



# Exceptional Care

## prompts family to give back to Memorial Family Care Birthing Center

Even after suffering the heartbreaking loss of their second child, a local family touched by the exceptional care received at Memorial's Family Care Birthing Center (FCBC) in Shiloh wanted to give back to honor their late daughter in hopes of impacting others.

Kelsey and Kyle Mueller of Nashville, along with daughter Halle, visited the Family Care Birthing Center last December to present a \$10,000 check to the Special Care Nursery (SCN) in honor of their late daughter, Harper.

During the third trimester, Mueller was unexpectedly diagnosed with oligohydramnios requiring close monitoring for the duration of her pregnancy. Oligohydramnios is when the amniotic fluid volume (AFV) is less than the minimum expected for the gestational age.

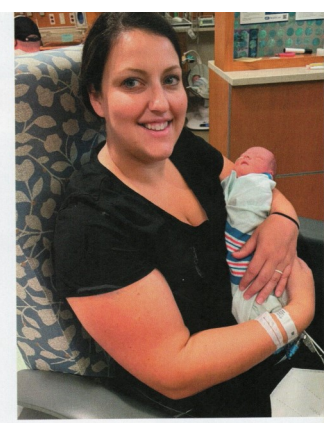
"In most situations, heading to the hospital to deliver your new bundle of joy is full of excitement and joy," she said. "We were definitely excited to deliver our second baby, but we were also full of fear and anxiety as this was not the 'normal' pregnancy we had with our first."

Due to the complications during her pregnancy, the Mueller family was directed to Memorial's FCBC Friday, August 12, 2022. After almost 48 hours of labor, she delivered baby Harper and said the delivery staff was amazing to her whole family.

"The entire staff at Memorial explained everything to my husband and I, including how the delivery process would go since our little one would need extra care and support in the NICU (neonatal intensive care unit)," Mueller said. "Our daughter spent four days in the NICU before being life-flighted to Children's Hospital due to becoming critically ill, which ultimately took her life on August 18, 2022."

Kelly Harre, assistant nurse manager in the SCN, worked with the Mueller's during their stay at the FCBC and said she feels privileged to have been a part of their team.

"Kelsey and Kyle went through such a tragic loss, and I wanted to do whatever I could to help and support them during this time," Harre said. "Even with the loss of their beautiful baby girl Harper, Kelsey still took the time to text me and thank the staff for everything we had done for them at Memorial Hospital."



Harre said the Mueller's were able to add a positive light to the situation in many ways.

"Even with the level of sadness this brought to the Muellers and the NICU, we got to see the beautiful love and bond that the Mueller family made during their four days on our unit," Harre said. "It brought us all together to show kindness and compassion to the Mueller family and ourselves as we all mourned the loss of baby Harper."

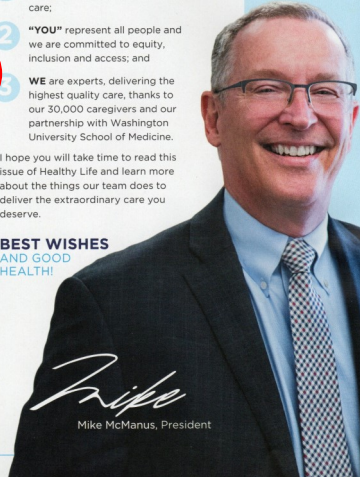
Mueller said her family is grateful to a number of people at Memorial and expressed wanting to thank her care team, doctors and the entire NICU staff. She said her family's motivation for donating came from the incredible quality of care her family received during such a tragic loss.

### a message from THE PRESIDENT

This year, Memorial celebrates its 65th anniversary of providing exceptional health care and compassionate service to the residents of Southwestern Illinois. However, Memorial's history goes back much further than 65 years. I hope you will take a moment to learn more about Memorial's deep roots in the community dating back to the 1920s by reading the story on pages 14-21.

As you know, Memorial's recent history includes integration with BJC HealthCare in 2016 followed by the addition of two medical office buildings including the Siteman Cancer Center on the Shiloh campus. In addition, we were able to expand services available to our patients especially with specialists from Washington University Physicians in Illinois, Inc. and Memorial's Family Care Birthing Center in Shiloh added an OB emergency department - the only one of its kind in the area.

