

# When Your Bundle of Joy Arrives Too Soon

## Arthur and Archie's Story

When Chelsea Valenta started having contractions at 28 weeks, she knew something was wrong. Sure, it was common for twins to arrive early, but she had just started her third trimester. This was too soon.

After eight confirmed rounds of contractions, Chelsea and her husband Colby rushed to the New Life Center at Avista Adventist Hospital. When they arrived, she was already five centimeters dilated. Chelsea was immediately admitted and given medication to stop the contractions. Three weeks later, Chelsea gave birth to two little boys, Arthur and Archie. When they were born, Arthur weighed five pounds; Archie was three pounds, 10 ounces.

Due to their premature birth and small sizes, Arthur and Archie were immediately admitted to Avista's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)—the only Level III NICU in North Denver—where they would receive round-the-clock care for the next seven weeks.

During their stay in the NICU, Arthur and Archie had several frightening health episodes, including challenges with regulating breathing and heartbeat (apnea and bradycardia), as well as severe gastrointestinal illness (necrotizing enterocolitis). After almost two full months of intensive care, Arthur and Archie's health stabilized, and they grew strong enough to go home.

It was a long journey for the Valentas—but thanks to Avista's devoted New Life Center and NICU teams, Chelsea, Arthur, and Archie received exceptional, compassionate care during their hospital stays. "The New Life Center and the team in the NICU were HUGE in helping us stay calm and have hope," recounts Colby Valenta. "We simply could not have asked for better care for our kids and support for ourselves."



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— Colby Valenta

## Supporting Whole-Person Health from Day 1

Avista is more than just a hospital. We are a comprehensive medical center with a legacy of health care that's more than a century old. We are committed to healing the whole person—mind, body, and spirit—through quality, compassionate health care that starts from Day 1.

At our New Life Center, we are privileged to support the birth of more than 2,500 babies each year, about 15% requiring intensive treatment at our Level III NICU. Approximately 400 premature newborns in need of Level III

Avista's New Life Center is home to the region's largest Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)—the only Level III NICU in the Boulder County area. A Level III designation means that we are certified to provide advanced care for critically ill and premature newborns, like Arthur and Archie, who are born prior to 28 weeks gestation



intensive treatment are also transferred into our care from other hospitals across the North Denver region.

In the next year, the number of high-risk babies we serve at our NICU is expected to increase. Avista will become the primary location in northern Colorado for supporting the needs of premature babies born prior to 28 weeks gestation..

## Invest in New Life

To meet the increasing regional need for Level III NICU support, we must grow our capacity—which means **purchasing more than 60 pieces of life-saving equipment for these babies.** This substantial undertaking will cost more than \$1 million, a combination of funds from Avista and support from generous neighbors like you.

With your help, we can make a healthy start to life possible for hundreds of northern Colorado's littlest patients.

### Invest in Healthy Little Lungs

- **\$33,300** purchases one of five **Avea Neonatal Ventilators**, which provides the highest standard of respiratory support specifically for sick and premature babies
- **\$27,581** purchases one of two **High-Frequency Oscillating Ventilators (HFOV)** for use when conventional ventilation is not adequate, and babies require the highest level of respiratory support
- **\$5,170** purchases one of two **High Flow Vapotherms** providing non-invasive, heated, and humidified air flow
- **\$2,818** purchases one of 10 **Bubble CPAP** machines to support regulated and continuous airflow for babies having trouble maintaining steady breathing

"We have no doubt that our boys are happy and healthy today because of the love and care they received while they were at this lovely hospital."

– Colby Valenta

### Invest in Warmth

- **\$39,979** purchases one of six **Giraffe Omni Beds** (isolettes) to help premature babies stabilize their body temperatures
- **\$20,222** purchases one of 35 Panda™ warmers, providing the most up-to-date infant beds that include temperature regulation, monitoring, treatments, and easier access to care

### Invest in a Good Night's Sleep

- **\$100,000** purchases new Portable Imaging Equipment so babies don't have to be disturbed to get the tests they need, decreasing the risk of hemorrhage in very premature babies
- **\$3,000** purchases one of six new cribs to ensure every baby has a safe and comfortable place to sleep

**THANK YOU for making an investment in a healthy start to life.**

Christan Parkin | Development Officer | [ChristanParkin@Centura.org](mailto:ChristanParkin@Centura.org) | 303-673-1011  
Online Giving: [rmahf.org/avista](http://rmahf.org/avista)

*Naming opportunities are available for those who invest \$3,000 or more. Sponsored equipment will be fitted with a small plaque recognizing the donor and their generous contribution to the New Life Center NICU.*

*Avista Adventist Hospital is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization. Your gifts are tax deductible*