

Jude's Story



When Justin and Bethany Daechsel learned they were expecting on Christmas morning 2006, they were thrilled. After trying for two years to conceive, it really was the best Christmas gift they could have asked for.

Bethany's pregnancy was normal, until the 26th week when she noticed something was wrong. She was immediately admitted to the hospital and for 3 days the doctors tried to slow down what was an impending premature birth. She says, "They told us that if a baby comes at 26 weeks the survival rate is 70%. That was tough for us to hear."

Despite efforts to slow delivery, on the third day, Friday, June 1st, 2007 Bethany gave birth to Jude. He weighed only 2 lbs. 5 oz. Justin recalls, "His fingers were like matchsticks he was so small."

Bethany says, "They placed him on my stomach and Justin cut the cord. Then Jude had to be placed on a respirator." Breathing was the most serious possible complication for Jude as well as the possibility of a brain hemorrhage, eye sight problems and heart problems.

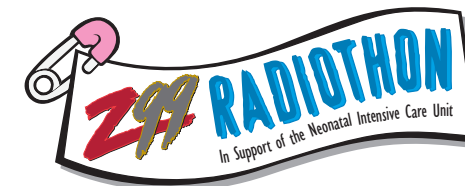
Jude was placed in an incubator in the NICU. Justin and Bethany couldn't hold him right away, but they could reach into the incubator and touch him, his little fingers curling around their finger. Justin says, "Bethany sang to him every day through a portal in the incubator." When he was 18 days old, they held him for the first time which was truly overwhelming for them.

Slowly but surely Jude became stronger. He didn't get infections or brain bleeds and he slowly gained weight. He came off the respirator after two and a half weeks, but still needed oxygen.

Jude stayed in the NICU for 79 days.

Bethany and Justin sing the praises of the staff at the NICU. Justin says, "They were amazing. They cared for Jude and us; they were so encouraging and optimistic and they always kept us well-informed. They became our friends."

Today, Jude has come a long way since those days in the NICU. Bethany says, "The doctor says Jude is doing great, he'll just watch him over the next couple of years; but, Jude is a healthy little baby now and we are so blessed."



Celebrating 21 years of



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Saving Babies' Lives
March 13 & 14, 2008



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Saving Babies' Lives

The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) must always be prepared to take care of premature and sick babies. While each of these small patients has their own unique needs, there is one thing they have in common: they all need their heart rate and breathing monitored. That's why proceeds from the 2008 Z99 Radiothon will purchase more state-of-the-art heart monitors for the NICU. The success of the 2007 Radiothon provided funding to purchase half of the monitors needed. The goal for the 2008 Radiothon is to raise enough money to purchase the rest of the monitors.

These life-saving monitors help nurses watch the babies with precision and accuracy. "Each baby has three small patches placed on his or her chest that are attached by a cable to the monitor," explains Pat White, the Manager of the NICU at the Regina General Hospital. "The patches pick up the electrical activity of the heart and the movement of the chest. The monitors display the results and an alarm goes off if the baby's heart rate or breathing rate is either too high or too low."

"Other attachments show how much oxygen or carbon dioxide is in a baby's blood," Pat says. "It's particularly helpful because it can eliminate the need to poke a baby's foot for a blood sample. Imagine having to have your

foot poked three to four times a day to have a blood test done! Thankfully, we can change that with these new monitors."

Each year there are innovations developed to improve the care of sick babies. This year the monitor is capable of providing information on brain activity and measuring carbon dioxide levels when the baby exhales. These improvements mean the doctors and nurses are able to determine what is going on minute to minute without attaching more machinery to the baby.

Now it is possible to purchase an information system that collects up to 96 hours of information on each baby. The old monitors provide information about each baby but until this year it was not possible for the NICU team to review what happened in the past. The team will be able to review the information on each baby to see how the baby has responded to changes in care and plan what the next steps should be. The information system will connect all the monitors in a way that will allow the nurse to check a baby from any monitor in NICU.

IntelliVue MP70



CC, Lorie and Buzz

Z99 Cares

On March 13 & 14, Z99 will host its 21st Annual Z99 Radiothon live from the Cornwall Centre. CC, Lorie and Buzz will keep you entertained and informed as they broadcast for 36 hours encouraging listeners to give generously to help save the tiniest babies in our community. The goal this year is to purchase more heart monitors for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at the Regina General Hospital.

Rawlco Radio has a phenomenal history of supporting children in Regina and southern Saskatchewan. In total, the Z99 Radiothon has raised more than \$1.8 million for the Hospitals of Regina Foundation in support of the NICU. The NICU will soon be a part of the new Rawlco Centre for Mother Baby Care - a state-of-the-art facility that will bring a new vision of mother and baby care to our province.



Partnering For Better Health Care

Since 1987, the Hospitals of Regina Foundation has been raising funds to buy critically-needed medical equipment for Regina's hospitals so medical professionals have the tools they need to provide the best care possible.

Through the support of community partners and the generosity of donors, patients have access to state-of-the-art medical equipment. Rawlco Radio is one such community partner and the Foundation is truly grateful for their ongoing support to enhance healthcare for babies in the NICU.



Jude's tiny foot