



Publicity Division

## News Release:



**ChildrensHospitalLosAngeles**

*International Leader in Pediatrics*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **What would you do if you lost your twins?**

**One local photographer is moving forward after suffering a loss & is now spreading HOPE for the future at the TTTS Race for Hope 5K Charity Event**

(March 11, 2008—Denver, Colorado) What would you do if you found out you were expecting identical twins? What if you then discovered there was a terrible problem and you were diagnosed with a potentially deadly and rapidly growing fetal syndrome called Twin-to-win-Transfusion Syndrome or TTTS? This is Ricardo Tirado's story and it can be seen through a heartfelt and touching professional slide show that depicts him and his wife's own journey with TTTS through his own eyes. You can view his slide show at: [www.smpfiles.com/ourtttsjourney/index.html](http://www.smpfiles.com/ourtttsjourney/index.html). TTTS is a potentially life-threatening condition in pregnancy that exists when blood passes disproportionately between twins with a shared placenta, as featured on ABC's *PrimeTime Medical Mysteries*. Thousands of multiple pregnancies are affected each year in the U.S. and most cases result in the loss of one or both babies.

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# TWINS™

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He and his wife were thrilled when they found out they were expecting identical twins. It was during a routine ultrasound when they were given the devastating news that their babies were suffering from TTTS, a condition that affects identical twins in utero and kills more babies each day than SIDS, yet nobody has really heard of this potentially deadly fetal syndrome. “I was in shock when the doctor told us that we should prepare to say goodbye to our twins,” says Ricardo Tirado. “After scouring the internet and finding a ton of misinformation about TTTS, we finally found a doctor that was performing a ground-breaking surgery and that gave us hope that we did have options and there might be a way to save their lives,” he added.

Ricardo and his wife determined that the only way to save their twins would be to undergo surgery. For dad, it was a long night spent by his wife’s bedside watching her sleep as he stared out the window in disbelief that this was happening to them. After surgery they could only wait and wonder. “I can remember following my wife down the hallway as she is being rolled into the exam room so that we could learn our fate. My heart was pounding so loudly as we waited and hoped to get the news we so desperately wanted to hear,” says Ricardo. “As we looked intently at the screen, I held my wife’s hand tightly because I knew what was coming next and I wanted to be strong for my wife.” The doctor had to tell the Tirado’s the devastating news that their twin boys did not survive and they were no longer alive. As they got to hold their twin sons for the first and last time, Ricardo received a compassionate phone call from Lonnie Somers, the founder of the national Fetal Hope Foundation ([www.fetalhope.org](http://www.fetalhope.org)). “He called and offered his condolences at the most critical time for me and it was exactly what I needed to hear. It meant so much to me that someone who had gone through this same situation as we did was doing so much to help others afflicted with TTTS,” adds Ricardo.

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Weeks had passed and Ricardo Tirado and his wife wanted to do something to honor their twin boys they had lost. "I contacted that empathetic man who helped me through the darkest time in my life and offered him my time and talents to help other families so that they might not suffer the loss that we have and so that they understand that there is HOPE." Ricardo Tirado is a man of action and quickly got involved with the Fetal Hope Foundation's **national 5K Charity** events called the **TTTS Race for Hope National series**, which take place in cities all over the US including Denver, Charlotte, Seattle and for the very first time, the event is coming to the Los Angeles area on **Sunday, March 30, 2008** just south of the Rose Bowl (*1001 Rose Bowl Drive in Pasadena.*) Join Ricardo Tirado, this year's LA Race Director, and more than 700 runners, walkers and families affected by Twin-to-Twin Transfusion Syndrome in the **Inaugural Los Angeles TTTS Race for Hope 5K Run/Walk, Kids Fun Run, NOMOTC Family Festival and Sponsor Expo** benefiting the Fetal Hope Foundation and TTTS. Local title sponsor for this national charity event is **Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center and Children's Hospital Los Angeles** and funds raised by the TTTS Race for Hope go to saving babies' lives and giving hope to families by spreading awareness, providing needed financial and emotional support to families, providing medical assistance and by funding medical research.

Each year in the U.S. thousands of multiple pregnancies are affected by **Twin-to-Twin-Transfusion Syndrome** or TTTS and most cases result in the loss of one or both babies, although survival rates are increasing as awareness about this syndrome is raised. To learn more about the Fetal Hope Foundation or the **Inaugural Los Angeles TTTS Race for Hope National 5K Series** presented by **Children's Hospital Los Angeles and Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center** and coming to Parcel H just south of the Rose Bowl in Pasadena on **Sunday, March 30, 2008** just outside the main entrance at Gate #1 please visit [www.fetalhope.org](http://www.fetalhope.org) or call Fetal Hope Foundation at **1-877-789-HOPE**. You may also learn more about local race Director, Ricardo Tirado and his TTTS journey by calling him directly at 818.635.1375 or sending him an email at: [Ricardo@ricardophotographer.com](mailto:Ricardo@ricardophotographer.com).

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