

MARCH OF DIMES

Marci Trost, Accounting and Audrey Accola, SISCO

Marci Trost & Audrey Accola are requesting your vote for the March of Dimes. We have both been involved with the March of Dimes for many years. Audrey will be walking for her 13th year in honor of her son Ayden who was born prematurely. Marci will be walking for her 20th year in memory of her daughter Jordyn who was born prematurely and with complications.

Why the March of Dimes?

The March of Dimes mission is that all babies be born healthy. The United States is one of the most dangerous developed nations for having a baby. The March of Dimes gives Iowa a C on their prematurity report card with a 9.9% preterm birth rate. The average cost of a preterm birth in Iowa is \$58 thousand. Wisconsin also has a grade of C with a 9.9% preterm birth rate and a cost of \$61 thousand for a preterm birth. Illinois receives a D+ with a 10.7% preterm birth rate and an average cost of \$67 thousand per preterm birth. In all three states premature births have risen in the past few years.

Who are the March of Dimes?

Yesterday -- As polio swept the nation, President Franklin D. Roosevelt challenged every American to make a donation-just a dime-to support the fight for a cure. March of Dimes was born, and less than 20 years later, we pioneered research leading to the disease's eradication in the U.S. With polio halted, we shifted gears to focus on birth defects, premature birth and improving the health of families. And we pioneered a new model for supporting our work: our iconic Walk-A-Thon.

Today -- We lead the fight for the health of all moms and babies, no matter who they are, where they live or what they can afford. We're advocating for policies to protect them. We're working to improve the health care they receive. We're pioneering research to find solutions. We're empowering families with programs, knowledge and tools to have healthy pregnancies. By uniting communities, we're building a brighter future for us all, and donors from around the world champion our work.

Tomorrow -- We imagine a world in which every baby is born healthy regardless of wealth, race or geography. We'll mobilize millions of people in support of improving health outcomes for mothers and babies. Through the research and innovative programs we fund and our targeted and tireless advocacy, we'll reduce premature birth and maternal mortality rates, focusing on populations and regions that need our help most. Together we'll give every mom and baby the best possible start.