# The NICU Experience

**NICU\_NH 2017 part 1**

[MUSIC PLAYING]

The first pregnancy for couple Diane and Dave Anthony had resulted in an intrauterine fetal death. Samuel died at 22 weeks gestation. In November of 2004, an ultrasound showed that the couple were again expecting. This time, Diane was pregnant with twins.

Things proceeded normally until early March, when an OB visit revealed that Diane had what doctors refer to as a shortened cervix, increasing the risk of premature birth. Diane was admitted to the hospital. This ultrasound on March 31 of 2005 showed the fetuses at 26 weeks. The following day, Diane gave birth to the twins.

So to try to prolong the pregnancy, because of the shortened cervix, Diane had a cerclage placed. A cerclage is kind of like a shoestring placed around the bottom of the cervix to keep it closed to try to prevent premature labor. But once that opened and the cerclage either slipped off or ripped, then we knew she was going to deliver.

This is the morning of delivery.

Same day.

Heart rate monitor keeping track of the babies' heart rate, it looks like one is in red up top. One is in blue. And the other one is Diane's. That is high for her, but she's excited. And that's the purple one. There's no real contractions. The bottom line at the very bottom of this slide is contraction monitor, but not showing much on that right there.

This is the machine that keeps track of that. We know that the monitor is kind of a way to keep track of babies' heart rate and how well they're doing in utero, but it's certainly not foolproof. But they look good at that point in time. 158 is one of the heart rates, and then 133 is the other heart rate. The 139 over 62 is Diane's blood pressure. And her heart rate is 108, but her oxygen level was 96%, all really good.

Diane and Dave in the delivery room, I think.

Yeah.

So the neonatal team was assembled. There's a respiratory therapist, the tall person; one of our transport team nurses; and myself, just waiting. These are heated, overhead heater, two beds that are staying warm so that when the babies come out, we can keep their temperature warm.

We've seen Isolettes. These are called overhead warmers, a little bit more room to move around instead of just working through the two holes in the Isolettes. Some units only use overhead heaters. Others use a combination of overhead heaters and Isolettes.

Delivery day, this is the medical record. Spontaneous vaginal delivery, 26 weeks gestation. Baby A, Katelyn, born at 7:32. She weighed just over 2 pounds, 918 grams. APGARS were 6 and 8, so she had a pretty good start. She was intubated in the delivery room and given surfactant in the delivery room to help with the lungs.

That's Katelyn being born and handed from the delivery person to the transport team. And Mary, one of our nurse practitioners, is accepting the baby. The baby is being placed on the warmer. And this is Katelyn, who moved from the delivery room, now is on the radiant warmer.

We are toweling her off. You can see that scalp electrode in her scalp was keeping track of the baby's heartbeat, the white little thing just over her right ear. And we're toweling her off. And as we saw, that's not the best position for her head at that point in time.

Being placed on the blanket on the overhead warmer, she is now being given oxygen. The corrugated tubing contains oxygen. And she looks pretty vigorous. She is moving around, moving all extremities.

That is me now giving her some breaths with a bag and mask ventilation. So even though she was trying to breathe on her own, we helped expand her lungs by puffing a couple of times for her to get started. Now she's being intubated. We know she's little and has respiratory issues, so we're going to put in a tube between her vocal cords that literally will allow us to put her on the ventilator and expand her lungs, and ultimately to give her the surfactant.

So what are you thinking at this point at all? Like, what do you know?

It was so crazy, like so noisy, that-- I mean, my husband was scared to death. So he didn't even really-- he's like, there she is. And he goes, they're working on her. She's OK, you know?

And so I think for me, the hardest part was not to hear her cry. There was no crying. And so-- because with my first child being born so early, that, of course, didn't happen either. And all I wanted to hear was just to hear them cry. And so that was the hardest part for me.

For babies to cry, they have to move their vocal chords, like we all do to talk. And when the tube goes in between the vocal cords, they can't move. So I hope that I said something like, even though we're putting this tube in, she's vigorous and active, but I don't know if I did or not.

So she's being intubated. The endotracheal tube's in there. And we're getting ready to put the tube down to help with her expand her lungs. Still putting the tube in. That's the endo tube in my right hand. It's going in as I look at her vocal cords, and it went in very smoothly.

Respiratory therapist nurse practitioner. Once the tube goes in, you listen to the lungs to make sure you're not in too far, that you're ventilating both lungs equally. So we're listening. And there's Katelyn.

To me, she looks great at that point in time. She's nice and pink. She's getting extra oxygen. We're helping her breathe every couple seconds by giving her breath from that blue bag.

Eye drops are placed in babies. It's sort of state law that you get erythromycin to try to prevent infections. Their eyes were not fused. They were 26 weeks. Sometimes kids still have fused eyes, like kittens at birth, until you get to be 25, 26 weeks, occasionally even at 26 weeks. We knew we had exact dates because of the IVF.

We think this is between deliveries.

I don't remember if it was or not. I just know that it was just a relief to know that they were both born.

But not yet.

Well, at least one so far breathing. And I think we're getting ready here for number two.

Jacob was born 4 minutes after Katelyn at 7:36 PM, weighed 922 grams, just around 2 pounds. He wasn't quite as vigorous at birth. His APGARS were 3 at 1 minute, which means he had a good heart rate.

He was trying to breathe, but he didn't have good tone, wasn't moving very much. So he was intubated also and given the surfactant while in the delivery room. By 5 minutes, his APGARS of 8 is probably very similar to what term babies have by 5 minutes.

And that's Jacob. Looks a little more blue than his sister did at birth, but that's a normal color for the first couple of minutes of life. He's still soaking wet from blood amniotic fluid, so we're about to dry him off and put him on the warmer.

Now two people being attended to, Katelyn is by Michelle, who's the woman in the red shirt. And the other one, we're just putting the endo tube in Katelyn--

Jacob.

--in Jacob. That's probably Jacob. That's a shot that babies get called vitamin K. It's given in the muscle of even premature babies. It helps prevent clotting disorders that can happen if you don't get it. And so she's getting a shot.

So I think this was just-- they were both born, and I think Dave was just telling me, don't worry. Everything is going to be OK.

The delivery room scenes with a lot of people, my guess is there were at least four of us or five of us to attend the two babies. Probably the person to the left is one of the OBs, and he was the person that delivered. And I found out today that was the first time Diane had met him.

