

Cariño Room Opened



l. to r. Irene Garcia-Sandate, RNC, MSN, NNP Administrative Director Newborn Services & NICU; Cammie Todd, San Antonio Alumni Chapter of Alpha Phi; Rachel Tavitias, Administrative Assistant – Learning Resources; Elsa Guzman, Medical Surgical Technician – General Medicine; Mark Wittig, President/Owner, Wittigs Office Interiors

Cariño [cah-ree'-nyo] n. A Spanish language expression of love, fondness, tenderness, affection, kindness and concern.

Families of babies admitted to the Neonatal ICU spend a lot of time on the floor with the staff taking care of their little ones. With over 400 admitted babies admitted every year that's a lot of interaction.

Doctors were using a room that looked and functioned as a work space to consult with families on the status of their babies, to discuss upcoming procedures and sometimes served as the space where families said their final good-byes.

Now, thanks to the generosity of many the room has a new look and name. The Cariño Room was recently opened and features a new cozy feel with warm home furnishings and versatile lighting. It can now seat up to 8 people and the doctors, staff and social workers love it.

The name of the room was picked out of many submissions from the NICU staff. Kristin Navarro, RN came up with the name because she felt that this is what this room is all about and using a Spanish word was appropriate for a hospital in San Antonio.

“This room is such an improvement to what it used to be. There is a release of stress as soon as the families sit down in here. We're so grateful to everyone who made this room possible,” said Irene Garcia-Sandate.

The University Health System Foundation would like to thank the following donors who made this room possible:

2009 University Health System Administrative Professionals Council
2009 University Health System Employee Giving Campaign Donors
San Antonio Alumni Chapter of Alpha Phi
Mark Wittig, Wittigs Office Interiors

For over twenty-five years, philanthropy has been vital to University Health System's success, enabling us to fund projects, programs and services for our patients. Generous people and businesses throughout our community have helped shape what University Health System is today and have laid the foundation for what it will become in the future.

The University Health System Foundation, a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization, was established to solicit, receive and maintain funds exclusively for the benefit of University Health System and its community mission. All programs of the Foundation are funded solely through community philanthropy and fundraising activities. For more information on The Foundation or any of its programs, please contact Denise Pruett at 210-358-9861.



**University
Health System**
Foundation