



Fragile Times



OUR BABIES' HOME

April 15th marked the thirteenth anniversary of the day we moved into our new building, and this year we also celebrated an important milestone. Thanks to all of you who have supported PICC throughout the years, nothing is left owing on our babies' home. It's wonderful to know that it will be here for them for generations to come.



REMEMBERING A PRECIOUS FRIEND



With the passing of former State Senator Margarita Prentice, PICC has lost a precious and special friend. During her 24 years in the legislature, Margarita was our champion—a staunch advocate for the safety and protection of the babies. A former nurse, Margarita took on the babies' cause with understanding and compassion, and she was there from the very beginning. When the program was just getting started, Margarita knocked

on the door and asked what she could do to help. Along with her friend and colleague the late Representative June Leonard, Margarita fought to get PICC's program approved and funded. As she rose through the ranks to become a powerful leader in the Senate, she was there for us whenever we called. Even after she retired from the State Senate in 2013, she continued to advocate for PICC behind the scenes. PICC's babies are safe today because of Margarita, and 3,200 children and young people have been given a safe and healthy start in life because she cared. We will miss her more than words can say.



P E D I A T R I C I N T E R I M C A R E C E N T E R

In the garden of humanity every baby is a fresh new flower.

Pediatric Interim Care Center is a qualified 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization for tax purposes. Our federal tax identification number is 91-1485176.

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



We have been busy these last few months with little ones, and having a nursery full of babies is always exciting. Now it's time for many of them to leave us, and that's a happy time for them and the families who've been visiting and waiting to take them home. People often ask us where the babies go when they leave PICC, and the answer is that they go to many different homes. Some go with mom in treatment, or with grandma who has been coming to visit regularly and is anxious to bring this little one home to nurture. We just discharged a beautiful set of twins who were so fortunate to be able to go to the same home as their older sister. They went home with a relative who adopted their sister and hope to do the same with them.

I say going home day is a happy time, but don't get me wrong. It's also a sad time for us because we've fallen in love with these little ones who have given us so much happiness. I hope we have done the same for them.

— Barbara Drennen, Executive Director

COMMENTS FROM PARENTS

We always encourage our parents to visit during their baby's stay in our Newborn Nursery. Whatever decisions are ultimately made about the baby's placement, we want them to have this time to bond and learn the baby's care. Here are some recent comments from our Parent Questionnaire:

"I don't think there's a better place for (my baby) than PICC at this time with the circumstances. Thank you. I appreciate everything and feel extremely blessed for this facility and the staff."

"I have been very satisfied with the care (my baby) has received. The nurses are very helpful and answered all my questions. I feel that most staff treated me fairly and didn't come off as judgmental."

"I am truly grateful that (my baby) is safe and healthy and has had the close supervision and the care she needed."

SNOWSTORM DEDICATION

We want to thank our wonderful staff of nurses and aides for the dedication they showed during the record-breaking snowstorm in February. Even through the night and the heaviest part of the storm, they made it in. Some of them did double shifts, and some slept over so that they would be here to care for the babies. We can't tell them how much we appreciate them all for keeping the babies safe.



THE BABIES' SAFETY IS #1



It's a great comfort to know that the Kent Firefighters are minutes away and ready to deal with any emergency. We recently had a false alarm (burned popcorn!), but they were here in a flash to make sure the babies were safe. They even have supplies for the babies at nearby Station 71 if we should ever have to evacuate our building. Like the little one in this picture, PICC's babies can sleep soundly knowing they're in good hands!

YOU'RE INVITED TO PICC'S LUNCHEON MAY 17

You're invited to attend PICC's Annual Luncheon Friday, May 17, at ShoWare Center in Kent. The program will feature former Seahawk Jake Heaps and recently retired U.S. Congressman Dave Reichert. KOMO-TV Anchor/Reporter Michelle Esteban will host the program, which includes a chance to win a Holland America cruise for two.

Quarterback Jake Heaps played back-up for the Seahawks and is Head Coach of Russell Wilson's Quarterback Academy. He's also a commentator for 710 ESPN Seattle.



Former Seahawk Jake Heaps and retired Congressman Dave Reichert will be featured speakers.

After seven terms representing the 8th District in the U.S. Congress, Dave Reichert and his wife Julie are back home. Dave is well known to PICC's luncheon supporters as the proud grandfather of two PICC graduates.

The luncheon is PICC's major annual fundraising event, and all proceeds are dedicated to the care of newborns withdrawing from prenatal drug exposures at PICC. Tickets are free, but registration is required. Details and registration are on PICC's website, picc.net.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



What would we do without PICC Volunteer Jill McClure? In addition to performing her regular volunteer duties, Jill manages the donations of baby items that come in every week and organizes their storage. She's also one of the transporters who drive to pick up the babies from hospitals around the state. When we had old files that needed purging, she helped with that. And every year, she's the one who makes up all the lovely baby layette baskets used as centerpieces and auction items at PICC's Annual Luncheon. Very simply, if something needs done, Jill pitches in to do it. She is truly PICC's Jill of all trades!

KELLY'S CORNER

This year got off to a fast start here in the Newborn Nursery. We've been extremely busy, receiving babies from five different hospitals so far. I'm often told we're busy admitting babies because of the full moon. While I don't agree that the moon is the reason, I have to admit that we seem to be getting a large number of newborns and the moon is shining bright. The doctor and I are outnumbered in doubting its effect!



When we get a call from a hospital asking if we have a bed available, we arrange for our transporters to pick up the baby and make sure we have enough staff to care for all our little ones. Our transporters have been driving in all different directions to pick up the babies lately. Each baby arrives at PICC with its own story, and no two babies are the same. Some are having a hard time, and others not so much, but they all receive the specialized care PICC offers. Our overall goal is help them through this difficult period and send them home to a loving family, whether that family is relative, foster or adoptive.

— Kelly DenHeyer, RN, Director of Nursing



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PEDIATRIC INTERIM
CARE CENTER

328 4th Avenue South
Kent, WA 98032

*Giving a safe
and healthy start
to drug-exposed
infants since 1990*

SATURDAY OCTOBER 5
SAVE THE DATE!



MISSION

Pediatric Interim Care Center’s mission is to provide safe, short-term medical care between hospital and home for prenatally drug-exposed and medically fragile infants, to provide educational services to the community, and to always be a voice for the child.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Barbara J. Drennen

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FRAGILE TIMES

This newsletter is published as a community service by Pediatric Interim Care Center. PICC is the only facility providing 24-hour interim care for drug-exposed and medically fragile infants in Washington State.