Now the endo tubes in. We're giving-- that's Jacob, can tell. We are now probably ventilating both babies at the same time. The umbilical cord is clamped. That's pretty standard at this point in time to keep bleeding from the umbilical cord.

Jacob, 2 pounds 12 ounces, born on April 1, 2005. His eyes look funny because that's erythromycin ointment that goes in the eyes to protect against chlamydia, gonorrhea, et cetera, infections. Even though we had no history that there were any of those diseases, it's given to babies.

Just putting that in there.

So I have a question. Were you able to touch or interact with the babies at all at this point?

No, I actually think that that's probably one of the hardest things is I had-- they kind of just went, here, look. And that's what I got to do was I got to look, and that was about it. So I don't even think Dave cut the umbilical cord because I think Dave was too scared.

So now the babies are stable. They're getting a picture and being held up probably so you can get a picture of the weight and the baby at the same time. Again, we never get these kind of photographs without having a professional photographer in there. People take one or two.

I am sorry that you didn't get to touch them because it's something that we try to make every effort at least to have mom and dad touch the babies before we go, but these kids are sick. They're on the respirator. They're still 2 pounds and getting their footprints.

Even though they're little, we still get footprints that hopefully-- I don't know-- can identify babies, but I don't know that it's ever been proven that if you take a footprint on a baby, you could match it up like fingerprints on an adult. But it's nice to have, and this is a memento with both A on the left-- A, girl Anthony, born at 7:32, and B, who turned out to be Jacob, born at 7:36. And it has their weight, Dr. Logan, and weight on the bottom, 2 pounds and 2 pounds 1/2 ounce.

Dr. Logan giving her a hug after successfully delivered vaginally twins. We moved from the delivery room to the C-section room in case after A was born that we had to worry about B. Sometimes when the first one is born-- somebody asked a question about A, B, and C and why does it seem B and C are worse sometimes. The placenta starts to separate. But at this point in time, even with the APGARS being slightly different, I had no concerns that there was any major problem at that time.

OK, so Dr. Logan's telling you what?

Oh, I think he probably just was telling me, congratulations. I don't even really remember, because like I said, that was the first time I had met him. And Dr. [INAUDIBLE], she actually had stayed so that I had some kind of familiarity giving birth. She was supposed to be done at 7:00, so she stayed and stayed with me.

It looks like I am presenting the footprints. And I think what I probably said is, we had a really good start. That's half the battle, but we still have a long ways to go.

And how do you remember that, Diane?

Pretty much, but from the picture, it actually looks like he's scolding me. But yeah, but no, pretty much the same way. Like just, we have a good start. We got a long way to go.

Moving one of the babies from the radiant warmer into our transport incubator, you can see how small they are at 2 pounds. I don't have gloves on, and my wife reminded me of that--

As well, yes.

--as watch and gloves, but it's something that these kids-- next picture-- is putting them in carefully. They will be hooked to ventilator support. When the transport-- it's only from here to the building, from the delivery room to the neonatal intensive care unit. So it's a short ride.

And tell them what you told me about this picture.

This is the only picture I have of my two babies together. So I treasure it.

Now we're in the neonatal unit beginning to transition from the transporting bed to the overhead warmer. This is the overhead warmer that can double as an Isolette. That piece on top of this slide moves up and down. So you can use it either as an overhead warmer or an Isolette.

This was the professional photographer taking them on day one. And we just-- they weren't in the same room because when you get a sick baby coming in, it's a little bit hectic in the pod. That's what we call our six rooms. So they were in separate pods, but they look pretty comfortably and kind of nested at that point in time. This is very shortly after delivery.

First week of life, Katelyn remains on the ventilator, has a ductus, which is a blood vessel that is open that is supposed to close. It's near her heart. It's between the major blood vessel that goes to your lungs and the major blood vessel that goes to your body. It needs to stay open when you're inside. But shortly after birth, usually within a day or two, it closes.

If it stays open, it can lead to complications with extra fluid going into your lungs. One side of your heart pumps blood out to your body. And if that connection stays open, some of that blood that's supposed to go to your body goes to your lungs. And so she developed an open ductus.

We had concerns about pneumonia. Because when you look at the X-ray, it's like, whoa, this is awful fluffy. Is there infection, or is this just from the extra blood from the open blood vessel? We do ultrasounds around 5 to 7 days of life to make sure that there's no bleeding in the germinal matrix or in the ventricles. And the ultrasound showed no bleeds.

Jacob is on something called nasal prong ventilation. So the endo tube was able to come out. And we had prongs that go in his nose that [EXHALE] give a breath every so often, like BIPAP. If anybody knows somebody that's on BiPAP, it's very similar to that. Ultrasounds had no bleed.

How time flies. Today's April 13. Our beautiful babies were born on April 1, at 7:32, Katelyn, 2 pounds, 14 inches, and 7:36, Jacob, 2 pounds 1/2 ounce and 13 inches. It was so hard to write while in the hospital due to being on magnesium so many times.

I was discharged from the hospital on 4/03. What a day! As happy as I was about going home, I was just as sad. I had to say goodbye to some wonderful people. But most of all, I had to say goodbye to our babies and leave with them at the NICU. There are no words to describe the empty feeling you have when you leave the hospital without your children.

April 3 in the Isolette, that's Katelyn and two animals-- well, three, counting Diane.

My brother owns a farm. And so they came that day and brought me a cow and a pig. So it was-- the pig went to Katelyn.

Pink, pig.

Yes.

Another picture on the same day in the Isolette. It looks slanted, but that's just the way the photographer took the picture. This is one of those beds where the lid can come down. So it's now an Isolette, not a warmer. One of our nurses, and mom and dad.

Another picture on the same day taken through the Isolette, so there's a little bit of glare. Has an IV, this must be Katelyn, who's still on the ventilator. And you can see sort of in her lower abdomen area, she has a catheter that goes into her belly button. That's an umbilical venous line or umbilical arterial line.

There's three really big blood vessels in the cord. And on our real small mature babies, rather than trying to-- she does have a peripheral IV in her right arm, but that other line is used to monitor blood pressure, blood gases.

And there's the little pig, I think, I think.

April 3, when the photographer was there again, Diane.

Anything you want to say? They're 2 days old. How are you doing?

I think for me, it was just really just kind of almost like a haze because you're just-- so many people, so many things going on, so many people telling you so many different things, and so hence the reason why I wrote as much as I could, just so that I knew what was going on.

