



HealthWatch CHICAGO

Highly-Skilled Team, Outstanding Collaborative Effort Quadruplets' Birth Makes History at Rockford Memorial Hospital

Choosing where to have your baby is always an important decision. But for Ann and Matt Forbeck of Beloit, Wisconsin, it was exceptionally critical. The couple not only needed a hospital with a topflight neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) – they needed one with the ability and resources to safely deliver quadruplets.

After thoroughly researching their options around the country, they found what they were looking for just 17 miles from home – at Rockford Memorial Hospital in Rockford, Illinois.

“We would heartily recommend Rockford Memorial Hospital to other expectant parents, including those expecting quads. The people there are fantastic, and they’ll do the best they can to take care of you and your kids.”

– Matt Forbeck, father of quadruplets.

“Rockford’s NICU is rated among the top 5 percent in the country,” Matt says. “And the staff obstetrician/gynecologist had experience in delivering quads, and she felt comfortable she could help us bring them as close to term as possible.” As it happened, Ann made it to 29 weeks, including 10½ weeks on total bed rest in the hospital’s high-risk perinatal unit.

Happy Birth Day

Helen, Patrick, Nicholas and Kenneth entered the world on June 5, 2002, weighing less than 10½ pounds combined.

“Our labor and delivery staff did a phenomenal job,” recalls Gary E. Kaatz, president and CEO of Rockford Health System. “There were 25 staff members



Jose Gonzalez, M.D.,
Medical Director of Neonatology

in the operating room for the cesarean delivery, including two perinatologists, four neonatologists, nurses, respiratory therapists and an anesthesiologist. They all worked together toward the common goal of ensuring that the quads and their mom were safe and healthy.”

Although Ann was able to go home after two days, she had to leave the babies behind for an additional eight to 11 weeks. (Helen, the smallest, remained in the hospital the longest.) “The people in the NICU were wonderful,” Ann says. “We knew we could trust them to take care of our little people.”

And, sure enough, the quads did fine. Fast forward four years, and they’re an exuberant bunch who eat heartily, chatter up a storm, play with older brother Marty and attend preschool three days a week.

State-Designated Perinatal Center Provides Highest Level of Care to High-Risk Moms and Newborns

While delivering quadruplets is hardly an everyday event (the Forbecks were the first quads born at Rockford

Memorial Hospital in 15 years), caring for sick or tiny newborns is all in a day’s work at the hospital. As the only center in northern Illinois designated by the state of Illinois to provide intensive care for high-risk mothers and infants, the Rockford Regional Perinatal Center serves a 12-county area through an agreement with 17 regional hospitals. It includes a 40-bed Level III neonatal intensive care unit, the state’s highest designation; a high-risk perinatal unit and the Department of Maternal-Fetal Medicine.

“We’ve assembled a top-notch team here since we opened the unit more than 30 years ago, and we have a strong reputation,” says NICU Medical Director and Neonatologist Jose Gonzalez, M.D. “Our staff members work hard to provide the highest level of care possible to the babies.”

Tiny newborns benefit from the combined expertise and round-the-clock presence of neonatologists and nurses with extensive training in the care of premature infants. And their families enjoy the extraordinary support of genetic counselors, educators, social workers and chaplains who understand the challenges and emotions associated with caring for these special newborns.

“We would heartily recommend Rockford Memorial Hospital to other expectant parents, including those expecting quads,” Matt says. “The people there are fantastic, and they’ll do the best they can to take care of you and your kids. They sure did a great job for us.”



IT'S CALLED COMMITMENT

2400 North Rockton Avenue • Rockford, IL 61103
815-971-5000 • www.rockfordhealthsystem.org



The Forbeck quadruplets walk with big brother Marty near their home in Beloit, Wis.