Earlier this year, BJC launched a new campaign to refresh the BJC brand. The next phase of that campaign, scheduled to launch later this spring/early summer, will be more intentional in helping consumers connect that community hospitals, such as Memorial, are part of something larger within BJC HealthCare. The goal is to differentiate BJC, our hospitals and health



Mike McManus, President



"We may never know why things happen, but God always has a plan."  
- KELSEY MUELLER

Working in the healthcare field, Mueller said she knows how difficult it can be to receive new equipment or recognition, and her family wanted the FCBC to know how much their care impacted their lives. The donation is a combination of money donated by family, friends and community members as a memorial for Harper.

"We were overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and support from everyone and knew we had to give back," she said. "We would like the money to go to the NICU for whatever they need - whether it be toward new equipment, rockers or a library for new parents to read to their babies. We will be happy just knowing it was put to good use in our daughter's honor."

Dr. Shawn O'Connor, chief of pediatrics and neonatology medical director at Memorial, cared for the Muellers during their stay in the SCN. O'Connor said he gets emotional any time a family suffers this kind of loss.

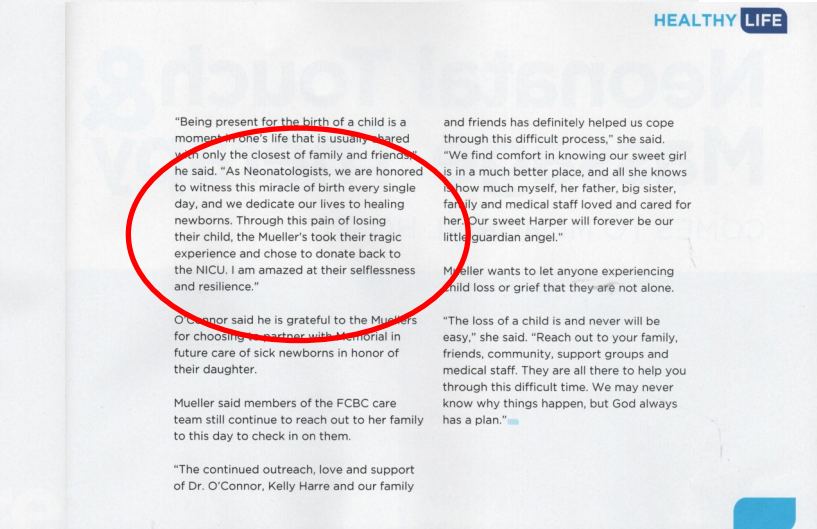
## In April, Memorial Hospital mailed it's Spring 2023 issue of Healthy Life to area residents.

Particularly touching is the story "Exceptional Care" on pages 36-39 about the Mueller family and the compassionate care they received with the birth of their daughter Harper - especially in light of the complications with the pregnancy, and with Harper's death within the week of her birth.

Dr. Shawn O'Connor is quoted in relation to the "miracle of birth" and that Neonatologists "dedicate our lives to healing newborns." Nurse Kelly Harre notes the tragic loss of the Muellers, but shares that she "wanted to do whatever I could to help and support them during this time."

It seems that what the Muellers needed was exactly what Memorial offered at that time... kindness and compassion as Kelsey and Kyle spent a few short days with their newborn daughter, got the ability to know her and remember her, and the ability to go through grieving and healing.

Yet it is ironic that at the same time this publication was being sent throughout the community, Memorial was implementing plans to begin aborting other babies in similar situations. Is Memorial unaware of that incongruity? Are they unaware that all parents in this situation need kindness, compassion and care - to help them deal with the natural processes of life and death. Parents do not need to buy an abortion from Memorial. Or to later come to the realization that they were complicit in causing the death of their unborn child.



In light of Memorial's plans, there are other "ironic" aspects to Memorial's publication: the use of the word "Life" in the title; Mike McManus' letter plugging the uniqueness of the Family Care Birthing Center; the inclusion of a photo of the original 1958 building plaque and it's words "Dedicated to the Glory of God and to all Humankind"; and the explanation that the rays in the Memorial logo reflect "the glory of God".

In a future issue will they add to the list of "Firsts in Memorial's History", the killing of innocent children with disabilities? Will they be as proud of that 'first'? Or too ashamed to admit to it and share it?

