



# Fragile Times



## OUR BABIES HAVE LOST A HERO

Our beautiful babies have lost a wonderful champion with the passing of our dear friend, Debby Jansen, after a valiant battle with cancer. Our hearts go out to Debby's husband Mike and to the entire Jansen family. I've watched that family grow over the years as Mike and Debby have opened their home time and again to our little ones who have needed their care. Debby's big heart never ran out of room.

PEDIATRIC INTERIM CARE CENTER

*"Anyone who does anything to help a child is a hero to me."*

*- Mister Rogers*

I first got to know Mike and Debby 21 years ago when they were first considering caring for one of our babies. Mike was a little reluctant because he was afraid they would get too attached and it would be too hard to let them go. Since I, too, had cared for many infants through the years, Debby asked me to talk to Mike and see if I could reassure him. I still remember our conversation and the sweet baby girl they decided to take home with them. Her name is Sahvanna, and she's in college now. Sahvanna was the first of six babies Mike and Debby received from our center and eventually adopted into an amazing family that numbers twelve children in all.



*PICC Luncheon 2006*

Besides caring for their own large family, Mike and Debby have been steadfast supporters of our babies at PICC in many different ways. They've always been there for us. Mike's company has sponsored our luncheon every year, and Debby's led the Jansen Team in our walkathons. In 2007 I was happy to nominate Mike and Debby for the Angels in Adoption Award given by the U.S. Congress, and all of us at PICC were thrilled to see them honored.

We will miss Debby more than I can say. Please keep Mike and the children in your thoughts and prayers.

*— Barbara Drennen, Executive Director*

## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



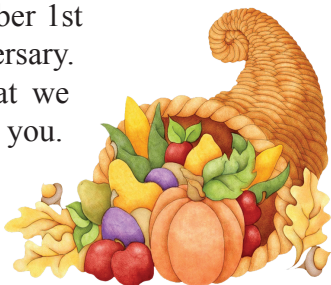
We have had a busy summer with little ones coming from a number of hospitals. Methamphetamine continues to be the most prevalent drug exposure we are seeing in our babies, but it seldom stands alone. About 90% of time, the methamphetamine is combined with heroin—and often many other substances, as well. It never ceases to amaze me how well our beautiful babies do considering all the drugs in their tiny bodies. I have been privileged to receive calls from a number of children who spent their first days of life at PICC. They've wanted to know their medical history or if we know anything about their birth family. It's heartwarming when they want to come and meet with me and see where their life began. I love hearing all about where life has taken them!

— Barbara Drennen, Executive Director

## THANKSGIVING WISHES

During this season of thanksgiving, we are grateful to you and all the caring people who have contributed to the care of the babies for the last 29 years. There are so many to thank: the groups that organize baby showers and collection drives for items on our Wish List, the knitters who bring lovely handmade items, the legislators who fight for PICC and protect the babies, the cities that support us with grants, the staff who care for the babies, the volunteers who give their time, the wonderful people who support our events, and the many donors that keep us going financially. On October 1st PICC celebrated its 29th anniversary. We mean it when we say that we could not have made it without you.

**Happy Thanksgiving  
to you and your family!**



## DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE



Congresswoman Kim Schrier visited Pediatric Interim Care Center in July to learn about drug-exposed infants and PICC's innovative program of care. A pediatrician before being elected to Congress, Dr. Schrier was right at home in a nursery full of babies.

## TOUCHDOWN, BABIES!

Former Seahawk Jake Heaps paid a visit to PICC's babies before speaking at our Annual Luncheon in



May. Jake was signed by the New York Jets and later played back-up quarterback for the Seahawks. He's now Head Coach of Russell Wilson's Quarterback Academy and a sports radio host on 710 ESPN Seattle. Thank you,

Jake, and all the generous people who helped us raise \$100,000 for the babies at this year's luncheon.

Sponsors included Muckleshoot Charity Fund, Commencement Bank, Oakpointe Communities, Tecton Corporation, McMullen & Ochs, Taylor-Thomason Insurance Brokers, Robert Odegard DDS, and Emeritus Board Member Nancy Tyrie.

## A BIRTHDAY REQUEST



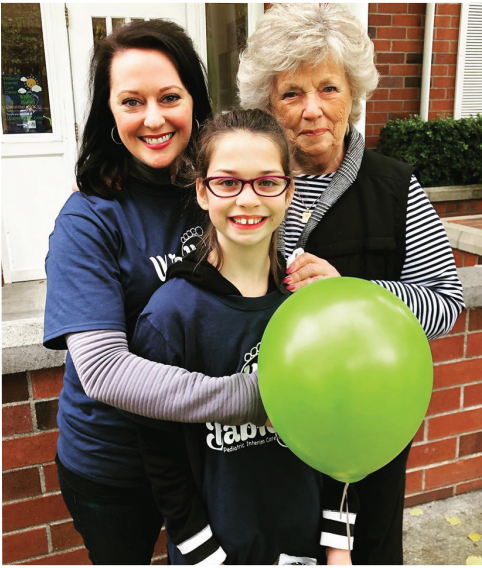
Anacleto Mecua told us he just wanted to do something for the "little angels" — the babies recovering from prenatal drug exposures here at Pediatric Interim Care Center. For his 90th birthday, Anacleto asked his family and BNP Church friends to give him presents for PICC's babies. He was all smiles when he arrived at our door with a load of diapers and more than \$500 in cash. Doesn't that just warm your heart!

