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Holiday Babies

SLMV Women & Infants Center send babies home in holiday style

TWIN FALLS, ID (NOVEMBER 29, 2007) – Babies born at St. Luke’s Magic Valley go home in holiday style thanks to efforts of the nursing staff on the Women & Infant’s Unit and community volunteer groups. December babies are snuggled into handmade Christmas stockings and topped with red and green Christmas hats when nurses present them to postpartum moms and dads. “The parents cannot help but smile when presented with their baby, all dressed up for the season,” explained Alisha Kevan, Manager of Maternal-Child Services.

Long-time volunteers of the hospital tell of making flannel versions of the stockings, but the tradition faded until 2004 when nurses Mary Mathews and Cindy Beer revived the project. Staff purchased fabric and sewed the stockings. Hospital volunteers and a number of community volunteers knitted the hats. This year the Peace Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML) in Filer volunteered to provide the stockings. “It has been enjoyable to work together, doing something a little special for the newest members of our community,” explained Lois Anderson, representing the LWML. “There are several seamstresses in the group and they were so excited to put their skills to work for a gift that families could enjoy. One of the ladies in the group personally remembered just how she felt more than thirty years ago, when she was able to bring her own December baby home from the hospital – then it was the Twin Falls Memorial – in a little stocking that the volunteers had made. She still has the stocking today.”

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Other very special gifts are planned for the Christmas Baby and New Years Baby. For the first baby born on December 25 at St. Luke's Magic Valley, Cindy Beer RN has crafted a one-of-a-kind Christmas Baby Quilt. It will be on display in the unit until it is presented to the lucky baby. For the first baby born in the New Year, nurse Leigh Anne Reed and several other staff members are in the process of creating an enormous assortment of gifts for baby, mom and dad. Kevan added, "The nurses really have a lot of fun with these projects. It is just an example of how committed they are to making the hospital experience a special one."

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