

Fragile Times



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Already three months into a new year and we are as busy as ever with our little ones! We continue to see a rise in heroin use which is reflected in the babies we see. And with their toxicity levels higher and the amount of support our newborns are requiring; it indicates that the potency of heroin in our area is becoming strong. As with most infants, heroin is not the only drug in their system. Most are also born exposed to other drugs, such as methamphetamine, methadone, and prescription drugs.



Over the years, it has been interesting to watch the drug trends that effect our babies. Traditionally it has been that, as a particular drug's use wanes in Washington State, its use increases in the upper northern states and the east coast. As those areas start to become impacted with that particular drug, it is very common to start receiving calls from hospitals in their regions asking for help and advice on the best ways to help their little ones. Having just dealt with that drug, we, thankfully, are able to share our knowledge.

So, recently, when we began hearing a lot of press on how horrible heroin is on the east coast, while still remaining bad here; I became concerned. I went to our Board President, who is also a Federal Marshal to help me understand what was going on and if it was truly bad across the country. He explained that the heroin we are hearing about, such as in New Hampshire, is actually coming in from Nova Scotia, Canada, - not from Mexico where ours does - which was very surprising to me!

As a community, I hope you will keep these little ones in your prayers as we all struggle with this epidemic that has impacted our country. I will forever be amazed how well these little ones do with the level and the number of drugs they are exposed to in utero.

-Barbara Drennen

WE ARE GRANDPARENTS!



2005

The very first newborn we ever cared for at PICC came back to visit us this past month! Now, a mom herself with three adorable little boys, Amanda is a remarkable young woman. Though she's had some challenges in her life, it felt so good to see her happy with a healthy family of her own. Amanda, like many of our babies that come back to visit, will forever feel like one of our own children and



2016

will remain a part of our family. We are always so thrilled to see how they have grown and to hear how they are doing. Thank you Amanda!

A baby fills a place in your heart that you never knew was empty.

GIVE BIG!

On Thursday, May 5, you will have a once-a-year opportunity to stretch your gift to PICC's babies. If you donate to PICC through The Seattle Foundation's *one-day, annual* GiveBig campaign, the foundation will match a portion of your gift. To get the match, *you have to make your donation on May 5th*, and you have to make it through Pediatric Interim Care Center's donation page on The Seattle Foundation website.



VOLUNTEERING



As February closed, we said goodbye to PICC Volunteer Coordinator, Kathy Holt, who will now spend retirement traveling with her husband. As we wave farewell to Kathy, we say hello to our new Volunteer Coordinator, Karla Davison. Karla has long been behind-the-scenes as PICC's Video Editor, creating our training, educational, and luncheon videos.

First on Karla's plate was to organize the Volunteer Informational Tour held in March. Attending a tour is the first step for those interested in becoming a volunteer at PICC, and the response was incredible. No sooner did we post on Facebook and our website, than we were flooded with responses to sign up. It is so gratifying to see how many of our neighbors are willing to give of their time and talent for PICC.



Volunteer opportunities include assisting in the nursery, helping with household laundry & chores, office support, and working on fund-raising activities.

We plan to hold our next Volunteer Informational Tour in the fall. If you have any questions, or want to sign up, call or email Karla Davison at 253-852-5253 or karla@picc.net.

NURSE KELLY'S CORNER



Over the past year we have had to address losing many of our nurses to retirement. Not only is it hard to say goodbye to someone that has been with us for 25 years, it is equally hard to replace them. We found out very quickly

how serious the nursing shortage is when we started looking to fill our seasoned nursing spots. It has been a challenge, but we have been able to fill our needed openings with both experienced nurses and fairly new nurses. We have found through the years that whether a nurse comes with infant experience or not, the training needed to care for our babies with drug exposure is extensive and can be challenging. I find it very rewarding watching our young nurses enjoy what they are doing while gaining confidence in learning new skills.

Statistically, looking at our stats this past year, we admitted 86 babies with 71 of those positive for two to four drugs in their systems. Most prevalent drugs were opiates and amphetamines. We served nearly twenty hospitals throughout the state as far as Aberdeen, Centralia, Yakima, and Anacortes to name a few. A little over half of our babies went into foster care upon discharge - largely because of their prenatal exposure to methamphetamines. The remaining were placed with relatives.

