North Valley Hospital Birth Center has record-breaking month of deliveries

Who would have thought you could have a home-like birth in a medical facility? This unique experience is believed to be the reason why North Valley Hospital is chosen by soon-to-be parents all over the world to deliver their bundles of joy.

In the month of Mother’s Day, North Valley Hospital delivered 61 babies, which is a monthly record. The last monthly high was March 2010 with 53 babies. Breaking records isn’t something new for the Birth Center since it has grown exponentially since 2007. The trend of births since 2005 are: 249, 321, 422, 463, 472, 500, and through May 2011, 199.

Monica and Mark Lucas came here from Texas to deliver their third baby, Morgan. They were so pleased with their care by Dr. Randy Beach and the staff at North Valley Hospital with their two older children that it was important for them to make the trip.

“It’s nice to know a friendly face,” Monica said. “Dr. Beach is like a long-lost friend and North Valley Hospital is very comfortable with wonderful nurses. If we have a fourth child, we’ll make the trip again.”

“We really enjoy celebrating the birth days of each and every baby,” said Cindy Walp, North Valley Hospital Birth Center manager. “And, the more the merrier.”

Embraced by a family-centered care experience, families are given the red carpet treatment. This includes large private rooms, home décor, freshly cooked meals, one-on-one labor support, 24-hour anesthesia, lactation consultants, daybed for loved ones and more all wrapped in around-the-clock, state-of-the-art medical facility.

“Choices are important for parents. Options allow each birth to be a unique experience,” Walp said. “As long as the requests are safe, we do everything possible to assist throughout so their wishes come true. We have a family atmosphere, embrace unique birth plans and have the medical support at our finger tips to give our parents the best of both worlds.”

For instance, North Valley Hospital offers acupuncture and acupressure as pain- and nausea-controlling alternatives to medication in labor, post partum and post C-section. Patients have expressed gratitude for these alternative options because not only have some not responded well with traditional pain management methods, some also felt more able to be present with their newborn because their heads were not cloudy. If patients know this is a service they’d like to take advantage of, it’s recommended that advance arrangements are made with one of North Valley Hospital’s two acupuncturists.

Water birth is another well-researched, safe and comfortable alternative to delivering. And, in Montana, it is offered only at North Valley Hospital. The buoyancy of the water helps alleviate pressure and allows for the baby to have an easier transition from the womb.

“If the parents’ requests are safe, then we are more than happy to accommodate,” Walp said.
The North Valley Hospital Birth Center boasts of being able to maintain an extremely low C-section rate of around 18 percent. This is well below the national and state average of 33 percent. Also, 97 percent of mother’s are able to successfully breastfeed. The attention families receive while being cared for at North Valley Hospital is why patient satisfaction scores are exceptional.

Education and support are important factors for having the best birth and post partum experience. That’s why the Birth Center offers a wide variety of classes and support groups all free of charge, including birth education. View North Valley Hospital’s website for a complete listing of offerings and stay tuned for more classes that are being developed to meet the area’s growing need for education.

For questions, call the Birth Center at 863-3535 or visit www.nvhosp.org.