



SPRING  
2020



PEDIATRIC INTERIM CARE CENTER

*Every child is a different kind of flower, and all together make this world a beautiful garden.*

# Fragile Times

## TRYING TIMES... CHALLENGING TIMES...

All of us at Pediatric Interim Care Center sincerely hope that you and your family are safe and well as we all go through these challenging times together.

I am so proud of the work our nursery staff has done during this coronavirus pandemic. Our nurses and aides are all taking extra steps to protect themselves and the babies from exposure and to keep their work spaces disinfected. We are fortunate to have such dedicated and experienced staff at times like these. Linda Boyd, the R.N. in the photo at right, has worked in NICUs and travelled across the country in her extensive nursing career.

The hard work of our nurses and aides means that we are able to bring the little ones in our nursery safely through their withdrawal and send them home healthy and thriving. This little one is going to live with Grandma. We have had a lot of grandparents receiving babies recently, and that is lovely. When the babies aren't able to go home to a parent, grandparents can keep the family together. It's the best of both worlds for the child. Grandparents can provide a safe and secure environment, but the child still gets to know their Mom and Dad. We wish this little one, and all our babies, a wonderful life.



*—Barbara Drennen, Executive Director*

## OUR FACEBOOK FRIENDS COME THROUGH

We are delighted to say that PICC's friends on Facebook have been extraordinary and responded quickly when we've asked for forehead-scan digital thermometers and facemasks. Thank you all so much for helping us protect the babies and our staff with your donations of hand sanitizer, N95 masks, hand-made masks, gloves, and digital thermometers to take the temperature of all nursery staff before they come on duty.



Pediatric Interim Care Center is a qualified 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization for tax purposes. Our federal tax identification number is 91-1485176.

## GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT

The most heartwarming part of our work at PICC is seeing our “graduates” grow up over the years and getting news of how well they are doing. We are so proud of all of them, and so grateful for the families that keep in touch.

Two of our grads who are making their parents very proud are Allie and Flynn Wood. The two PICC babies were adopted a year apart by Andy Wood and Patti Johnson. Allie is now 14, and Flynn is almost 13.

Allie excels in sports and keeps the family busy year-round with her games in basketball, volleyball, and soccer. Her Dad says it helps that she’s “off-the-charts-tall.” Allie is the starting center for the Seattle Wolfpack, an Elite girls’ basketball team that recently won the President’s Day Championship in Portland. Teams from throughout the Northwest competed in the event. This year Nike, the WNBA & the NBA created a new program to get and keep young girls involved in sports. Allie and her teammate submitted a proposal and were selected as national finalists. They got to go to Nike headquarters to implement their program, which is called HIT Squads:



Heroes in Training.

Flynn is whiz with technology, and according to his dad, he has a great golf swing.

Since the cancellation of school this spring, Allie and Flynn have been busy with distance learning. “They’ve been forced to be best friends,” Andy said with a chuckle. “We’ve found that with the corona virus restrictions we’ve actually been able to spend a lot of quality time together as a family, and the kids are adapting really well.”



## LUNCHEON CANCELLATION



The luncheon is PICC’s major annual fundraising event, with all proceeds dedicated to the care of newborns withdrawing from prenatal drug exposures in our nursery. We were so thrilled when Doug Baldwin made room in his schedule to be our keynote speaker this year, a repeat appearance from our 2014 luncheon. Unfortunately, due to concerns about the spread of coronavirus, we have regretfully decided to cancel the luncheon scheduled for Thursday, May 7, at ShoWare Center. We believe this spring is a time for us all to take care of ourselves and the people around us as our first priority. We will look at alternatives when the danger has passed. In the meantime, please continue to support the babies at PICC. Their health and safety remain our utmost concern.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 3  
SAVE THE DATE!

