

Beginnings

New Life Center dedicated to care for mother, child



Karen and Joe Rudzinsky of Farmington Hills admire their first born daughter, Sarah, just one day old (left). Married last year, the couple were delighted to be among the first to use the New Life Center at Providence Hospital. In the photo above, Karen Schott, RN, checks on a baby in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.



Staff photos by Jerry Zolynsky

Ceremony to launch perinatal center

By Shirlao Rose Iden
staff writer

It's a girl, they told Blanche and Mike Stanek.

Like most parents of a first-born child, the Staneks were ecstatic, and on that special high that comes with being new parents.

Then, 12 hours after her birth, their fragile daughter Lauren Elizabeth developed meningitis. If they thought they were in the right place before that, the Staneks knew they were when Lauren was put in the care of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) team, in a nursery equipped to monitor her functions and record her recovery.

In a short time, the emergency was over, and the parents could heave a sigh of relief, and think about taking their daughter home.

Providence Hospital's New Life Center, already functioning while the finishing touches are put on, offers the ultimate in technology, comfort and professional medical and nursing talent. The \$8.4 million Life facility will be shown to the public in a special open house between noon and 5 p.m. Sunday, May 3.

The facility is comprised of 26,500 square feet of new construction occupying two new floors and 25,500 square feet of renovated space on the third floor of the DePaul Center.

ARCHBISHOP Edmund C. Szoka will dedicate the facility at 12:15 p.m. Friday during a special open house. At the same time, he will dedicate "The Family," a sculpture by local artist James Messana. The bas-relief piece of cold cast bronze, symbolizes the family unit and the nurturing process of birth.

Messana earned a bachelor of architecture degree at the University of Detroit. He has studied eight years with sculptor Frank Varga Sr. and taught art and design at the Lawrence Institute of Technology's School of Architecture.

Messana's works have been widely exhibited and widely collected.

Linda Joy Marx, Farmington stained glass artist, has also left her imprint on the New Life Center with the restoration of seven stained glass windows donated to Providence's new center by the St. Vincent and Sarah Fisher Home for Children in Farmington.

Depicting nursery rhyme characters, the windows are being installed near the physician's station. Originally they were installed at the Farmington children's home in 1929. According to Marx, the windows weren't crafted by an amateur but "are extremely well made, with clean edges that fit perfectly."

THE RESTORATION and dismantling has taken most of a year for the artist who writes technical pieces on stained glass restoration for art magazines.

Guided tours will be provided for visitors to see the new facility which includes 10 labor-delivery-recovery suites, four traditional delivery rooms, two high-risk labor rooms and antenatal testing facilities on the third floor.

Second floor installations include a 15-bed Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, an administrative suite, locker room, toilet, and lounge complex, on-call rooms for doctors, a family overnight room, a pharmacy satellite and a quiet room.

Also part of the center are Family Care and newborn nurseries (two), a

special care nursery, and admission nursery.

"This is a very family-oriented kind of program," said Pat Brynes, staff member. "It doesn't look like a regular hospital."

"Labor, delivery, and recovery are all in the same room. All the needed equipment is here, but it's more like a home atmosphere. We even have a father's room when they can change clothes or take a shower."

"AND WE'RE HOPPING," said administrative director Jacqueline Roggin. "We're really busy. We had 23 deliveries in 24 hours yesterday." Roggin pointed out that each LDR room is designed for one woman, and has its own shower. "We have

two high-risk rooms where the laboring woman and the baby can be monitored right in her bed.

"Ordinarily, the patient will labor, deliver and recover all in the same room, but we have the traditional delivery room and surgery also.

When newborns have problems, services are available from nurse clinicians who can deliver many special services.

Dorothy Staley, RN, has worked with little ones always, and has eight years of experience in Providence Hospital nurseries.

Southfielder Debbie Serian, RN, moved from out of state after the first of the year to help care for the hospital's newborns.

At the New Life Center, siblings

and grandparents can visit the new parents and babies and it's not unusual to see a new mother walking beside a bassinet and followed by one or two excited siblings holding grandpa's hand.

FOR KAREN and Joe Rudzinsky of Farmington, the New Life Center turned out to be tailor-made.

Married last summer, they welcomed Sarah Rudzinsky, who weighed in at 9 pounds, 9 ounces, just over a week ago.

In Room 304, they cuddled their brand new daughter, surrounded by the soft green and rose decor of the room, thinking how much they like the facility, and how happy they'll be to go home.

Debbie Serian of Southfield (left) and Dorothy Staley of Detroit, both registered nurses, take their turns at feeding and caring for newborns in the perinatal center.



Mark and Cindy Furdoro of Livonia get ready to take their new daughter Maria home while

Joyce Dudley, nurse's assistant, holds the elevator.