They look-- this might be Jacob because isn't intubated anymore. He has a corrugated tubing that goes in his nose. It gives him a breath. He's probably on a little bit of extra oxygen, but he's under phototherapy because he got jaundice, which happens to all premature babies. Their liver isn't matured, so their bilirubin levels are elevated for the first several days of life. Trying to grab somebody's finger.

Still under phototherapy, looks good. April 6, day five, Jacob has started feedings, 1 cc, which is a fifth of a teaspoonful, every four hours. He's on 21%, the same amount of oxygen that we breathe, but he still needed help expanding his lungs on nasal prong ventilation. And this is, in the note, overall improved condition.

Day of life, six for Katelyn, developed the heart murmur, which is consistent with that blood vessel that's open. You can hear a noise when blood goes through that. She required increasing ventilator support, suggesting that the fluid was flooding her lungs a little bit because of the blood vessel. And we were concerned enough that it might be pneumonia, because you can't tell by X-ray, that she had a new blood culture, started on antibiotics. And she too was begun on breast milk 1 cc every 6 hours.

Katelyn had an ultrasound of the brain that showed a grade II intraventricular hemorrhage. Someplace around 5% to 10% of kids with a grade II will have some long-term sequelae, but her oxygen requirement went from minimal now up to 50%. So we treated her ductus with a medication that is supposed to close the ductus, close that blood vessel [INAUDIBLE].

OK, Jacob had his first poopy diaper. This was a great milestone. Katelyn hasn't changed much. 4/10, Jacob stop feedings due to a possible intestinal problem. Katelyn, not a lot of change, just holding steady. 4/11, Katelyn started feedings at 1 cc every 6 hours. Jacob has an infection in his intestines. Had to re-intubate, not very active, and his colors, very pale.

4/12, Jacob, blood pressure went extremely low, put on dopamine to help stabilize his blood pressure, replace platelets. Weighs 1 pound 14 ounces. Katelyn had no success with the central line. After 2 ccs of feedings, weighs 2 pounds 4 ounces.

4/13, sat down with Dr. [INAUDIBLE] due to lack of communication. This way, we would know exactly what was going on with both kids. Might I add, I'm not saying that that was him. I'm just saying, like, you have nurses, doctors, everybody. And usually, there's one person that knows exactly everything that's going on. So that's why I went to him.

Katelyn had a PDA heart valve grade II brain bleed, pneumonia, staph infection, up to 4 ccs at 3 hours formula and breast milk. Jacob has NEC, intestinal infection; pneumonia in his lungs and bloodstream; has a heart murmur. Discontinued feedings for 14 days. Need to see improvements over the next 2 days. Diane was able to finally start pumping for the babies.

4/13, Carmen made Katelyn look so pretty with the pink bow in her hair and hugging her pink bear, what some nurses will do because they know you're having a bad day. Katelyn is still eating and staying stable.

The intestinal infection that Jacob had got despite getting breast milk, it is a serious infection. 20% to 25% of the children with that die. First couple of days are real critical, that you don't get a hole in your intestine, like the X-ray we showed this morning. If that would have been the case, he would have needed to have surgery. The treatment is stop feedings, give antibiotics for 10 to 14 days, and then hopefully restart feedings. But it is a significant infection.

Can you explain why babies get infected?

We don't know why-- oh, babies get infected because they don't have very good immune systems. Most of the antibodies that moms have that they cross over the placenta happen in the last 14, 15 weeks of pregnancy, so the antibodies aren't there. Their white blood cells are less able to kill bacteria than ours are, and they have lines where bacteria can get into their bloodstream.

With the intestinal infection, bacteria that's normally in the intestine to help digestion can get into the wall of the intestine and get into bloodstream. Katelyn, on day of life 11, developed sepsis with the same organism that Jacob had, although she didn't get necrotizing enterocolitis. She had a blood culture that was positive for this particular germ.

It's a germ that's ubiquitous in everybody's GI tract, vaginal flora. But at 10 days, it probably-- day 11, wasn't from birth. It's something that she acquired while in the NICU. And she still had respiratory distress, was still requiring positive pressure ventilation, and had this blood vessel that didn't close.

Jacob also had klebsiella sepsis. Diane mentioned this. Had to be re-intubated, got NEC, low platelets as thrombocytopenia. And this becomes important because if you have low platelets, you can't get the medication that Katelyn got to close your ductus. The medication, indomethacin, causes people to bleed. And if you start out with low platelets, you can't give the medical treatment to get the ductus closed.

**NICU\_NH 2017 part 2**

I think that's Katelyn.

Hanging out.

Just hanging out, yeah. We were there every day and we tried not to touch them much as hard as that sounds or might not sound. But I was happy just to hold their hand, just to let them sleep, rest, and heal.

There's Dave's hand compared to--

Jacob's foot.

--Jacob's foot and obviously he has an IV in his left foot. Once you get the intestinal infection you can no longer use the big blood vessels and the umbilical cord. You have to go with the peripheral IV or a central line. And we'll get to central lines [INAUDIBLE]. Katelyn, still on the respirator and opening her eye-- closing her eye.

Holding on.

Holding on to probably Dave's hand-- finger. Despite both babies with blood culture-- with blood infections-- one with a ductus, one with a life threatening intestinal infection-- they're hanging in there. Day of life 13, Jacob remains NPO, nothing per os, which means not eating because of his NEC. Remains on antibiotics. Still with minimal ventilator settings, but he still has his ductus that we cannot treat medically.

Katelyn [INAUDIBLE] moderate ventilator settings, 45% to 60% oxygen. Again, we are breathing 21% oxygen now. Remains on antibiotics, She had gotten three doses over the indomethacin but it didn't close the blood vessel that we think is contributing to her oxygen requirements. So she's getting a second course of the medication to close the blood vessel.

Happy two weeks old. Diane spent almost all day at the hospital due to all the tests being done on the kids today. Carolyn got both kids itty-bitty binkies. Jacob loves his binky and Katelyn would rather suck her fingers. Both babies birth certificates came.

Jacob got a blood transfusion and his color looks much better. Intestines look better, but give it another 24 hours to be in the clear per Dr. Kay. The echocardiogram shows a moderate to large PDA heart valve, waiting to treat the PDA for a while due to other treatments going on. This here is a program that the hospital has set up that it's almost like a Facebook. So I could put in the care page what was going on and instead of having every family member call me every day and say, what's going on. They were able to log in and find out what's going on with the kids, which made it a lot easier to not have to tell everybody the same story over and over again.

