



Benefitting the Newborn Intensive Care Unit at St. Catherine Hospital

Meet the 2017 NICU Graduate



“Sometimes you don’t know the true value of a moment until it becomes a memory.” I was dropping my two-year old off at daycare before heading to my last OB appointment. It had been sleeting that morning and walking back to my car I fell flat on my belly. Dr. West explained that sometimes when trauma happens it can be the onset to labor and given that I was scheduled to have a cesarean soon, the wisest choice was to do an emergency C-section.

When the baby was born my husband Jay told me it was a boy and he immediately was taken to another area in the room and wasn’t crying. I can still picture my husband staying by my side and stroking my hair. “I don’t hear him crying.” Dr. Doyle brought him over to me and showed me his face and rubbed him a little and then said six words that turned my joy and excitement into anxiety. “He is having some trouble breathing.” They whisked him off to the NICU and my husband immediately followed. I was left alone and the last thing I remember before I was given something to make me sleep was “Dr. West, is my baby going to be okay?” Looking back, the true value of the moment was having a pediatrician whom had seamless skills to notice our baby needed serfactiv to help his little lungs.

I woke up and first noticed my room felt empty. I had a picture of my sweet Charlie but he wouldn’t be able to leave the NICU. I was wheeled down to meet him and was so nervous. He had a breathing cannula, a heart monitor patch and an IV in his tiny arm. Sitting in my wheel chair, a NICU nurse came to help get him out of the incubator and position him so that I didn’t pull on any of his cords. I was completely unprepared to have a NICU baby and felt like a first-time mom. I was worried I would do something wrong and I would get in trouble but I quickly realized the nurses were my saving grace. They took away my anxiety, encouraged me when I was overwhelmed and gave me courage when I felt so weak. Charlie’s results came back and showed he had pneumonia and would be staying in the NICU for 5 days. We were lucky it wasn’t worse.

I was shown so much compassion in the maternity ward. Looking back, the true value of the moment was God’s hand at work in the nurses of the NICU. They give so much love and support they truly are angels on Earth.

We are forever grateful to our doctors, nurses and St. Catherine for the excellent care we received during the birth of our precious **Charlie James Unger** – 6 years old son of Jay & Katie Unger.

- Katie Unger