

# WORKING wonders

Tufts Medical Center

{SPRING 2009}

FLOATING HOSPITAL MAKES

## Special Deliveries

**THE DAY STARTED EARLY**, as it often does for the Division of Newborn Medicine and its Chief, Jonathan Davis, MD, at Floating Hospital for Children at Tufts Medical Center, on January 27th when they received a call at 4:00am from Cape Cod Hospital (CCH). Tricia Smith was going into labor with triplets 13-weeks short of her April 24th due date. With no neonatologists on their staff, CCH called upon Floating Hospital's highly specialized neonatology division for assistance.

Tricia and Alex Smith found out they were expecting three babies when Tricia was just eight weeks pregnant. After the initial shock of the announcement wore off, everything about the pregnancy was going smoothly. The babies were active, and ultrasounds showed no problems. Tricia could always feel the babies moving around and vying for space, but that early Tuesday morning she knew something wasn't right. The pains she was experiencing weren't the normal ones and at 2:00am she woke her husband and they headed to Cape Cod Hospital. Within an hour of leaving the house, they were told the babies were coming even though Tricia was just 27 weeks pregnant.

Floating Hospital  
for Children  
at Tufts Medical Center

There was no time to transport Tricia to Tufts Medical Center, so Tufts Medical Center came to her. Three transport teams of specialists, one for each newborn, including an attending neonatologist, a resident, a fellow, a nurse, and a respiratory therapist, were rushed to Cape Cod Hospital. At the same time, Cape Cod

Hospital assembled their own group of highly qualified pediatricians and anesthesiologists to be ready for the delivery. Everyone hoped Tricia could hold off until the Floating Hospital staff arrived with their specialized teams experienced in dealing with extremely premature newborns. Thanks to the constant support of her husband Alex, Tricia kept up breathing and was able to wait until the Floating Hospital teams arrived.

Jacob arrived first (7:01am) followed by his two sisters Campbell (7:02am) and Madison (7:03am) at 27 weeks gestation, each weighing between one to two pounds.

Each baby was immediately treated by a team of specialists, put on a respirator, and whisked away via MedFlight helicopters and an ambulance to Floating Hospital for Children's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). There, they received around the clock intensive medical care and monitoring. Tricia was transferred later that week to the



Tricia and Alex Smith with their triplets Jacob, Madison and Campbell.

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## A VOICE FROM Tufts Medical Center



**Sue Struzik, RN**, a staff nurse at Floating Hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), on baby- and parent-centered care.

"In the NICU, we try to be giving of our time and do a lot for the parents on a volunteer basis. We run scrapbook classes so parents can make albums of their babies...host a family support dinner so parents can meet and help each other. I think that's something we strive to do that's a little bit different from some of the other units in Boston.

I love babies...and it's hard to let go sometimes when a baby has been here for 100 days. Eventually the day comes when the parents are going to be walking out the door with that baby and you have to hand them off. But it's a good feeling...you've done your job."

*Floating Hospital's NICU is one of the largest in Boston and has partnered with the March of Dimes to establish Massachusetts's first Center for Family Care in a NICU, providing comprehensive in-nursery support for families with high risk, premature and critically ill newborns.*



EXCITING NEWS ABOUT

# Trauma Service

**WE ARE PLEASED TO SHARE THE NEWS** that Tufts Medical Center is now an officially-designated Level II Trauma Center by both the American College of Surgeons and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

"We provide state-of-the-art care to trauma patients, and ambulances will now be able to bring patients who have suffered traumatic injuries to our emergency department rather than bypassing our doors for a more distant trauma center," said Reuven Rabinovici, MD, FACS, Chief of Trauma at Tufts Medical Center.

## SPECIAL DELIVERIES (continued)

Mother and Infant Unit at Tufts Medical Center so she could be close to her babies while also recovering from the cesarean section. Staying in the unit, she was able to visit the babies every couple of hours and still get her rest.

Over the next few months, the Smith trio steadily improved. A big milestone came on March 15th when all three babies reached the three pound mark. "Just thinking about how wonderful the NICU and all the nurses are at Floating, I'm going to cry," says Tricia. "It's an emotional time. You're pregnant, you have the babies, and then you go home

with no babies. You need to trust the people taking care of them when you're not there to do it. It's such a good feeling knowing when you leave, you're leaving them with these amazing people." After more than 90 days in the NICU, all three are stable and breathing on their own. Soon they will be transferred to Jordan Hospital, a Level 1B Special Care Nursery affiliate of Floating Hospital, to be closer to home, before finally becoming a family all under one roof.

Newborn transports, similar to the Smith's, occur on a daily basis at Floating Hospital's 42-bed NICU. Every year more

than 250 critically ill newborns are brought from more than 40 hospitals throughout Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Massachusetts to receive the specialized care and treatment the neonatal intensive care unit offers. As Boston's preeminent advocate of regionalized neonatal care, the division maintains close communication with referring hospitals and physicians, emphasizing prompt return transport of infants no longer requiring intensive care.

The Smiths look forward to being home together and the adventures that lie ahead...times three.