So April 19, 2005, Jacob is healing as we speak. I'm doing better. I'm a little under the weather a week ago, but I can see the sunshine again. I probably won't be able to eat until after the 24th due to my intestinal infection. I have been able to work on the nurses to lower my dopamine blood pressure medication. I'm trying really hard to get off of it altogether.

My sister is usually the one that keeps my parents busy. I think I'm pretty laid back like my daddy. Speaking of my daddy, he held me on Saturday for the first time. Boy, what a rush that was, he's a big guy. I will let you know what the doctors decide to do with me next. I think they have to take care of me steps due to my intestinal infection. I've put some weight back on and now weigh 2 pounds, 2 ounces. I'm not sure about my length because someone measured me wrong, so I can't tell you until next week how long I am.

I want to thank everyone for all the prayers and love you're sending my way. I will look forward to seeing you at my new house, instead of here at this hospital. I also appreciate all the visitors I get. I will try to have mom and daddy keep you updated, but as long as you know they are busy coming and going. I think we should change their names to "coming" and "going." Thanks again for everything. Love Jacob.

And, just so you know, I actually wrote these from the kids point of view. So when I first started reading-- yes.

I was going to explain that, but I didn't think it was--

[INAUDIBLE] really write it.

Jacob would be about 18 days old and if he's writing humor like that-- "coming" and "going"-- he might be on The Tonight Show some time. Day of life 19, Jacob needed a PIC line, percutaneously inserted central venous catheter, that carries some potential complications with it. He wasn't able to eat. And the teeny IVs that we give the belly button can only keep in for seven or 10 days, so he needed to get insertion of a longer line. The one that would hopefully stay in for a while. Still intubated, but on minimal ventilator settings.

4/18. Mommy finally drove to the hospital by herself. And Mike and grandma Susie came to visit also. Jacob you were quite awake today, Carolyn, your nurse, lowered your dopamine blood pressure medication. Hopefully, before the end of the night you will be off of it.

Katelyn, you had quite a day today. Your oxygen was quite high and you slept most of the day. The nurses had to put another IV in and was having a hard time. It broke my heart to see you go through so much pain. I wish I could take all of it away from you. They finally got an IV started and hopefully you will feel better. Always remember that I love you both very much.

Your daddy missed you very much. So around 8 o'clock we packed up and drove to the hospital, which is about an hour away. Since mommy was there all day, we thought we could take the evening off. We found out that was impossible because we miss you both so much.

4/19. Mommy called around 4:00 PM to see how you both are doing. Both of you are healing. Katelyn, you started eating again and picked up at 9 cc's every three hours. Jacob you got off your blood pressure medication. And your ventilator was turned down pressure wise. The next step for the ventilator is to get you off of it completely. Mommy's really missing you guys and can't wait to see you. Daddy just called. It's 4:45 and he is on his way home, which means we're coming to see you both. We love you.

We go to the hospital around 6:00 PM. Mom got to start kangaroo care with Jacob and got to hold Katelyn after her bath.

4/29. Today was four weeks in the NICU. It's about 1:15 AM. We left the hospital around 7:30 last night. The past few days has been a real whirlwind. Wednesday, the 27th of April, we got up bright and early to get to the hospital for Jacob's surgery. We left home at 6 o'clock, which we arrived at the hospital around 7. When we walked to your room, we had such positive thoughts and looking forward to Jacob having a successful surgery and feeling better-- which the surgery was for his PDA.

When we got to pod 3, there stood a bunch of people around Katelyn. Talk about being shocked. I think my heart stopped and my knees became very weak. You hear so many people talk about emotional roller coaster, I think we are definitely on the ride. Very seldom have I ever seen Dave lose his cool or cry, he was very upset with the doctors for not calling us. Katelyn's very sick, she has infected lungs. The doctors has ordered that she be put into a state of sedation. It's all so hard to see you this way.

You look as though you have lost a lot of weight. I will say your brother weighs much more than you. I'm pretty sure he is at 2 pounds 15 ounces, he's becoming quite the big boy. As a mother, I wish every day that I could take all of your pain away. It tears my heart apart to see you both in the state. So many times I wonder why God allowed for you to be born so early and not have to deal with all of this pain. But God has a plan for you both and someday we will know what it is.

Today you're four weeks old. Mommy will be at the hospital until you both are doing well and on the road to recovery. Daddy is going to work and he does better keeping busy. At this point, the staff at the NICU has moved all the other babies out of the room. You now have the room to yourself. I'm going to try and get a picture of the room. It's hard to believe that they moved Luke, he's been here since December 2004.

9:30 AM. Dr. Ruby just came in and said that Katelyn's chest x-rays look better. Her right upper lung still looks collapsed. Jacob's lungs hasn't changed a lot. Nicole is Katelyn's nurse today and she has made her some earmuffs and handgrips. You look so cute. Jacob's hanging in there. I got to change Jacob's diaper for the first time. It seems like he's so big now, at least compared to his birth weight. Your daddy just got to change your diaper for the first time also. Jacob is healing.

Good morning everyone. I had a good night for the most part. I only go down in my oxygen for a short time and then come right back up. But the doctors seem to think that things are going well. I'm not sure yet, but I think they're going to try and start very small feedings today. I miss all of my roommates. Because of the care that my sister and I have needed, they have moved everyone else out. I feel bad that everyone had to move out. But I really want to get better and I want my sister to start to heal.

She's really sick from what I can tell. All the doctors and nurses look worried, not to mention my mom and dad. I'm going to be four weeks old today. I now weigh about 2 pounds 15 ounces. A lot of it's fluid, but I'll still take the weight. Mom and dad haven't taken many pictures lately due to all the commotion. But when we get new pictures I will ask her to put them on the website for me. I haven't figured that one out yet.

Thank you for all your prayers. My heart is better and my lungs also. Love Jacob.

Day of life 23. Katelyn now weighs 1097. Worsening chest x-ray. Oxygen requirement up to 72%. Remains on the ventilator. Is on diuretics to help with the extra fluid in her lungs. Pulmacort, which is a steroid that was started and that's an inhaled steroid. And we are considering pulse steroids to try to cut down on the inflammation in her lungs.

Day of life, physician report. Jacob had surgery for his patent ductus arteriosus. Katelyn, we had to have surgery to insert a Broviac catheter. Surgeons came, made an incision, usually along her neck or in her groin to insert a catheter that lasted. Her oxygen requirement is up to 100% and we began dopamine for low blood pressures. Her blood cultures have been negative, but she's receiving multiple antibiotics, at this point in time, to treat her infection. And the fact that she is requiring 100% and dopamine, which is a medication used to improve cardiac output, she's critically, critically ill. And the parents are hanging in there as well as anybody hangs in there with two kids in small one and real critical condition at this point in time.

