



## NICU PROVIDES HOPE FOR OUR TINIEST PATIENTS

Jim and Amy Finn were expecting their first child in April of 2020. As many expecting parents do, they envisioned what it would be like to welcome their baby girl into the world. They imagined hearing her cry for the first time, holding her in their arms, and bringing her home to be adored by family.

When Amy woke up on Monday, February 24, 2020, that vision was blurred by excruciating abdominal pain. After calling the triage line at UnityPoint Health – Trinity's BirthPlace, she and Jim made their way to the hospital. "Our nurse's name was Jenna. She was so sweet and calming, which is just what I needed at that moment," said Amy. Jenna took her vitals, drew some labs, and ran a urinalysis to determine the cause of Amy's pain.

When Jenna returned with the results, the care team decided to admit Amy to monitor her pain. By early evening, Amy's labs were trending in the wrong direction, and the decision was made to induce labor at just 33-weeks.

"I will never forget that moment. It was 6:20 pm, I was sitting on my bed, Jim was on the couch, and there was a quiet knock at the door. Jenna looked me in the eyes, and I said, 'we are having a baby, aren't we?' She sat on my bed, put her hands on my knee, and said, 'yes, we are.'"



*Jim and Amy caring for Piper in Trinity's NICU*

Inducing labor seven weeks before expected is not news any soon-to-be mom wants to hear, but what followed made that news even harder to bear. That was also the moment Amy learned she had HELLP (Hemolysis, Elevated Liver Enzymes, Low Platelet Count) Syndrome, a life-threatening variant of preeclampsia.

Amy's care team immediately hooked her up to a magnesium drip to help reduce a stroke or seizure and gave her medication to start the process of labor. By Thursday morning, it was time to have a baby. Piper James Finn made her way into this world on February 27, 2020, at just over 4-pounds. "She was crying loudly, and it was the most beautiful sound I had ever heard," said Amy.

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Shortly after delivery, Amy began experiencing even more agonizing pain and nausea than before and was placed back on a magnesium drip for three days. Meanwhile, Piper was placed in Trinity's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) to monitor her vitals and support her development. "The nursing staff was incredible. They, along

with my husband, pushed my bed into the NICU so I could be with Piper," Amy recalled. "Seeing your baby hooked up to oxygen and IVs is terrifying. I am so grateful to our nurses who supported us through that."

It was 21 days before they were able to bring Piper home. "Becoming a NICU parent is not something we ever planned. We were terrified," Amy said. "From the moment we stepped into the NICU we were blown away by the compassionate care we received. Our team gracefully gave us the space we needed to be a family, they ensured Piper received state-of-the-art care, and celebrated every milestone right along with us. They became so much more than doctors and nurses... they became family."

Piper is now two years old. She is completely caught up in her development, measuring in the 64th percentile for height, talking, and even taking swim lessons. She and her parents have also taken up a new passion, helping other NICU families.

Jim, Amy, and Piper have partnered with Project NICU and UnityPoint Health - Trinity to support families who endure the stress of having a child in the NICU. "It can be a lonely journey to walk alone," Amy said. "It really helps the healing process when you have a community who understands. That is what we hope to provide."

Join the Finns in supporting families in need by texting **TrinityBabies** to **41444** to donate today!

## RECOGNIZING OUR *amazing* VOLUNTEERS

National Volunteer Week (April 17-23) was established in 1974 to honor and recognize compassionate individuals who dedicate their time to support the causes they care about most. Volunteers are an essential piece of the Trinity family. They provide valuable support to patients and team members alike.

In 2021, 358 Trinity volunteers served over 25,000 hours, each supporting the hospital in a variety of ways, from assisting with discharges and meal deliveries, to providing respite to Trinity's patients and team members by staffing the gift shops on each campus. Others, like Judy Blomgren and Vicki Huyvaert, serve as Lobby Ambassadors, welcoming patients and visitors, assisting visitors with wayfinding, and supporting front-line healthcare workers by fulfilling patient packets and running patient labs. Together, Judy and Vicki have dedicated over 6,500 hours of volunteer service at Trinity.

"Volunteering at Trinity brings me so much joy and satisfaction. It is an amazing feeling to help others," said Judy.

"You never know what somebody is going through," said Vicki. "Just being able to provide a listening ear can make all the difference."

If you are interested in volunteering at Trinity or learning more about how you can support Trinity Volunteers, we would love to hear from YOU! Give us a call at, (309) 779-2211.



Vicki Huyvaert (11 years of service, over 3300 hours) and Judy Blomgren (8 years of service, over 3100 hours)



# SEPTEMBER 16

## Save the Date for the UnityPoint Health Cup



*Trinity Surgeons and Nurses provide state-of-the-art care*

## SAVING LIVES WITH EVERY SWING

Trinity Health Foundation's 2022 UnityPoint Health Cup, presented by McLaughlin Motors, will take place Friday, September 16, at TPC Deere Run. Supporting Trinity's Surgical Services Fund, this year's event is unique because it brings the opportunity to support surgical excellence across **all** service lines.

In recent years, Trinity has made significant investments in surgical innovation with the purchase of five robotic surgery systems here in the Quad Cities. Along with this capital investment in technology comes a corollary investment in our nurses, so they receive essential, specialized training to provide a higher level of care.

"Innovation is more than new technology. It is seizing the opportunity to advance the lives of others by embracing new ideas, learning new skills, and envisioning a better tomorrow," said Dr. James Schrier, General Surgeon.

Proceeds from this year's event will create an endowed fund to be invested in specialty training, certifications, education, and scholarships to ensure a robust, state-of-the-art surgical workforce today and into the future.

In the last several years, support through the UnityPoint Health Cup has raised nearly \$2 million. The proceeds have benefited a variety of important services such as Cardiology, Oncology, Robert Young Center, and Trinity's BirthPlace.

For more information on golfer registration, sponsorships, or how you can get involved with the 2022 UnityPoint Health Cup, call us at (563) 742-7610.

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Trinity Health Foundation

## A letter from Mary Macumber- Schmidt President, Trinity Health Foundation

You've seen it all over the news – healthcare workers are tired. The challenges throughout the last few years have left their mark. Yet, I am encouraged by the stories I hear from members of the community about their experiences at UnityPoint Health – Trinity.

One such example is featured in this issue. When I first heard about the experience of the Finn family, my heart ached for the fear they must have felt as they welcomed their baby girl seven weeks earlier than anticipated. Today, I am thankful to share their story and the efforts of Trinity's BirthPlace and NICU teams to ensure all three members of the family made it home safely.

On March 30, we celebrated National Doctors' Day and we look forward to National Nurses' Week May 6-12. To celebrate, I would like to ask for your help in recognizing the strength and sacrifices of amazing team members like Jenna by sharing a story or message of thanks to a hero who has impacted you. You can do so by calling me at (563) 742-7613. I can't wait to hear from YOU!

Together, we support our vital healthcare workforce by providing scholarships to future front-line heroes and by funding valuable training and equipment to keep innovative, quality care in the Quad Cities. This year's UnityPoint Health Cup focuses on just that. It is such a wonderful opportunity to invest in our Trinity team that cares so much for so many.

I can't thank you enough for your support of Trinity Health Foundation. Your passion for helping others continues to shine through, leaving a lasting impact on our community.

With Gratitude,

**Mary Macumber-Schmidt**

President, Trinity Health Foundation



*Please consider making a donation to  
Trinity Health Foundation to support your WHY.*

Trinity Health Foundation is grateful for the support we receive from our community. If you wish to no longer receive requests for charitable support, please let us know by calling **(563) 742-7610**.

### CONTACT US

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### FIND US ONLINE

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