had not affected him. It quickly became apparent that they were not sure this was the case. He was showing signs of anemia and it took them hours to decide if this was serious enough to perform a blood transfusion. Later that evening Cameron was given blood using a long needle through the wall of the uterus and into his umbilical cord. By the next morning he was showing definite signs of improvement and by later that week, after an MRI and further ultrasound he was given a clean bill of health.

Unfortunately my own state of emotional health wasn’t as positive. We were shattered, and I struggled for the remainder of the pregnancy with the bittersweet feelings about my pregnancy. My water broke prematurely at 26 weeks and I was rushed by ambulance back to Toronto. Fearing the worst, Dr. Ryan prepared us for the delivery of our very tiny (below the 3rd percentile) survivor. But my body had other plans and I was able to remain pregnant for another 7.5 weeks.

On February 26, 2009 Cameron Cole Gregory and Cole Edward Ryan were born. Cameron was quite small but very healthy. He remained this way until he was about 6 months old before finally starting to gain a healthy amount of weight.

In the last six years many things have changed in my life. Upon leaving the hospital, just over 24 hours after learning that our precious son was gone, my husband and I discussed that we wanted to do something for Dr. Ryan and Mt. Sinai... to thank them for giving us Cam, to honour Cole and to try to help ensure that other families didn’t have to go through this heartache. I knew right then and there that I wanted to reach out to others going through TTTS and living in the aftermath. Eighteen months after Cameron and Cole were born we held our first fundraiser for Mt. Sinai. We raised over \$4,000 then, and to date have raised over \$22,000.



Baby Cameron in his incubator.

We have been able to meet with Dr. Ryan a few times and are working with him on a project to help families just diagnosed to connect with others and to get the resources and information they need. Each time we see him he tells us how amazed he is with Cameron.



Cameron with Dr. Greg Ryan.

As for my early desire to reach out to others, that too has had a huge impact on my life. I have many Facebook friends that have experienced TTTS. I created 2 groups on Facebook to offer TTTS support, and one to help those pregnant with mono di twins to get the most accurate, up to date research and information to them so they can make decisions. I work closely with a foundation called Fetal Health to support others and connect them with the places and people that can help them best.

At one point at the start of this journey I had said I wanted to turn back time and change everything. I know now that I don't feel the same way. Don't get me wrong, I wish that I could go back and prevent Cole from losing his life to TTTS. But doing that would change everything, and I know that this is who I am meant to be. Doing that would change my relationships, would remove so many amazing people who I have never even met in person from my life. Doing that would change my spiritual and faith relationships because I wouldn't have had the same reason to rely on faith, church communities and spiritual connections.

This journey has shown me so many amazing things, and none of it would be a part of our lives if we changed everything. And if we changed everything then the Cameron we have grown to know, to love, to admire might not be a part of our lives either. And if we changed everything then our little Cole, who has given us so many moments that have taken our breath away without ever having taken a breath, might not be a part of our lives either... because without Cole there is no Cameron and without Cameron there is no Cole.

For more information, please read [MBC's Fact Sheet](#) about Twin to Twin Transfusion Syndrome (TTTS).

Multiple Births Canada celebrates National Multiple Births Awareness Day (NMBAD) on May 28th. This year's theme is: "*Twin to Twin Transfusion Syndrome (TTTS) - Early diagnosis can save lives.*" See how you can get involved: [click here](#).

If you are expecting twins or higher order multiples and are at risk for TTTS, you might like to join MBC's [Preterm Birth Support Network](#) to connect with other families who have had similar experiences.

[Make a Donation](#) - Help MBC to create resources and support families expecting and caring for twins, triplets and more.

www.multiplebirthscanada.org