

Follow us on

•
•

Friday, Oct. 4, 2013 | 8:46 a.m.

[Subscribe](#) | [Today's paper](#) | [Customer care](#)

[Sign In](#) | [Register](#)

Site Web

Web Search by YAHOO!

Posted: 3:01 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 3, 2013

FAIRFIELD

Mercy Health plans \$1M hospital upgrade

Renovations to Family Birthing Center will create more private rooms, officials said.

Related

By Hannah Poturalski

Staff Writer

FAIRFIELD — An additional \$1 million in upgrades to the Fairfield Hospital Family Birthing Center will provide private rooms for premature babies and a shorter hospital stay, officials said.

The Mercy Health network recently received a \$25,000 check from First Financial Bank to begin the hospital's capital campaign to build a new Special Care Nursery. About \$100,000 has been secured so far for construction, said Nanette Bentley, spokeswoman for Mercy Health.

The second phase of construction will complement efforts in 2012 that redesigned the labor and delivery rooms to create 22 separate postpartum recovery rooms, Bentley said.

Phase two renovations within the Family Birthing Center include expanding the current Special Care Nursery to house 10 private beds; converting 17 labor, delivery and recovery rooms into 12 labor and delivery rooms; and upgrading two cesarean section rooms, according to the hospital.

"I thank First Financial Bank for this very generous donation on behalf of the entire Family Birthing Center team and the countless families who will benefit from the specialized care we'll offer in the Special Care Nursery," said Thomas Urban, Mercy Health's North Market Leader and President. "First Financial Bank has helped to make that care a reality for babies who need extra help in the first hours, days and weeks after birth."

Most of the babies served in the Special Care Nursery are those born prematurely. The hospital estimated about 1.5 percent — or around 30 babies — of the hospital's 2,100 annual births have a need to stay in the Special Care Nursery.

According to Mercy Health, infants who spend time in a private room model on average have:

- Lower heart rates and respiratory rates, which indicates lower stress levels
- Longer and more frequent periods of sleep, which are imperative for healing and proper neurological development
- Higher weight gain
- Improved neural development outcomes at age 18 months, including reaching milestones such as crawling, walking and demonstrating emerging speech patterns.

Phase two renovations will begin this December or January 2014 and last about 18 months, Bentley said. The existing Special Care Nursery will remain open during construction.

More News

- [West Chester police help shut down organized crime ring \(journal-news.com - News\)](#)
- [Sexy Hollywood Star Finally Addresses Gay Rumors in Shocking Interview \(CafeMom\)](#)
- [Shots heard at Capitol, building under lockdown \(journal-news.com - News\)](#)
- [2 women shot in Hamilton; police seek help from public \(journal-news.com - News\)](#)

Recommended by

Comments

If you would like to post a comment please [Sign in](#) or [Register](#)