Talk about why they cleared the room.

Yeah, whenever they said, we all have a nurse for ourselves and they cleared the room, sounds great, but that means that they were both sick enough to have one nurse per one baby. Usually it's two or three babies per one nurse, but when you're in critical condition you have an individual nurse for each patient. But Jacob liked it other than they move his buddies away from them.

April 27. Still hooked up with a central line, Katelyn, and is on the ventilator. And as previously mentioned low blood pressure, she's getting IV. The heart keeps track of her temperature, which makes the bed go up or down depending upon what her surface temperature is. She has an IV in her left hand, one in her right foot, and is on heart rate monitor to keep track of her heart rate and respiratory rate. I love that picture.

Katelyn, day of life 29. Katelyn oxygen saturation's poor for the last three or four days, meaning that despite getting 100% oxygen and being on the ventilator, the amount of oxygen that we measure through that little light that's on somebody's finger is not good. Dopamine, which is the blood pressure to help her heart, is at the maximum level. And she started on fentanyl, which is a narcotic for pain and to help ventilate her, help to increase her oxygen, and get rid of her carbon dioxide. And now she is being paralyzed with a muscle relaxant, so that she doesn't fight the ventilator and we can better control the amount of support that we're trying to give her.

May 2. 7:30 in the morning, Dave has gone to work, and I have started my day at the hospital. So much has taken place since Friday. Dave and I both spent the day at the hospital. I did leave for a little while to go home, collect some clothes. I stayed up till 2 AM because Katelyn's having a few problems. It ended up being an IV problem. Dave had taken a nap and while he was napping I got to hold Jacob. I'm always patiently to hold and you both.

May 2. This must be Jacob because he has a blue hat and he's no longer on the ventilator. He has a tube that goes in his nose just a nasal cannula So he's getting some oxygen, but with much less support than he required when he had the intestinal infection.

So, generally, at West Penn, they did not have the parents room. And the doctors were kind enough to take a room that had a bunch of old rocking chairs in it and clear it out for me, so that I could stay in there. So that I didn't have to leave because I was very adamant, I was not leaving my kids. And, finally, I do believe, it was Dr. Kay and Dr. Al said, you need to go to the home and get some sleep or you need to go to the Ronald McDonald House. And so, that's what this is. So I went there.

Ronald McDonald House a few blocks from our hospital used for--

Everybody has them, I think.

Everybody has them, I think.

I'm sitting in your room and it's about 2:30. Your dad will be here soon and then I'm going home with him. I have spent the last two nights at the Ronald McDonald House. On Monday, you both had a fairly good day. Jacob's ventilator was removed. Katelyn's been taking little tiny steps to recovery.

May 5, physician report. Katelyn 1220 grams, she started out at 900. PPHN, she developed problems triggered by pneumonia that prevented blood from getting to her lungs. We said this infection triggered a very impressive clinical deterioration. Her neuro exam is difficult to assess because of her critical condition, but we knew previously she had a grade 2 bleed.

Day of life 35, May 6. Katelyn, 100% oxygen. We started her on Decadron, which is a steroid for respiratory failure. Started nitric oxide, which is a chemical that is supposed to open up the blood vessels. Very rarely used on premature babies. But it's something that we have started-- both of these things because we really knew she wasn't doing very well.

Jacob, after his ductus surgery on that day May 8, people said, ooh, his incision doesn't look so good. It could have been a massive infection, it wasn't. One of the stitches caused a little abscess and Giovanni took out the stitch. He's on a nasal cannula and 33% oxygen. So despite this surgery for his blood vessel, he's improving.

Giovanni is one of the doctors.

Giovanni was one of the doctors that took out the incision.

Day 37, physician report. Katelyn, pH 6.88, normal is more than 7.30 for babies. Base deficit, minus 2-- suggesting and proving that she's not getting enough oxygen delivered to her body. She got bicarbonate, hydrocortisone, epinephrine, given as a last attempt measure. Dr. Henry said, I am giving maximum support with pressers, 100% oxygen, but because of the futility of care and lack of response to the maximum care-- mom held Katelyn, endotracheal tube was removed at 7:40, and her heart rate ceased at 7:50.

May 8. Katelyn is healing. Hi, everybody. I know it's Mother's Day and I've been sick since yesterday. The doctors are doing everything they can for me. I hope I will feel better soon. I don't want to talk long because I need to rest. I want to thank you all for your prayers. Love Katelyn.

May 8, 9:54 PM. Katelyn is healed. At 7:50, Katelyn became an angel and went to heaven with her brother Samuel. Thank you to everyone and all your prayers. Please continue to pray for Jacob, he needs to be strong. Thank you. Love Dave and Diane.

So this picture here-- I had bought outfits for the clothes beforehand. Because I knew eventually they were going to get to wear their clothes. And they had one that said, daddy's little girl, mommy's little girl. My husband was very adamant that she wear her mommy's girl. And so we didn't put it on her, we just laid it over her. And this is the first picture that I have had of her with no tubes or nothing. And so-- she's my angel.

May 8. Jacob is healing. I want to tell everyone, thank you for praying for my sister. I know that she was very sick. I'm glad she isn't suffering anymore. I know my big brother Samuel will take good care of her. I also know that someday we will all be together as a big happy family. Please keep on praying for me and my parents, we all need strength. Thank you again for everything. Love Jacob.

May 9. Jacob is healing. Hi, everyone. I'm feeling pretty good today. I got moved to another room. I'm now in pod 2, but I have a window beside my bed now. It's nice to see the sunshine come in, so I need a pair of sunglasses. I have to get used to having my mom and dad to myself now. But I wish my sister was here to share them. I know that she is in heaven and not hurting anymore. I know that my parents have made arrangements for my sister at the Boylen Funeral Home, this way my parents have time to get to the hospital to see me. Any questions? Feel free to call them.

Jacob, May 10. Looks like he has a nasal cannula in place and is looking pretty good, two days after his sister died on Mother's Day.

This is Dr. Henry. She was the doctor that was there when Katelyn was sick on Mother's Day. And I didn't know it at the time, but Katelyn was, if I am right, Dr. Henry's first baby she lost. Am I correct?

I think so.

