

EMPLOYEE GIVING Makes a Difference in Patient Lives

The Giraffe bed is just one example of how the generosity of White Memorial employees makes a difference.

Isabel Ortega* gazed petrified at her tiny premature son lying in the special bed in White Memorial's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Only 26 weeks old and swathed in a web of tubes and wires he looked so incredibly fragile she was afraid to touch him.

Indeed, every time extremely premature babies are moved they're at risk for bleeding in the brain. But Isabel's touch was critical. Skin-to-skin contact would not only facilitate bonding but actually stabilize the baby's vital signs and help him grow and develop at a better rate. It could mean the difference to her baby's survival.

Encouraged by the nurses, Isabel donned a gown and a nurse lifted the baby, wires and all, and placed him on Isabel's bare chest. Thankfully, the special "Giraffe bed" used for her son enabled the nurses to move him easily, with a minimum of jostling. A regular isolette opens on the side and requires disconnecting and reconnecting the breathing ventilator and other life-giving tubes each time the baby is moved. But the Giraffe bed opens on the top so the baby can simply be lifted out. The bed reduces stress to the baby, helps decrease infections, shields the baby from noise and, because it provides better access, enables all procedures to be done without moving the newborn.

Isabel held her son every day after that, until he was healthy enough to go home.

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The bed was purchased with funds donated by White Memorial employees during the 2011 annual Employee Giving Campaign.

Donations totaling more than \$151,000 benefited multiple initiatives at WMMC: the Dupper Fund for community outreach, the Employee Assistance Fund Donation and Loan program,



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Chaplaincy Services, the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, the Cleft Palate program, and others.

Many employees contribute each year to the campaign, which is entirely driven by employee volunteers. A special thanks goes to Foundation Major Gifts and Special Events Coordinator Yuri Hernandez, who served as advisor to the 2011 campaign, and campaign co-chairs Arlene Lara, Nursing Administration and Elaine Valles, Human Resources.

Thanks also go to committee members:

Patricia Argueta	Janet McBean
Ruth Arroyo	Rhashann McDowell
Ruth Benitez	Antonio Morales, Jr.
Diane Carlos	Sylvia Munoz
Sybil Cross	Magaly Navarro-Arias
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Carol Hernandez	Elaine Valles
Arlene Lara, Chair	Eden Vergel De Dios
Alfonso Martinez	Margarita Vindiola

Generous donations like these enable White Memorial to improve and expand the services we provide our patients.

**name has been changed to protect patient privacy.*