



Aubrey Ginocchietti was desperate. She had four toddlers being just that...toddlers.

Aubrey and Michael Ginocchietti are the proud parents of Lorenzo, Luciano, Nina, and Solana. Aubrey had given birth two years prior to a set of triplets at twenty-nine (29) weeks gestation. After a complicated pregnancy, two month NICU stay, and medical complications, Aubrey and her husband felt ready for the challenge when the trio was discharged from the NICU. However, the Ginocchietti's were not prepared for what was about to come next. When the triplets were four months old, Aubrey and her husband discovered that they were expecting again.

Baby Solana was born when the triplets were just a year old and starting to become mobile. As the children grew, they became more active and the busy parents were having a hard time keeping up. Taking care of one two-year old is a tremendous challenge, but the Ginocchietti's had three two-year old ex-preemies to contend with as well as a baby not far behind her older siblings. Aubrey felt "stressed to the max" taking care of all of those toddlers without a break in sight. Additionally, Aubrey felt overwhelmed with the triplets' developmental and medical issues due to their prematurity. She often compared the trio to her friends' children of similar age and felt saddened and frustrated that Nina, Luciano, and Lorezno didn't seem to follow "normal" developmental patterns. She felt that none of her friends or family members truly understood her situation. She felt alone.

There was hope for Aubrey. During a routine visit, her children's Early Intervention team gave the Ginocchietti's a Parent to Parent of Pennsylvania rack card. Aubrey put the information aside until one day after a particularly difficult day with her crew. Aubrey said she "just started calling numbers on pamphlets" and as part of that outreach, Aubrey reached Jody Miller, Northeast Regional Coordinator. Jody knew who to match Aubrey with immediately! She knew that the Parent to Parent of Pennsylvania North Central Regional Coordinator, Nicole Golden, was the mother to 4 ½ year old quadruplets, born at twenty-six (26) weeks gestation. Jody knew Nicole's situation well. Jody knew that Nicole's children had various special needs. She knew Nicole often felt overwhelmed meeting Mark, Andrew, Tristan, and Lorelei's special health and developmental needs. She confirmed the match with Nicole and the two mothers of higher order multiples connected.

Aubrey was ecstatic. She said Nicole really made her feel like she wasn't crazy and was certainly not alone. Nicole even came to visit Aubrey and brought along another fellow quadruplet mother. After their visit, Aubrey told her friends and family "...today, I had lunch with two mothers of quadruplets and for the first time, I felt like I was in a country where other people spoke my language." Since that initial meeting, Aubrey has kept in contact with Nicole and they have continued to meet up in-person. The two mothers provide each other with encouragement and camaraderie. Aubrey says "Nicole's

words mean the world to us...they are what get us from one day to the next when she reminds us that things will get better.”

Aubrey and her husband say that they have Parent to Parent of Pennsylvania to thank for bringing them much needed emotional support that could not have come from any other source. She says she will continue to recommend the valuable service that Parent to Parent of Pennsylvania provides to families with special circumstances- a friend, a comrade, a listening ear, and the satisfaction of knowing that someone has been in their shoes before!

