



GUAM MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AUTHORITY

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GMHA Recognizes NICU Team and Highlights Prematurity Awareness Month

(Sunday, November 30, 2025; Tamuning, Guam) The Guam Memorial Hospital Authority (GMHA) recognizes its Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) team for their essential work in providing specialized medical care for premature newborns. These dedicated professionals ensure that infants and their families receive the support, expertise, and compassion needed during some of the most vulnerable moments of their lives. Prematurity Awareness Month, observed every November, brings attention to the challenges associated with preterm births while promoting support for families affected by them.

Dr. Joleen M. Aguon, Interim CEO and Hospital Administrator, said the month serves as an important reminder of the NICU team's meaningful impact. "Our NICU team provides exceptional care for our premature newborns, and Prematurity Awareness Month allows us to recognize the dedication behind that work," Dr. Aguon said.

As part of its observance, GMHA is proud to spotlight NICU nurse Tera Blas, whose story reflects both the power of neonatal care and the deep connection between caregivers and the families they serve.

"November is the month we recognize World Prematurity Day," said Pamela Sablan, head of the NICU team. "This year, we are especially proud to honor one of our own. Tera was once a premature baby in our care, and today she serves as a NICU nurse. She is a survivor in many ways and an inspiration to all of us."

"The theme for this year is 'Give preterm babies a strong start for a brighter future,' and Tera truly represents that," Sablan added. "Babies like her were given a chance to grow and thrive because of the care provided here in the GMH NICU."

Blas and her twin sister were born prematurely and spent more than a month in the GMHA NICU.

"It wasn't until I grew older and began considering a career in nursing that I truly understood the gravity of that experience and how grateful I am for the care we received at GMH," Blas said. "Knowing that my twin sister and I were once cared for as premature babies, and are here today because of the GMHA NICU team, deeply influenced my interest in neonatal care."





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As part of her nursing practicum, Blas was placed in the NICU, and less than two months after graduating she began working there. Today, she has the unique honor of working alongside some of the very staff who cared for her as an infant.

“My personal experience motivates me to give the best care and compassion to each of my patients and their families. I find myself empathizing with all our newborns, especially those in the intensive care unit. Although the job comes with its challenges, it is incredibly rewarding to see our newborns go home with their families and to know that I’ve played a part in helping save their lives,” Blas said. “Working in neonatal intensive care, especially in the very same unit where I once lived, is profoundly meaningful to me. Every day, I am reminded of how fortunate I am to have received the care that gave me a chance at life and how honored I am to now give that same care back to others in my community.”

Governor Lou Leon Guerrero praised the NICU team for their continued service to families. “Our premature newborns rely on highly skilled professionals who guide them through their earliest challenges, and GMHA’s NICU staff continue to meet that responsibility with dedication and heart,” Governor Leon Guerrero said. “I commend them for the difference they make every day.”

As GMHA continues its efforts to support families through compassionate and high-quality care, the observance of Prematurity Awareness Month underscores both the challenges faced by premature infants and the commitment of the healthcare teams who care for them.

“GMHA’s NICU staff demonstrate remarkable strength and compassion in caring for our most fragile patients,” Lieutenant Governor Josh Tenorio added. “We are grateful for the expertise and commitment of the NICU team as they continue supporting newborns in their earliest days of life.”

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