Pediatric  
Interim  
Care  
Center's

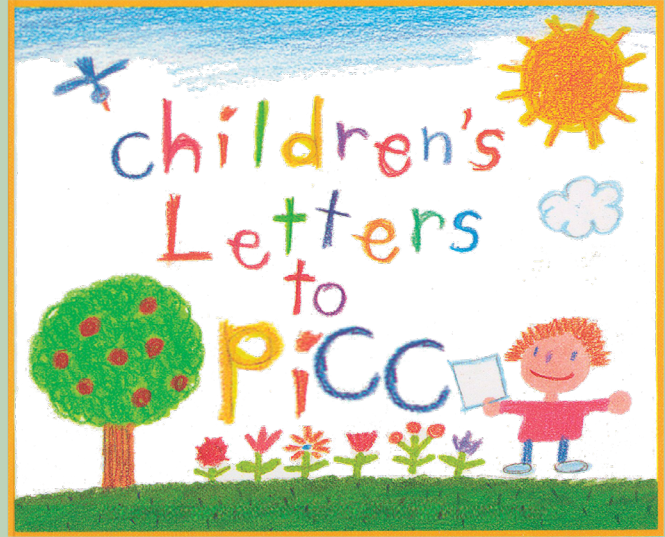
Walk  
for the  
Babies

## FROM THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR



Keeping our babies and staff protected is our top priority. COVID-19 is disrupting every facet of life worldwide, and my heart and best wishes go out to all those who have been affected. First and foremost, we recommend following all Public Health guidance, and that goes for volunteering as well. Rest assured that we are following the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in order to keep everyone safe.

— Dr. Peyton Gaunt, Medical Director  
Pediatric Interim Care Center



## SOCIAL DISTANCE “thumbs up!”



PICC Nursery Staff has donned gowns and masks and are following social distancing guidelines to keep the babies safe.

04-03-20  
Dear PICC,  
My name is Kylin. I  
am 8 years old.  
I am writing because  
I want to donate  
\$75 of my allowance  
money to help babies that  
were exposed. Thank  
you for letting me  
help!  
Sincerely,  
Kylin

Find us on Facebook & YouTube

## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



This has been a very quiet time in the nursery here at PICC. To protect the babies and our staff from exposure, we have had to limit access to the essential staff caring for the babies. It saddens us that our parents, families, and volunteers can't visit, but they understand these measures are necessary to keep the babies safe.

We aren't in this alone. The hospitals and DCYF have also slowed way down, and so we've had fewer babies referred to us than usual. The whole world seems to be in a state of limbo right now, and no one knows what to expect in the weeks and months ahead. We do know the babies need us, and so we'll be ready for each and every one of them when they arrive.

The economic challenges from the coronavirus will likely be with us for quite some time to come. Fourteen years ago when we built this beautiful home for the babies, we were no sooner open than we were hit with a major recession. Thanks to friends like you and the community standing by us we were able to come through that storm. Like other nonprofits and hospitals, we were just

seeing the light at the end of the tunnel when the pandemic hit. Now we are bracing for another struggle to survive, but we have faith that together we will find a way through this one, too.

Please stay safe. We look forward to the day when we can be together again. As always, thank you for all the love and support you have given the babies.

— Barbara Drennen, Executive Director

## BONDING WITH BABY

It breaks our hearts that our parents can't visit their babies right now, but they've been very understanding about the need to protect these little ones from exposure to the coronavirus. We were truly touched when one Mom and Dad asked if they could speak to their baby on the telephone. The aide caring for the baby took the receiver over to the crib and put it to the baby's ear. The baby's eyes lit up and he had the biggest smile! It was clear that he recognized his parents' voices and was happy to hear from them.



## TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES

PICC's website & e-mail were down for 17 days in late February & early March. We had some technical issues which took over 2 weeks to resolve. ANY email that was sent during that time period was bounced back to the sender. Unfortunately, PICC has no access to what was sent during that timeframe. Please try again if you haven't received a response.

## THANK YOU 2020 GRANTORS

We would like to thank the following foundations for their generous support of Pediatric Interim Care Center with grants so far in 2020:

