



Newborns in the News

A Will Rogers Institute Update

First Trimester, Summer 2012

Bring Your Baby Matinees

presented by  and 

Babies Welcome! Share a Play Date at the Movies with Your Little Ones

It's a play date for parents and caregivers just like you! Crying babies? Breast feeding? Stroller parking? No worries!

Catch the movies you want to see on the first Tuesday of every month.* Screenings begin at noon in many locations and are shown in a baby-friendly environment.

- Breastfeeding-friendly atmosphere
- Brighter lights and lower volume
- Stress-free environment
- Stroller parking
- Crying babies allowed

A portion of your ticket purchase will be donated to the Will Rogers Institute. Funds raised will benefit our neonatal program, which helps provide much-needed equipment to neonatal intensive care units (NICUs) nationwide. Proceeds also help fund the research and treatment of pulmonary diseases as well as support our efforts to distribute health education materials to the general public.

Many thanks for your support. See you at the movies.

*Movies shown at participating theatres. Show-times may vary. Please check your local listings.

<http://www.amctheatres.com/programs/bring-your-baby>



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Will Rogers Institute Neonatal Grant Helps Conjoined Twins

Doctors at Le Bonheur Children's Hospital in Memphis, TN, successfully separated conjoined twins Joshua and Jacob Spates last fall. Conjoined twins are identical twins whose bodies do not fully separate in utero. A rare phenomenon, conjoined twins occur in approximately one in 100,000 births. After a 13-hour surgery, the twins were transferred to Le Bonheur's NICU. Joshua and Jacob then remained in the pediatric intensive care unit to receive care and rehabilitation therapy.

Le Bonheur Children's Hospital was the recipient of a Will Rogers Institute neonatal grant to help fund the purchase of a ventilator critical to the twins' care.

Michelle Connor, a spokesperson for the hospital, said, "We were so grateful to have everything right here in Memphis to successfully care for these boys. Joshua and Jacob are doing great and both of the boys will be able to walk, which was a huge concern because of where they were joined. This would not be possible without folks like you."



Joshua and Jacob Spates doing well after surgery.



Our Neonatal Program

The Will Rogers Institute (WRI). You've probably heard of us at the movies, but maybe you're not fully aware of everything we do for the public.

We're a national charitable health program focused on funding the research of debilitating lung disorders, funding medical school training fellowships and distributing free health education materials to the general public. We're also a national leader in providing lifesaving neonatal ventilator equipment to hospitals across the country.

The WRI has provided grants from California to New York, and in many cities in between. Since the inception of the program in 2006, we have granted \$3.1M to more than 50 needy hospitals across the United States. In 2012 alone we were able to give \$400,000 to 12 medical facilities that have NICUs. Our objective is to place as many ventilators as our annual budget will allow, with the ultimate goal of saving as many babies' lives as possible.

Hospital Receives Will Rogers Institute Grant to Purchase Neonatal Incubator

Infants at The Medical Center in Columbus, GA, can breathe easier, thanks to the Will



Dr. David Levin, a neonatologist, with the nitric oxide transport incubator.

Rogers Institute. The Columbus Regional Medical Foundation received an \$80,000 grant from the institute to purchase a nitric oxide transport incubator.

The incubator will be used by the NICU at The Medical Center to transport newborn infants with certain breathing difficulties. Many needing this treatment have persistent pulmonary hypertension. The condition prevents adequate oxygen from getting into the

bloodstream and primarily affects full-term and post-term babies. A mainstay of treatment is nitric oxide, a gas that helps the blood vessels in the lungs relax, allowing more oxygen into the bloodstream. The nitric oxide transport incubator allows sick infants to be transported without interrupting treatment.

The Medical Center is one of six perinatal centers in the region and provides care for infants in 27 Georgia and Alabama counties. Last year 3,100 babies were born at The Medical Center—25 percent spent an average of 20 days in the NICU; and 400 babies spent an average of seven days in the NICU Special Care Nursery.

—Ledger-enquirer.com

Did You Know That One in Eight Babies Is Born Prematurely Every Year?*

A premature (or preterm) birth is one of the top causes of infant death in this country. Premature infants may face a number of health challenges, including:

- Low birth weight
- Underdeveloped organs or organ systems
- Breathing problems because of underdeveloped lungs
- Greater risk for life-threatening infections

These infants may need to stay in the hospital for several weeks or more in a NICU. Your donations allow us to provide lifesaving ventilator equipment to help increase the rate of survival for these fragile infants.

*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



A Brief History of Will Rogers Institute

The Will Rogers Institute is a program of the Will Rogers Motion Picture Pioneers Foundation, a charity named after one of the greatest American humanitarians, philanthropists and entertainers—Will Rogers. Originally a hospital for tuberculosis-stricken members of the vaudeville stage, the Will Rogers Memorial Hospital (established in 1936) became a national training facility for doctors treating patients with tuberculosis. Building on that foundation, the Will Rogers Institute today is a national charitable health program focused on researching debilitating lung disorders, funding medical school training fellowships and distributing free health education materials to the general public. The institute recently became a national leader in providing lifesaving neonatal ventilator equipment to hospitals across the country.

*Will Rogers Memorial Hospital,
Saranac Lake, NY, 1937*



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The Will Rogers Institute is a program of the Will Rogers Motion Picture Pioneers Foundation.

www.wrinstitute.org



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10045 RIVERSIDE DRIVE, THIRD FLOOR
TOLUCA LAKE, CA 91602
888.994.3863