

LIFETIMES

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West Covina family birth center turns 10

By Sandra T. Molina Staff Writer

WEST COVINA — Since opening in March 2000, The Family Birth & Newborn Center at Citrus Valley Medical Center - Queen of the Valley Campus has welcomed more than 50,000 infants into the world, including 665 sets of twins, 39 sets of triplets and even a set of quads.

On March 25, Citrus Valley Health Partners celebrated the center's 10th anniversary by honoring key donors and inviting former patients to tell their stories.

"The center's staff and physicians are able to continue providing high quality care in large part because of the generosity of many wonderful benefactors," said Rob Curry, president and CEO of Citrus Valley Health Partners.

Among the donors who were recognized were Vince and Helen Capitano.

The Capitanos have been instrumental in various fundraising efforts, special events and other contributions.

"It's been an amazing experience," said Vince Capitano, 80, who was on the hospital's board of directors when it approved the center.

The 100,000-square-foot, two-story center features a 40-bed neonatal intensive care unit, two family sleep rooms, a critical care transport service, 16 private Labor-Delivery-Recovery rooms, two Caesarean birth suites and a 34-bed private Mother Baby Care Unit.

"You get back what you give," said Helen Capitano, 76. "The center helps a lot of people, and that's a great thing."

One of those who was helped at the center was Nancy Scothorn, 45, of West Covina.

She was admitted three times with the birth of her fourth and youngest child, Isabella, 4.

At 25 weeks' gestation, her daughter was born Dec. 18, 2005, by emergency C-section weighing one pound, seven ounces.

"I was so scared and felt so alone,"



Watchara Phomicinda Staff Photographer

Covina Councilman Walt Allen hands a proclamation to Vince Capitano, and his wife, Helen, during the 10th anniversary of the Family Birth and Newborn Center at Citrus Valley Medical Center in West Covina.

Scothorn said.

Like so many preemies, Isabella needed surgery on her heart.

"I was a parent feeling helpless," she said. "I had to learn this jargon the doctors speak, and learn it quickly."

Scothorn is grateful to the doctors and nurses for giving her the best gift to get through her daughter's health scare: knowledge.

"They always kept me informed," she said. "Knowledge is power, and

they gave me the power to make the right choice to understand the medical procedures and how it affects my child."

Isabella, a curious and beautiful girl, was present as her mom told their successful story.

"I don't think there is another hospital in the country that could have given Isabella better care," Scothorn said.

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