

Specialized Care for Twins Coming to the N/AIDHC NICU Thanks to the Michael & Nancy Pia Foundation

On September 19, a unique and close-knit family gathered together with a small group of Nemours associates to celebrate a generous gift to support the health and well-being of children at Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children – specifically the refurbishment of two twin rooms in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit that will allow twins and their parents to remain together at a time when families need each other the most.

Established in 2002, the Michael & Nancy Pia Foundation is dedicated to improving the lives of children. The Pias are a family of fraternal twins. In Nancy's family there have been 13 children from multiple births. Four sets of twins attended the event.

During the ceremony, Nancy McGovern Pia shared stories describing the births of family twins spanning two generations at three different hospitals in Delaware and Pennsylvania. She told of a flawless delivery, a heartbreaking loss, a miraculous recovery, and birth challenges further complicated when twins and families were separated to obtain the life-saving neonatal intensive care they needed.

The Pias also have quite a family connection with Nemours over the years, with Nancy's sister and two nieces serving as nurses and a research assistant. Two of the Pia's children, five of their grandchildren and many of their nieces and nephews have received care at Nemours.

Their twin birth experiences and family ties to Nemours, Nancy said, inspired them to help other families of twins.

Each year, hundreds of infants come to our Level IV NICU from hospitals in Delaware, Pennsylvania and New Jersey to receive the highest level of comprehensive care for the most premature newborns. Mark Mumford, Chief of Delaware Valley Operations, detailed plans for the NICU, saying, "With their generous gift, our patient families will continue to feel the Pia's love and support."

The first Phase of our hospital's NICU expansion opened in fall of 2018. Then Phase II experienced delays because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Pia's funds will help refurbish the NICU to offer a warm and welcoming environment for families. In addition to the **two NICU twin rooms**, they are providing for furniture upgrades and specialized equipment in the NICU space and a refurbishment of the family waiting room. The Pia's gift will also purchase a **Fermo Aviation Modular** system for ECMO transport and establish a **NICU Family Emergency Fund**.

Nemours extends our thanks and heartfelt gratitude to Michael & Nancy Pia for giving children, families and our neonatal care teams at Nemours this amazing gift.