OK. And she will always have a special place in my heart. There was a point when Katelyn was in the [INAUDIBLE] and all you see is just people trying to work on her-- pumping stuff through her. And, finally, it was earlier in the day, and I stood with-- Dave was behind me and I said, I can't take anymore. Could you just please stop. Just stop. I said, just leave her alone. And Dr. Henry looked at me and she said, hey, I have one more thing to try. Please let me try it. And whether people think it's a good thing or not, I don't know, but, for me, it was the best thing she could have done. Because she took that weight off of my shoulders of saying stop and she took it. Because, I think, she knew there was nothing left. But she's the one that-- so. She has a special place-- and Dr. Al I always will too, but hers is a little different. So if she's-- she's a good woman. She's still there? Yeah. So.

And this is the first time you saw us--

Yeah.

--after [INAUDIBLE].

Yeah. Yeah. It was the first time I seen her. And she tried to explain-- I'm sorry, I'm sorry. Ultimately-- my husband and I are both believers and so ultimately we knew it was God's will to take Katelyn. And so she did everything she possibly could do to--

May 11. Katelyn died on May 8. May 9, May 10, our physician notes covered Jacob. But we don't mention anything until May 11 when we said, this child's sibling died last Sunday, continue to provide emotional support for the family. Everybody did that, but it wasn't officially in the record until that day.

**NICU\_NH 2017 part 3**

May 12. Jacob has a bacterial infection, a new infection. After he had got over the club zeoli, this is called Staph Aureus, which is a germ that is on everybody's skin. But because he had a central line, because he had surgery-- because he had a lot of things-- he's susceptible of getting this particular bacteria, which requires different kinds of antibiotics.

He had a PIC line inserted a few days later, after his bloodstream was negative of the infection-- again, a long line that goes in, usually in his arm. And two days later his leg was swollen and they had to take out the PIC line. And two days after that he had a new one. So, relatively common procedure, but not uncommon to only have it last the couple days.

We tried to be there every evening because that's when they gave him baths. And that was the highlight of our day, I guess, just to be able to give him a bath and listen to him squeak and squawk and squirm.

In this picture you can see that he's starting to look a little bit yellow. And part of the complication of the antibiotic that he was given is that it caused his liver not to work so well. So his bilirubin levels went really high. It's normal to be a little bit yellow in the first four or five, six, seven days of life, but he's now old. And as a complication, possibly of his infection, but probably from the antibiotics, his bilirubin level drove went up dramatically.

First time that he took by mouth. He is now all of April and 27 days of May that he was actually taking from the bottle and not getting it down his feeding tube. And there's mom happily giving him his feeding.

What's up with that little shaved part on the side of his head?

Oh, his new haircut? Sometimes we have to put a IV in a scalp vein, so he got a haircut.

Haircut.

Physician report. Jacob had developed the complication of prematurity, retinopothy of prematurity. And he got to the point where his eyes needed to be treated. So he's already had a PDA surgery to close the blood vessel. He's had central lines inserted and now he has laser surgery on his eyes.

When he had this surgery, he had to go back on the ventilator, and was given morphine and sedation. And when we tried to wake him up, he wasn't waking up so fast, so we needed to give him an agent to reverse the morphine that he got for the surgery. He was semi-comatose-- not comatose, but he was not responsive and not waking up when we excavated him, so he needed [INAUDIBLE] to reverse the treatment.

June 1st. Jacob is healing. Hi, everyone. I think it's been too quiet around here these past few days, so I decided to spice things up. I had my weekly eye test today and guess what? It wasn't all that great. Actually, it wasn't good at all. The regular eye doctor called the specialist who came later on this evening. Thank God my parents were here because I didn't understand anything he was saying.

I remember him telling my parents that I have retinopathy of prematurity. It is a condition with retinas in my eyes. I also have bleeding behind my eyes. Now how and when this all happened I can't tell you, but I can tell you that it is caused by the P-word-- how it was spread. Premature. My mom dislikes that word. And I guess also it's because from being on a ventilator for a long time.

So you will never guess what's going to happen. Yep, you guessed-- surgery. I'll be having laser surgery around 2:30 tomorrow. I overheard my parents talking about it and I will be put back on the ventilator-- no eating-- and I'll be getting some of the same medicines my sister was on. I know that my parents are very worried, or should I say wearied, but I will be OK.

I know that my parents will be here with me. My older brother, Samuel, my sister, Kaitlyn, will all be watching over me. I hope that my mom is going to be OK. She's having an ultrasound in the morning. I would like for you all to say an extra prayer for me and my mom and dad. Hopefully we will all get a break soon. Love, Jake.

At the time, Diane was having some abdominal pain and we'll get to that point, I think.

Jacob is healing. Good afternoon. I wanted you all to know that I'm doing very well. They took up the ventilator-- gave my dad a job. He gets to agitate me today, like that will be a problem for him. As for my mom, the doctor decided to hold off surgery until next Friday. Her doctor said her gallbladder is so bad that she would have to chill the door off of her liver.

So next week we will be better and her recovery will be easier so that she can still take care of me. If you come in to see me, please don't be shocked by my eyes. They are quite puffy and funny looking. I'm going to go now because my mom and dad are going to hold me. Thank you for all your prayers. Loves, hugs, and kisses, Jacob.

June 3rd. Jacob's healing. Prior to the last update I have been having a few problems. They're going to put me back on Long prong C-Pap and discontinue my feedings and start on antibiotics again. I really wish I could give you some good news more often, but I am still very little and shouldn't be born for another five weeks. I guess I have a long way to go. Pray for me, my parents. My dad is becoming weary. I will keep you updated on my progress as things change for the better.

As a complication of his Staph infection, as Jacob's condition worsened and he had to go back on ventilator support, we did an echo-cardiogram and he has endocarditis. The bacteria that was in bloodstream attached to one of the valves on his heart and we knew that would require at least six weeks of antibiotics because it's hard to get rid of that infection.

If you can think of the valve and there is an infection-- not this big-- but in the middle of it is still bacteria and the antibiotics only work around the outside. So it has to get smaller and smaller until the antibiotics get rid of all the infection-- very serious infection. He also got platelet transfusion and red blood cell transfusion because of his infection.

So Jacob was scheduled to have a central line put in. So Dr. Lanzy came in and was talking to me about it and told me what was going to happen, and the whole nine yards. Actually, I think that blanket I'm holding is Jacob's burp cloth. And that's one of the nurse practitioners that came in to let me know how things were going with the surgery. And I was calling Dave.