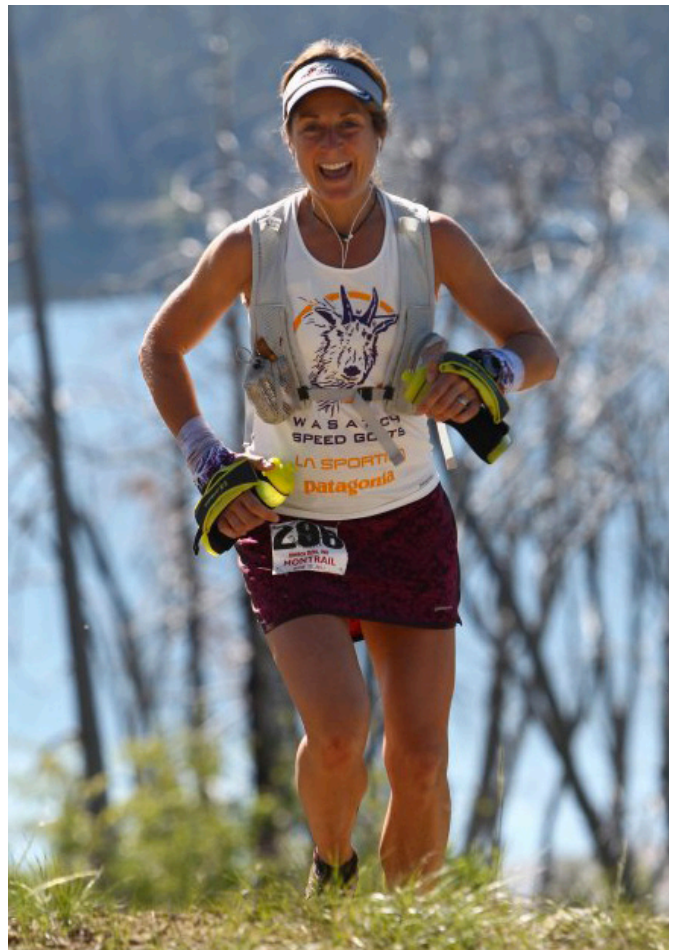
- Christian Community Foundation
- Grays Harbor Community Foundation
- Northwest Children's Fund
- Nordstrom Cares
- RealNetworks Foundation
- Renton Regional Community Foundation, Harper Engineering Employee Fund
- Rotary Club of Renton
- Suquamish Foundation

## IN IT FOR THE LONG RUN

PICC Board Member Monica Ochs doesn't just run marathons. She competes in ultra distance trail running—grueling 100-mile races that wind along mountain trails and last 24 hours or more. A seasoned veteran in the sport, she's sponsored by Patagonia and travels the world to compete. That tells you something about Monica. When she dedicates herself to something, she gives it her all, and she's in it for the long run.

Monica brings that same passion to her long-standing support of the babies at Pediatric Interim Care Center. Her involvement goes back to PICC's very early days, and through all the twists and turns of her life, it has never stopped. In 1991 Monica had just graduated with a degree in social work. As part of her internship, she came to see the new program in Kent that was caring for infants exposed to drugs. "I thought PICC was the best thing ever, and I just wanted a job there so bad. I told Barbara she didn't even have to pay me—just let me work here."

Barbara did hire Monica, and for several years she made home visits to check on the babies who had been recently discharged. "I loved seeing the happy endings, and I fell in love with every little baby that came into the nursery." One baby girl especially touched her heart. Little Emma had no contacts from parents or family throughout her stay at PICC.



Even though Monica was only 23 and single at the time, she was a licensed foster parent. When the state asked if she would be willing to foster Emma, Monica eagerly accepted the challenge.

Monica's time as a staff member at PICC ended when she married attorney Kristjan Ochs, and the couple moved first to Skagit County, and then to Anacortes. They adopted Emma and had a son named Riley. When the children were school-age, Monica went back to college and got a degree in nursing. "Nursing was something I had always wanted do," Monica explained. "I worked mainly in family practice, but I've also been a doula (childbirth coach) and a volunteer for earthquake relief in Nepal and HIV clinics in Kenya. With the coronavirus outbreak, I've been taking swabs at the testing sites here in Anacortes."

Today Monica's children are grown and following their own dreams. PICC "graduate" Emma is 28 and starting her own personal chef business. "She's always been very artistic and creative, and she loves to cook," Monica told us. Son Riley was just accepted to medical school. With the kids on their own, Monica called Barbara in 2018 about coming back to PICC as a volunteer. A regular commute from Anacortes wasn't practical, but Barb asked if Monica would be willing to make the long drive to serve on PICC's Board of Directors. We are so happy that Monica said yes. She brings to the board her rich life experience, her passion for children, and the incredible perseverance of a long distance runner.



Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Seattle, WA  
Permit # 1628

PEDIATRIC INTERIM  
CARE CENTER

328 4th Avenue South  
Kent, WA 98032

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



Early giving is now underway for GiveBig Washington, the annual fundraising campaign to support nonprofits in our community. We invite you to schedule your gift to Pediatric Interim Care Center now. All GiveBig donations will be processed during the public GiveBig event, May 5-6. To help give drug-exposed newborns a safe and healthy start, go to Give Big Washington and search for Pediatric Interim Care Center or use this link: <https://www.givebigwa.org/pediatric-interim-care-center>.

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

CONTACT INFORMATION

Website: [picc.net](http://picc.net)  
E-mail: [nursery@picc.net](mailto:nursery@picc.net)  
Phone: 253-852-5253 Fax: 253-852-5728