SAVE THE DATE!



Keynote Speaker:
Steve Raible
Voice of the Seahawks
& KIRO News Anchor

12th Annual Luncheon



Host:
Michelle Esteban
KOMO News Anchor/Reporter

Reserve your place now for PICC's 12th Annual Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Friday, May 20, at ShoWare Center in Kent. Steve Raible, the "Voice of the Seahawks" and KIRO TV News Anchor, will be keynote speaker. Recognized as one of the premier news anchors in the Pacific Northwest, Steve is also the play-by-play radio commentator for the Seahawks and a former player for the team. Joining Steve at the podium as host of the program will be Michelle Esteban, Anchor/Reporter for KOMO TV.

The luncheon is sponsored by the Board of Directors and is PICC's major annual fund-raising event. All proceeds are dedicated to the care of newborns withdrawing from prenatal drug exposures at PICC.

Register for the luncheon on the Events page of PICC's website (picc.net) or with one of our Table Captains. There is no charge to attend, but you can make a lasting difference in the life of a drug-exposed newborn by making a suggested minimum donation of \$50 or more at the luncheon. Thanks to the generosity of our luncheon sponsors, every penny raised at the event goes directly to the care of the babies in PICC's Newborn Nursery.

TITLE SPONSORS: Muckleshoot Charity Fund, Tecton Corporation, Moneytree, and Oakpointe Communities.

PATRONS: Commencement Bank, McMullen and Ochs, Specialty Warehouse, and Coatings Plus.

TABLE SPONSORS: Auto Warehousing Co., Dr. Peyton Gaunt & Denise Johnson, Board Member Nancy Tyrie, MultiCare Health System, Dr. Robert Odegard DDS, Taylor Thomason Insurance Brokers, and RE/MAX Performance Plus and Coordinated Care Health

PRIZE SPONSORS: Holland America Line and Kent Station.

Please consider becoming a Table Captain! These are the people who expand the circle of love that surrounds PICC's babies, bringing us new friends and supporters every year. There is no financial obligation to being a Table Captain for PICC's Luncheon. We ask you to commit to hosting a table of 10 by inviting some of your closest friends and family to join you in supporting the care PICC provides for the littlest victims of drug abuse. If you are interested, contact Elaine Purchase (elainep@picc.net, 253-852-5253).



WE ARE GOING TO MISS YOU!

After 20 years in office, Lt. Gov. Brad Owen has announced that he's hanging up his hat and will not run for re-election this year. Although we send him our very best wishes, Lt. Gov. Owen's retirement is sad news for all of us at PICC. Throughout his tenure, Lt. Gov. Owen has been a forceful advocate for the children of Washington State--and, especially, for the babies at PICC. PICC Executive Director Barbara Drennen was proud to be among those gathered in the Senate Chambers last month to thank Lt. Gov. Owen for his years of service. We will also honor him at PICC's Annual Luncheon on May 20, 2016 at the Showare Center.

DID YOU KNOW? Last year PICC saved the state \$1,699,340 by caring for babies who weren't quite ready for home care but didn't need to stay in the hospital?



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*Just like a plant
needs light
& space to grow,
A child needs love
& freedom to unfold.*

Sigrid Lee

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



The Detlef Schrempf Foundation has invited PICC to be a featured charity at the foundation's Golf Classic Gala at Meydenbauer Center, Bellevue, Monday, June 27, 2016.

We will have several tables at

the Gala for PICC guests, with the foundation matching our ticket sales and donating the proceeds from our tables to the babies. This is a wonderful honor and a great opportunity to share our mission on behalf of drug-affected infants with the foundation's large and influential following. Detlef, a former Sonics basketball star, and his wife Mari have a long association with PICC and hosted a Holiday Cruise that benefitted the babies in 2003. We are so happy to be partnering with them again. The Gala is a celebrity-studded dinner with a live auction and concert featuring The Band Perry. If you are interested in attending the Gala as part of PICC's contingent, please contact Elaine Purchase (elainep@picc.net, 253-852-5253).



FOLLOW US
ON FACEBOOK

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.