And this is when she proceeded to tell me that they got the PIC line in. It was successful, but Jacob's lungs collapsed. So just another hurdle.

Jacob is healing. Hello everybody out there. It's me giving you the inside scoop at the Penn. I mean West Penn. Things are going along OK. I wake up about every 2 and 1/2 hours looking for that cylinder-looking thing with white stuff in it. I think you call it a bottle, but frankly I don't care what the name is, just let me have it. If I would have known that this is what it was all about I probably would have done this a long time ago.

My parents are happy to see that I'm doing well with eating. I think it's a little tense for everyone around here with eating issue. They have taken me off of all of my IV fluids because I am retaining a lot of fluid. So I've been trying to get rid of the extra fluids. I now weigh five pounds 12 ounces. The doctors would like to see me get rid of a few more ounces of fluid. The eye doctor came to see me this evening and he wants to do more touch-up surgery. He is going to do it tomorrow around 6:00 in the evening. Hopefully they will be able to do my broviac IV sometime tomorrow also. So that's what it was is a broviac.

I have to be put out for both procedures, so my parents are trying very hard to have both procedures done in one day. I guess they're going to quit feeding me sometime soon, which I'm not very happy about, but let's get this all over and done with so I can get on with things. Again, thank you for all your prayers and please continue. Loves, hugs, kisses, Jacob. I'm going to attempt and try and put on some new pictures, but it just depends on how well my mom can help me.

June 16. Still looking pretty yellow. A worried mom. Cindy, one of our nurses extending some emotional support to Diane. June 25. Jacob's bilirubin level is rising. Started on Actigal, which is a medication to bind bilirubin and have you poop it out rather than stay it in there. Biliruben level high, 22. Very high. Stopped the antibiotic Nafcilin and replaced it with Ancef.

It took us awhile, but we figured out that the Nafcilin was probably the cause of his liver not working so well. Nafcilin was the best drug to treat the Staph infection with the endocarditis that he had. Talked to GI specialists. We have the luxury of calling Children's Hospital-- where they have all kinds of specialists-- and they said, try Ancef instead of the Nafcilin. Jacob is moved to the step down unit. Sounds like a pretty good time on June 26. But back to the NICU on June 27. Dr. Lanzy just didn't like the way Jacob looked.

He was very, very green. His bilirubin had gone way off the chart again.

Normally at this age his bilirubin should be about one or two, and it was 22.

Yeah. June 25. Jacob's healing. Hi everybody. I just wanted to let you know that I'm doing well. Dr. Al came in today to talk to my parents and they are changing my antibiotics because it is making me very yellow. I also want you to know that your prayers for me are working. I'm finally pooping very well. So well I actually pooped on my mom today. It was by accident, but who better to poop on than my mom? My mom and dad went home last night, and I'm glad because mom came back a little more relaxed today. My dad is going to come and go.

I have a little feeling that I will be here for at least another four weeks. I think they just want to make sure that everything will be OK. They're going to do some blood work in the morning. I will keep you posted of any major changes. If none occur, I will probably only update you every other day. Please continue to pray for me and my family because now it's going to be a hard time with my parents being apart and my mom trying to get used to all the little things that need to be done for me.

And NPs-- I got to stay in the room with Jacob, and basically I did everything for him other than his medicines and things like that. June 27. Jacob is healing. Hi everyone. I must inform you all that I have moved. I have moved back to the NICU. Doctor Lanzy feels that I need some testing done and a little more attention than I would get at the Peds

They're going to check my liver functions because I'm very, very jaundice. My level for jaundice keeps going up. On a good note, Doctor Hoffman, the eye doctor came in on Saturday and things look really good. So my mom will have to go home every night now and I will only see them part of the day instead of the whole day. I will let you know things as the test results come back. Love, Jacob. I am now in Pod 6. I'm in with one of my buddies, Ben.

Jacob looking in the mirror, and with some mobile toys there. You can see that color compared to his blanket and compared to his mom. That is his jaundice level. He's back in the NICU now.

He actually was still in Peds here. We took him down and he went back in an isolette. My husband is a character. So he thought he would feed him a cookie. He thought it might make him feel better.

June 27. Jacob now weighs 2559 grams, about 5 and 1/2 pounds. Finishing his antibiotics; learning how to eat by mouth; feeds were both by mouth and NG tube.

Jacob is healing. Hey everyone out there in the real world. I decided since yesterday was my actual due date that I would become a big boy. I am now in a big boy bed. I'm holding my body temperature, and I thought it would be very nice for my parents to come in and be able to give me kisses instead of sticking their hands through the portholes of the isolette. I had a lot of blood work done today and I do believe that my biliruben came down. It was 20 and now it's 18.

It may take it awhile to become zero. I think the only problem that I am causing now is I'm not the best eater in the unit. I like to sleep a little too much. I guess as time goes on I will try harder to eat. My dad keeps saying, I will be out of here soon. I have antibiotics until the 19th and he says I will be out by the 21st. You know my dad. My mom is very reserved. I heard that she got my room done. I can't wait to see what it looks like. I'm sure it's nice, though.

I know that when I get home it will be a joyous day for all. I bet mommy and daddy will be the most joyful. I will let you know if there is anything else going on with my parents. When my parents get here they usually fill me in pretty good. When they aren't here I get all my info from eavesdropping. I should be having my hearing test on Tuesday, which I should pass considerably considering I eavesdrop a lot around this place. Well I'm going to go back to sleep, so I will talk to you later. Love, hugs, and kisses, Jacob. P.S. If anyone talks to Grand Betty tell her I will miss her and to be safe and I love her.

July 12 to 14. Circumcision; hearing test passed, so he was a good eavesdropper. And in my note I said, we remain quite optimistic about his long-term prognosis. Pediatric floor, July 13, where he's still finishing his antibiotics for the Staph infection; taking his feedings and he's trying to eat better.

That white cylinder?

That ring that's on my husband's finger-- just to give you an idea, when Jacob was born he was able to take that ring and put it the whole way up to Jacob's elbow. We put that away and so it just brought a memory back.

Aww.

Starting to fill out those preemie outfits.

Jacob's medical diagnoses are a listed problem that if you knew, as a medical student or intern, how to treat. 26 weeks gestation; twin respiratory distress syndrome; broncho pulmonary displasia, which means that he developed an oxygen requirement all the way until he was 36 weeks; low blood sugar; elevated bilirubin levels; elevated direct bilirubin; necrotizing heraclitus.

