

# Fragile Times



PEDIATRIC INTERIM CARE CENTER

*A baby is born with a need to be loved and never outgrows it.*

*Frank A. Clark*

## David's Story

Each newsletter we like to share a story about one of our babies. There are so many touching ones that it is always hard to choose. This issue, we would like to tell you about our little David. When he arrived, he was very tiny and quite fragile. We were told that his parents were not going to be involved in his life. This saddens us terribly. It is always so hard to witness one of our little ones going through this difficult time without a mother or father to cuddle them and tell them that everything was going to be alright. During this time, a young man came into our lobby and purchased our book and video on caring for drug exposed infants. The following day this same young man called and explained that he and his wife were going to become foster-to-adopt-parents to one of our babies. He knew that because the baby was in severe withdrawals, he wasn't allowed to visit but he was anxious to find out how the child was doing. He mentioned to Director Barbara Drennen this was going to be their first child and he and his wife were very excited. The more Barb talked to him the more she felt for this young man. Barb told him she would let him take a peek at the baby the next time he came to Kent. He said the school where he taught was just up the hill and asked if could he come right then. When he was told yes, he was at PICC in a heart-beat. As he peeked through the window of David's room, tears ran down this young man's face. Barb allowed him to hold David and the tears continued to flow. Truth be told, his weren't the only tears of joy being  
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## From the Director's Desk



Barbara Drennen and Board President, Harry Hansen

It is hard to believe that on October 1<sup>st</sup> of this year we celebrated our twenty-second birthday helping infants affected by drug abuse. Where did the time go? To know that we have cared for nearly 3000 infants still leaves me in a state of awe. The past years have given my staff and I so many beautiful and fulfilling memories. Even though many of the newborns arrived with stories that broke our hearts we knew that, by providing them a safe and nurturing home during their stay with us, we were helping to give them the chance to thrive and lead a normal life. Now, years later, our little ones are beginning to come back to visit and to tell us the rest of *their* story. Though some may be having a difficult time; many are doing wonderful. It is still amazing to know that we played a small part, during their first weeks of life, that assured them a safe and comfortable recovery.

To every child we have touched over the years: We wish you the best! The joy we have received from meeting you, as you visited the home where you spent your first days, is so heartwarming! It is such an emotional experience for my staff and I to see the beautiful young adults whose lives we played a part in healing!  
*Barbara Drennen*

## David's Story (continued)

shed. Barb and her staff could not help but be touched by the tender moment being shared by this beautiful little baby boy and his soon-to-be new father.

David spent another four weeks at PICC being weaned off the drugs he was prenatally exposed to. His new parents were very attentive and learned about the care he would need when he went to his new home. Family and friends couldn't wait to meet the baby and the school where David's new father taught surprised him with a baby shower. But, most importantly, David now had parents that cuddled him daily and were there to assure him that everything was going to be alright. After a home visit by PICC's social worker her report read, "David and the family are doing great. The baby appears content, happy and extremely well cared for. And...Dad is still glowing!"



## Save the Date

Mark your calendar now for PICC's next Building the Future Luncheon Friday, May 10, 2013, at ShoWare Center in Kent.

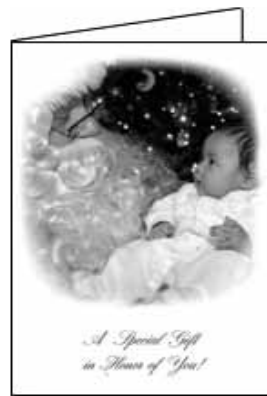
It's so wonderful to see so many of our friends at the luncheon every year. More than 700 of you came this year and helped raise a whopping total of \$96,586.00 for the babies.

We do not charge for tickets, but ask that everyone give what they can. A minimum of \$50.00 is suggested, but not required. Registration is required to attend. Cards will go out in the mail next spring, or you can always sign-up on PICC's website. Go to [www.picc.net](http://www.picc.net) and look for the luncheon under News and Events.

Even better, sign-up to be a Table Captain and help make this year's luncheon bigger and better than ever. Table Captains take charge of a table and invite their friends to fill it. Again, you can sign-up on PICC's website or get more information by calling Elaine Purchase, 253-852-5253. Also let Elaine know of any companies or groups who might be interested in sponsoring the luncheon.

