

## Making a difference ...

For most, the picture below represents a standard piece of equipment expected on the maternity ward at UHNBC. For those parents who have spent any time there, it looks like a standard basinet for a newborn child. It's not... but that's okay... "it looks normal", said Jerry and Erin Bohn, and normal is what they would have wanted when their infant daughter Ryann was brought into this world in June 2010.

For the Bohns, what started out to be a normal pregnancy took a drastic turn in the final weeks. It culminated on June 12th with Erin delivering a 5lb 15 oz beautiful baby girl. Sadly, as detected earlier that week in a routine ultrasound, the baby's heartbeat had stopped beating, and she was delivered still born.



Jerry and Erin Bohn are so happy to see that the Cuddle Cot has finally arrived

Erin has been a strong advocate for parents of stillborn children since that date. She speaks openly of her experience and is a resource to new moms and families who endure the same experience. When she arrived in Spirit's office to share her story, we were compelled to help her with her vision for a cuddle cot for UHNBC. No new mom should have to go through the anxiety of being detached from their baby, and the cuddle cot provides a step closer to that reality. Our plea went out in the Summer 2015 newsletter and we were immediately inundated with donations, so many that we had to respectfully decline some as it was overfunded.

Included in the cabinet is a small portable cooling air compressor that discretely leads to a mat at the bottom of the basinet that keeps baby cool so that a new mom can have the baby in their room as any other new mom would. Prior to this piece of equipment stillborn infants were often kept in the morgue so as not to deteriorate. All the Bohn's wanted was a normal experience and while our hearts go out to any family enduring what the Bohn's have we are only able to help make the situation better for others because they chose to share their story.



We are thankful to the many individuals who generously gave to see that this piece of equipment was purchased, and to Jerry and Erin Bohn who have provided one of the greatest gifts one can give... their story.

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# Thank you!

**2016 Annual General Meeting**