

## Grace

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Without parents and weighing less than two pounds, Baby Grace needed a miracle the day she was born. With five children, her physically and financially overwhelmed birth parents had made the loving decision to place her for adoption. However, when Baby Grace arrived 13 weeks premature, their original adoption agency refused to take guardianship of her or to place her with one of their adoptive families.

Baby Grace's caring birth mother and father became distraught over their chosen adoption agency's unexpected rejection. The hospital social worker immediately contacted The Children's Home Society of New Jersey (CHS of NJ) for them. Within two hours, our Foster Care Coordinator and our Birth Parent Counselor went to the hospital to assess the needs of both Baby Grace and her birth parents. When the doctors determined that Baby Grace would survive, our CHS of NJ staff held an adoption placement conference and selected a family for Baby Grace based on her needs and the couple's ability and desire to care for a child born so prematurely with all the risks it could bring.



When notified of their selection, and after thorough counseling on Baby Grace's condition and possible prognosis, the adoptive parents were ecstatic. They met with their daughter. It was love at first sight! The adoptive mother immediately quit her job, and both parents began visiting the baby in the hospital, sometimes 3 or 4 times a day.

Baby Grace made remarkable progress, especially after her adoptive parents started visiting her. In June, at three months of age and weighing 6 pounds and 6 ounces, Baby Grace was finally discharged from the hospital and officially placed with her adoptive parents. All of her doctors and nurses were very pleased with her progress and hopeful for a healthy future and her adoptive parents were thrilled!

**Grace found her forever family with the help of CHSofNJ's Child Welfare/Permanency Services**