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Larger than life: The Jonathon & David story

Gestation micro-preemie twin boys Jonathon and David spent the first three months of their life with no parents. At 25-weeks-old, weighing one pound, they were born in San Luis Obispo on February 9, 2012.

They were brought into this world by a surrogate mother. Their Chinese parents live out of the state.

They were born at Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, NICU.

"Their parents decided after they were born that they were not going to be able to take care of them due to the special needs that they might have," said Tracy Regusci, the twins' adoptive mom.

David had an extremely hard time at birth that included 10 minutes of CPR and three attempts to ventilate before stabilizing him. He was in the NICU for 119 days, had several blood transfusions, a grade 1 bilateral bleed, PDA, laser eye surgery for ROP, and spent four weeks on a vent.

His twin brother Jonathan was in the NICU for 131 days and had seven blood transfusions, a grade 1 bilateral brain bleed, PDA, laser surgery in both eyes for ROP and struggled to get off the vent.

The twins' birth parents knew after the first month that they were unable to care for these special needs twins and put them up for adoption, but the twins remained in the NICU and were cared for by hospital volunteers and staff.

That's when adoptive parents Matt and Tracy Regusci, who live in the Central Coast, found out about the twins through Project Zero.

"The mission is to have zero orphan children one day. It is through Project Zero that Matt and Tracy first heard of an urgent need to adopt twin 25-week gestation micro-preemies from Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center," according to the group's website.

"We stepped in and said we would like to adopt them," said Tracy.

Two-and-a-half- years later, the micro-preemies are thriving.

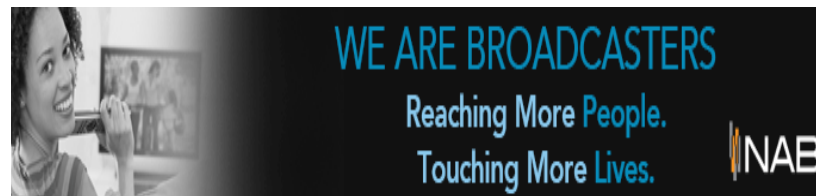
"They have broken every statistic out there. They also had eye surgery, so we were expecting blindness and neither of them wear glasses. They are just miracles," explained Tracy.

Their adoptive parents are now giving back to Sierra Vista with the help of "Hand to Hold," a national non-profit that provides support and education to parents of premature or sick infants.

Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center is the Grand Prize Winner for 2014. Sierra Vista was nominated for this recognition by Matt and Tracy.

The Regusci Family presented the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, NICU, staff with the grand prize Tuesday, which included two kangaroo care reclining chairs, children's books, educational resources and other medical supplies.

The Sierra Vista NICU has provided advanced critical care to the Central Coast's tiniest and most fragile babies for more than 15 years. Of the more than 1,200 births at Sierra Vista each year, nearly 15 percent of infants receive care in the NICU.



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