# A CUP OF JOE

## helps kids with cancer

FOR IRON WORKER AND JOB FOREMAN STEPHEN LAUZIERS, FLOATING HOSPITAL ISN'T JUST THE PEDIATRIC HOSPITAL NEXT TO THE LATEST CONSTRUCTION PROJECT HE'S WORKING ON—HIS 14 YEAR OLD GRANDDAUGHTER KAYLEIGH WAS SUCCESSFULLY TREATED FOR CANCER HERE WHEN SHE WAS JUST FIVE YEARS OLD.



So when Lauziere and his co-workers started construction on the W Hotel, they also started digging deep into their pockets, as well as their hearts for the patients at Floating. Every week they collected “coffee break” money donations from Iron Workers Local 7 and many other union workers on the job. Over the course of a few months they raised \$25,000 for the Child Life Program at Floating Hospital’s Children’s Cancer Center! The check was presented

to Floating Pediatrician-in-Chief John Schreiber, MD, at the “topping off ceremony,” which signifies the completion of the hotel’s steel frame and celebrates the hard work of the construction tradesmen. At the ceremony, Carol Sawyer Parks, President and CEO of Sawyer Enterprises—the real estate developer for the project—announced she’d personally match the donation, which would bring the grand total to \$50,000.

If you’d like to do something similar at your work place, please contact Stewardship Coordinator Jess Foley at 617-636-5069.

Floating Hospital  
for Children  
at Tufts Medical  
Center

## SIGN UP TODAY for this year’s Harbor Walk & 5K Run!

Walk with a team or run with a friend and help us raise critical funds to support vital programs throughout Tufts Medical Center and Floating Hospital for Children. By raising funds through Harbor Walk & Run, your team can direct fundraising to the clinical care, research or outreach program of your choice.

**Sunday, June 14, 2009**

For more information call 617-636-4265 or  
visit [www.harborwalk.kintera.org](http://www.harborwalk.kintera.org)

**HARBOR  
WALK & RUN**

## story UPDATE

You may remember reading the inspiring story of Denise and Chris Gurshin in our Winter 2008 newsletter.

On March 15, 2009, just one day before the 4th anniversary of the transplant in which Denise gave part of her liver to her husband Chris to save his life, the couple welcomed their baby girl, Alexia Lee Gurshin, at 10:21pm. “Alexia” comes from the Greek word meaning “Mankind’s defender” and her middle name “Lee” is in tribute to Dr. Young-Mee Lee who Chris credits with keeping him alive while he awaited his transplant.

Congratulations to the Gurshins!



# calendar

www.tuftsmedicalcenter.org/give

## Harbor Walk & Run

**Sunday, June 14, 2009  
Carson Place, South Boston**

Walk or run along a beautiful stretch of South Boston Harbor in the 7th annual event to benefit Tufts Medical Center and Floating Hospital for Children. The day includes spirited family festival and fun for participants of all ages.

**For more information, visit  
www.harborwalk.kintera.org  
or call Mallory Todesco at  
617-636-4265.**

**HARBOR  
WALK & RUN**

## Teamsters Ride Against Cancer

**Last 2 weeks of August 2009**

Grateful patient, Bob Morrissey, and friend Leif Thornton, both members of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Local 82, will ride their bikes to each Teamsters union within New England to raise money for cancer research at Tufts Medical Center.

**For more information, visit  
www.teamstersagaincancer.org.**



## Jim Czehowski Stache Bash

**September 19, 2009**

Mustaches vs. Cancer—Upper lip facial hair can change the world! Grow a mustache or just laugh at those who did. Come join the 1st Annual Jim Czehowski Stache Bash and raise money to support Floating Hospital's Children's Cancer Center.

**For more information, email  
stachebash4jim@gmail.com.**

## 13th Annual Cycle for Life

**Saturday, September 12, 2009  
Devereux Beach, Marblehead, MA**

Help kids be kids! Build a team or ride with a friend in our annual bike ride along the scenic North Shore coast. Rider fundraising supports the young cancer patients and families treated by Floating Hospital for Children. Choose the 25- or 50-mile ride route.



**CYCLE FOR LIFE**

**For more information visit  
www.cycleforlife.com or call  
Mallory Todesco at 617-636-4265.**



**TUFTS MEDICAL CENTER AND FLOATING HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN NOW HAVE THEIR OWN LOGO E-STORE TO MAKE SHOPPING FOR LOGO MERCHANDISE EASY AND FUN. PLUS YOU'RE GIVING BACK TO THE HOSPITAL AT THE SAME TIME!**

The Logo E-Store features a large selection of items and apparel. All embroidered items are made to order with either the Tufts Medical Center or Floating Hospital logo. The products are reasonably priced and a percentage of every sale goes back to the hospital to support important health care initiatives.

Get your logo merchandise today by clicking on the "Logo E-Store" link at the top of [www.tuftsmedicalcenter.org](http://www.tuftsmedicalcenter.org) or [www.floatinghospital.org](http://www.floatinghospital.org).



*Working Wonders* is published by Tufts Medical Center and its Floating Hospital for Children. For more information, please contact the Office of Development at Tufts Medical Center at 617-636-7656, or visit [www.tuftsmedicalcenter.org/give](http://www.tuftsmedicalcenter.org/give). © 2009 Tufts Medical Center. All rights reserved. If you'd like to be removed from our mailing list, please write to us at Tufts Medical Center, 800 Washington Street, #231, Boston, MA 02111.