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Leaving Room for Miracles



Two months ago, Saint Joseph Hospital installed a permanent exhibit of photographs called “The Wall of Hope” near our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). In a once sterile-looking hallway, there are now 52 beautiful photographs of former NICU babies. It was a year-long project, a true labor of love, only made possible by generous funding from our foundation as well as many volunteer hours from staff and physicians. The featured patients range in age from 2 years to 34 years old, but they all share a common bond of having received care at St. Joe’s when they were fragile newborns.

The Wall of Hope has two primary purposes. First, it is meant to inspire families with babies in the NICU to remain hopeful for life after the hospital. The photographs serve as a reminder that each baby has unknown potential beyond what we can fathom when they are tiny and sick. Secondly, and just as importantly, the exhibit calls all of us at St. Joe’s to remember why we do what we do for our NICU babies and families.

On the night the exhibit was unveiled, Dr. Pantoja, a neonotologist at St. Joe’s for over 30 years, gave a speech that described many incredible stories of the featured patients. There were so many amazing clinical outcomes, several of which were groundbreaking in Colorado. He praised the doctors and staff for providing excellent care and continually striving to improve. Dr. Pantoja closed his speech with the following: “Many events in our NICU cannot be rationally explained and must truly be called miracles.” In he althcare and science, the pursuit of continuous knowledge and rapid technologic advancement seem to dominate our world. Perhaps we should remember to leave room for the miracles.