## A Truly Special Christmas Gift

Looking for a truly special and meaningful Christmas gift? Here's the perfect idea, and you don't even have to fight the crowds at the shopping mall. You can make a donation to PICC's babies this holiday season and designate it as a Christmas gift. We will then send the recipient(s) a beautiful, personal Christmas card making them an honorary Santa for PICC's babies and telling them that you have made a donation in their honor to Pediatric Interim Care Center.



No special forms are necessary. Just give us a call (253-852-5253) or send your donation with a note telling us who you would like to honor with your gift and where you would like the card(s) sent.

*Now isn't that better than buying a gift card that would sit in a drawer all year?*



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## Walk for the Babies Challenge

Last summer Phoebi Crawford decided she wanted to do something for PICC's babies, so she organized an event called Walk for the Babies. She recruited walkers who then got friends and family to support them with donations to PICC. Her event raised more than \$10,000.00!

Phoebi has inspired us to take her idea and grow it with a Walk for the Babies Challenge in September 2013. We are looking for other dedicated volunteers like Phoebi who would be willing to organize a Walk for the Babies next September in their own town, neighborhood, school, church, or organization. Then we'll challenge all the walkers from all the walks to see who can raise the most money for the babies, with some really terrific prizes for the winners.

If you're interested in getting involved in this exciting new event as an organizer or a walker, call or e-mail Elaine Purchase (253-852-5253, elainep@picc.net). Here's a challenge for everyone: Let's see if we can turn Phoebi's success into a \$100,000.00 fundraiser for the babies next September!

ARE YOU UP TO THE CHALLENGE??



## A Huge Thanks to Boeing Employees

Every year PICC saves more than \$100,000.00 in ambulance costs by using our own vehicle to safely transport the babies from hospitals to PICC. It's vital, of course, that our transport vehicle is absolutely safe and reliable.

This year we needed to replace our transport vehicle, so we turned to our friends at the Boeing Employees Community Fund. As they have so many times when we have needed them, they came through for the babies with flying colors. Thank you, Boeing Employees, for our brand new Ford Escape!

*Wishing Everyone a Joyous Holiday Season!*

## From One of Our Caregivers

*"Working at PICC has been an experience of a lifetime. An experience that I am so thankful for. PICC has taught me so many life lessons in the short amount of time that I've worked there and I feel more than honored. This is an amazing home for infants in need; and those of us there have the honor of being specifically hand selected to love and care for them. Thank you for all that you do PICC, you're an amazing facility that is WAY MORE than just a facility. You're a home, you're a blessing."* -Nicole

Yes, I would like to support the

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Instructions \_\_\_\_\_

Pediatric Interim Care Center, The Newborn  
Enclosed please find my donation in the amount of:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed

Please charge my credit card:

Visa

MasterCard

Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

*Donations are tax deductible within the guidelines of the law. Please check with your financial advisor.*

PEDIATRIC INTERIM  
CARE CENTER

328 4th Avenue South  
Kent, WA 98032

To:

*A baby...  
one of the most beautiful  
miracles in life,  
one of the greatest joys  
we can ever know,  
and one of the reasons why  
there is a little extra  
sunshine, laughter  
and happiness  
in our world today.*

*Meet Our New  
Volunteer Coordinator!*

My name is Pam Petersen. I began as a volunteer at PICC in 1997. In addition to having a scheduled baby cuddling shift, I also worked in the front office until 2006 for half of a day once a week. It was in 2007 when I began transporting babies to PICC from the hospitals in addition to taking them to their doctor appointments.



I have to say that volunteering and working at PICC has given my life more meaning and has been very fulfilling. I like to think that the little things I do has helped to make a difference in these little, innocent babies lives. I believe that, in my own small way, I am helping to give them a better start at life.

In my new job as Volunteer Coordinator, I look forward to finding more volunteers that foster this same outlook and share the passion to help others.

SERVICES

Providing immediate, short-term medical care for medically fragile infants suffering from prenatal drug exposure, in addition to providing educational and support services to the community in the recognition and management of substance abused children.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Barbara J. Drennen

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FRAGILE TIMES

This newsletter is published as a community service by Pediatric Interim Care Center (PICC).

Its contents are intended to be informative and offer insight into the problems facing many of our children born today.