

Ordinary people with extraordinary hearts

One could never imagine the agony felt at the loss of a child. Having endured this tragedy, there are no words to describe our sorrow. Thankfully, the care and compassion of the staff of the Labour and Delivery, NICU and Pediatrics of Health Sciences North have played an important part in helping us regain our strength through such a life-changing experience. Forget medical expertise, which they surely possess, it was their tender-hearted words and gestures that helped make every moment memorable.

Our stay at the hospital was trying. After spending three weeks watching over our precious Théa, it was evident that the staff's shoes were becoming increasingly more difficult to fill. They were becoming emotionally invested in our family, all the while carrying the burden of medical treatment. Off-duty calls to check on our precious daughter, affectionate kisses on her forehead and gentle glances of acknowledgments of our hardship were all signs a bond was being formed between our family and theirs. We appreciate how doctors used personal time to ensure quick feedbacks. Pastoral and social workers cared for us spiritually and emotionally.

These amazing professionals provided us with a beautiful memory box filled with precious keepsakes; a lock of hair, clay hand and foot prints as well as numerous mementos will forever remind us of Théa's beauty and provide us with a sense of solace. Although we left the hospital with heavy hearts, we surely had no regrets. Ample opportunities were created for us to build an infinite bond with our daughter that will forever be cherished. The staff ensured we held her, caressed her, embraced her in sleep, and cuddled with her in bed.

As we begin our journey of healing, we are touched by all these memories made possible by the caring nature of our local heroes at the Health Sciences North. Words cannot express how much they have all given us comfort in these trying times. Thank you infinitely.



Our beloved daughter *Théa Marie Ange Gionest*,
Your precious footprints will forever be engraved in
our hearts.

Mommy & Daddy xo