

Tiny Patients, Big Hearts

By: Kyle Swift, CEO, Woodland Heights Medical Center

A couple of weeks ago, we gathered with the staff of Woodland Heights Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), the children that have been patients in the unit along with their families for a celebration of the unit's 3rd birthday. This was not only a celebration of the NICU, but also of the more than 350 babies and their families that have been cared for in the unit.

It is always a special and rewarding time to get the families, physicians, nurses and staff that they came to know so well in the NICU together for a reunion and to celebrate the progress and health of those tiny patients. The first of these kids to come through the NICU are now nearly 3-year-old toddlers, running everywhere – a vast difference from how they started life.

The NICU, which was opened in December 2013, has undergone a recently completed upgrade that included the addition of beds, which now totals 15 – more room for those that need a little extra help at a critical time.

Additionally, Woodland Heights added an on-site NICU transport team this past April. There is an ambulance stationed at the facility 24 hours a day, at the ready to pick up babies locally and in the surrounding area that need a higher level of care.

The addition of this transport team proves a commitment to doing what it takes to offer these babies access to care quickly. Nurses and staff have been through extensive training with medical transport professionals and are prepared to stabilize and transport these babies from local facilities or facilities further within the large deep east Texas region Woodland Heights serves. Previously, a transport team from Houston had to transport infants to the hospital. Now, this service will be offered locally and save precious time in getting these fragile patients the treatment and care they need.

Our staff understands the responsibility and the privilege of caring these patients and all the patients that choose Woodland Heights.

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About Woodland Heights Medical Center

Established in 1918, Woodland Heights Medical Center was Lufkin's first hospital. Now, more than nine decades later, Woodland Heights is recognized throughout Deep East Texas as the leading provider of high quality, innovative health care services. Accommodating a wide range of clinical specialties, Woodland Heights has achieved excellence in key medical and surgical areas including cardiology, pulmonology, neurology, orthopedic surgery, physical medicine/rehabilitation, vascular surgery and obstetrics and gynecology. Woodland Heights also offers a full range of outpatient diagnostic services including advanced imaging, laboratory,

outpatient surgery and emergency services. Through its Rehabilitation Center, Woodland Heights offers cardiac rehabilitation, stroke recovery and physical and occupational rehabilitation. The facility also houses the only Level 2 Neonatal Intensive Care Unit in the deep East Texas area. Woodland Heights is directly or indirectly owned by a partnership that proudly includes physician owners, including certain members of the hospital's medical staff. Combining modern facilities, leading technology, an exceptional staff and a commitment to the communities it serves, Woodland Heights Medical Center remains at the forefront of quality health care in Deep East Texas.