Then he had high blood sugars for a while when he was sick. He had a pulmonary hemorrhage; ductus arteriosus surgery; staff aureus sepsis with endocarditis; earlier klebsiella sepsis; septic shock when his blood pressure was low and he needed to go on medication. He had a urinary tract infection that we didn't mention. Retinopathy of prematurity; low platelets; apnea and bradycardia; anemia; hypokalemia, meaning low potassium levels at some time; poor temperature regulation.

And this is a list that Diane had of hers, which is pretty similar and helped fill me out. He actually had laser surgery a second time, because there was incomplete areas that they didn't get the first time; had to go back on the ventilator then.

What's a phenobarbitol?

A phenobarbitol is to help stimulate your liver to get rid of the bilirubin.

Oh.

Jacob discharged home, 13 days after his original due date. Weight-- six pounds.

Yay.

This is his official hospital photo.

So my girlfriend that went through all of this with me with the kids-- she unfortunately passed away about a year and a half ago, two years ago. And so one of my friends that was over at the house who had never seen the kids when they were little, nothing-- didn't really know much.

I have this picture hanging on my refrigerator and she says-- she's looking at all the pictures, she goes, oh, that's a cute one of Jacob. She goes, is that preschool? I'm like, yeah. And she's like, well who's the black baby up there? And I'm like, that's my boy. She goes, ahhh. She was horrified. I said, it's no big deal. But I guess you really--

You have to be pretty [INAUDIBLE].

He was quite greenish. Quite so. OK. Jacob is healing. Good morning. I know you are probably all mad at me for not letting you know what is going on in our crazy life. Well I'm sorry. The last few days at Peds was crazy, trying to get to know everything together to come home, and mom was quite tired. So when I was ready to come and update, she wasn't. Well, anyway, you'll never guess what happened on Wednesday? I came home to my real house. It's great, but I'm not sure I have the swing of things yet.

For some reason, my mom keeps trying to keep me awake when the sun's out. I don't understand, because at the NICU it was always light. I seem to be awake mostly when the sun is hiding. Mom keeps telling me that I would like it better if I was awake with the sun. Talk about my parents-- they're great. My dad is funny. If I squeak, he thinks I need to eat, even if I just ate. He's great. My mom is a little more calm. She's trying to get everything organized.

I want you all to know that I appreciate all your prayers that were sent my way. I hope that someday I will be able to kiss and thank you all personally. I know that you are waiting on pictures. Well, I think my buddy, Jasmine, may try to help me and mom out in that area. I also wanted you to know that the newspaper article will be coming out soon. It will be on Sunday in the tribune review. I don't know the date, but keep an eye out over the next few weeks.

Oh heck, just buy a paper. If there's nothing in it at least you can take advantage of the coupons. Well listen, it's time for me to get a diaper change, take a nap, and I think my mommy is taking a nap too. So talk to you later on. I will try to be a little more prompt about updates on my progress. Again, thank you all. Love, hugs, and kisses.

In this journal I've written Jacob several letters, and he hasn't read any of them. And I actually have not read any of these since he left the NICU until about three weeks ago. So I'm going to try to get through this. To my dearest Jacob, there are so many things that have happened since I last wrote in this book. Mommy's very sorry that she didn't keep it updated. When your sister passed away and went to heaven, I just lost a lot of interest in a lot of things. I had to put all my effort and energy to stay focused on you so that we could get you home.

As I watch you sleep, I'm amazed how far you've come. You started out at 2 pounds, 13 inches, and now you're 9 pounds, 22 inches. You're such a beautiful baby. When you smiled for the first time it made me cry. You are now starting to coo and make noises. I always want you to know that you are a special boy. Always remember that God gave you to us and us to you. You may not know why Kaitlyn went to heaven so early in life, but as long as we believe and love God, we will all be together some day.

Tomorrow is Mommy's birthday, and you're the best present anyone could ever ask for. You'll be five months, 14 days. The last 5 and 1/2 months seem like they have gone so quickly. My only hope for you as you grow is that you know that mommy and daddy love you very much and that you will live your life with God. I will try to keep this book a little more updated than I have. Always remember, we love you very much.

So Jacob kept having issues again with his stomach. And we would feed him and we would go through two to three hours of tense screaming matches. And, of course, we were at the pediatrician's every other day. Finally, a different pediatrician, seeing him, said, you need to get a x-ray. So I went to the local hospital, had him x-rayed. I wasn't even home yet, which was 20 minutes away. He called me and said, get your son to Children's immediately. I got to Children's immediately and they cut everything out, said that he had loops in his intestines.

And, of course, for me, all I was thinking was, his necrotizing heraclitus came back. And the only person I could think of to call was Doctor Lanzy. And because it was Children's Hospital and West Penn-- and it was very difficult, because at some point, I was watching Jacob lay there and they were doing nothing for him and just watching him go lifeless. That's And Dr. Lanzy kind of stepped in and got the ball rolling for us and that was a tough one.

So the last few weeks have been very trying for all. You've been having a few problems with your belly. You spent six month birthday in the hospital at Children's. They put you through a lot of tests and a lot of IVs to come up with nothing. You've been to the gastroenterologist specialist. His name is Dr. David Kalhud J-- something. And hopefully he will get you straightened out.

We watched you grow every day. You've been very vocal. You like to smile, coo. Mommy enjoys watching you play with daddy. At this time in your life, you may not know Dr. Lanzy, but he's a big part of your life. I can assure you as you get old, you'll get to know him. He's a great guy. He's been very helpful to mommy and daddy, with advice every step of the way with you. Well, buddy, you're starting to wake up, so I need to feed you. Remember, I love you.

And I want to say real quick, we've encountered so many doctors in our life, and with all the kids and everything. And there's ones that you think that they care because it's their job, but then there's those ones who kind of go way above and beyond. And I do remember when someone was on vacation out of the country, and he called to talk to me, just to make sure that my son was OK. So it takes that special heart to really-- and I thank you very much for everything.

So his 10-year-old picture-- his 10th birthday, we decided to celebrate at the NICU. And we took down a luncheon and we had a great big luncheon down at the NICU with everyone down there. There like a second family to us. We go down two or three times a year.

And this is just the picture from-- because the people that did the newspaper article, we had asked them just to come just to enjoy the celebration, and they ended up doing another article and put it in the paper. And this is-- [APPLAUSE]

That's my boy. He loves to play disk golf over by where we live. And we were out disc golfing. And we came up during the summer. And so that's the three of us.

[APPLAUSE]

You did it.

[MUSIC PLAYING]