## DID YOU KNOW?

According to the Drug Enforcement Agency, methamphetamine is now the most prevalent drug nationwide. It is being produced in labs in Mexico, and it is twice the strength of the methamphetamine that was being used ten years ago.



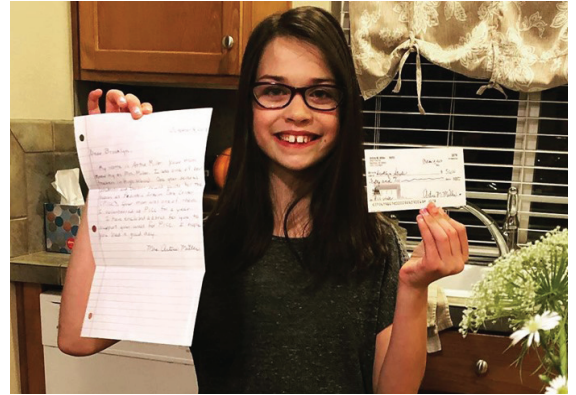
## A FULL CIRCLE OF LOVE



PICC Graduate Brooklyn Strode and her mother Sarah recently shared a heartwarming experience that shows how life can come full circle. The story begins 22 years ago when Sarah was in high school and her teacher, Mrs. Miller, suggested that her students sew quilts for the babies at PICC as a volunteer project. Sarah still remembers the day when the students came to PICC to deliver the blankets. “Barbara Drennen came out with a beautiful baby and invited us to walk the halls of PICC. I fell in love.”

After high school, Sarah came back to work at PICC as a nurse’s aide. She went on to pursue a career in ballet, but she never lost her desire to help the babies she had grown to love. Some years later, Sarah and her husband became foster parents, and wouldn’t you know, their first foster daughter came from PICC. The beautiful baby girl was named Brooklyn.

“I remember she had a head full of hair and a little green outfit with pink flowers, and



now she’s officially our adopted daughter of almost eight years!” Now this is where the story comes full circle. Fast forward to this fall, and 8-year-old Brooklyn was raising donations for her family’s team in PICC’s annual Walk for the Babies. Imagine their surprise when Brooklyn received a walkathon donation with this letter from the same Mrs. Miller who taught Sarah in high school and led her to PICC all those years ago!

*Dear Brooklyn,*

*My name is Artice Miller. Your mom knew me as Mrs. Miller. I was one of her teachers in high school. One year several students and teachers sewed quilts for the babies at Pediatric Interim Care Center. Your mom was one of them. I have enclosed a check for you to support your walk for PICC. I hope you had a good day.*

*Mrs. Artice Miller*

## WALK FOR THE BABIES

It’s wonderful to see all the PICC graduates who come with their families to support our Walk for the Babies. Five-year-old graduate Danika Thompson (pictured at right) was one of the 231 enthusiastic participants who completed the 5K walk October 5th at Kent Station. The event raised \$27,000 for the care of the babies in PICC’s Newborn Nursery.



We are especially grateful for the wonderful community support behind the walk’s success.

Our thanks goes out to Kent Station, Duke’s, and Road Runner Sports for hosting the event; to Kentridge High School Key Club for providing volunteers to man the route; and to the Kent Police Department for keeping our walkers safe. Sponsors included Mutual of Enumclaw Insurance, M & M Construction, Moneytree, Commencement Bank, The Roof Doctor (Olympia), Board Member Monica Ochs, and Walmart Bonney Lake.

— Kentridge Key Club volunteers with PICC Executive Director Barbara Drennen.



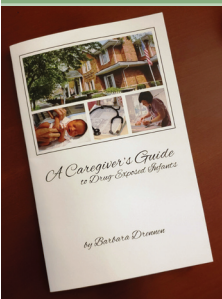
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## PEDIATRIC INTERIM CARE CENTER

328 4th Avenue South  
Kent, WA 98032

*Giving a safe  
and healthy start  
to drug-exposed  
infants since 1990*

### HOT OFF THE PRESS



An updated version of PICC's educational booklet, "A Caregiver's Guide to Drug-Exposed Infants," is now available. It can be ordered on PICC's website ([www.picc.net](http://www.picc.net)). The booklet was designed as a reference for anyone associated with caring for infants affected by prenatal drug exposures.

SAVE THE DATE: December 3, 2019

#GIVING  
TUESDAY

### FRAGILE TIMES

This newsletter is published as a community service by Pediatric Interim Care Center. PICC is the only facility providing 24-hour interim care for drug-exposed and medically fragile infants in Washington State.



### MISSION

Pediatric Interim Care Center's mission is to provide safe, short-term medical care between hospital and home for prenatally drug-exposed and medically fragile infants, to provide educational services to the community, and to always be a voice for the child.

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Barbara J. Drennen

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