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*******Press Release*******

Jacobi Medical Center Nurse Delivers Baby – Curbside!

Bronx: At 12:30 PM on the Sunday after Christmas, Pamela Akukuma realized that labor had started. She wasn't worried. As parents of a 22-month old, Pamela and her husband had already experienced the long wait which labor generally entails. They figured she'd have several hours before they needed to make the trip to Jacobi, where their second baby was to be born.

But baby had other plans. Pamela's labor quickly progressed, and by 3:00P, her contractions were coming on fast. The Akukuma's jumped in the car and headed to Jacobi. However on Pelham Parkway, right in front of the hospital, Pamela's water broke, and the Akukuma's realized they were out of time.

Mr. Akukuma parked and dashed into the hospital, calling out for help. His cry was heard by Andrea O'Neill, the Nursing Administrator in charge of the hospital that day. Andrea ran out to the car, to find Pamela in the back seat and ready to deliver. Andrea quickly fired out directions to onlookers for backup help and supplies, removed her coat, and turned her full attention to Pamela.

With soothing words and a calm, steady hand, Andrea quickly delivered the new baby. She gently rubbed his back to encourage his first breath, and was rewarded with a lusty newborn cry. Andrea then wrapped the baby inside her coat, helped Pamela out of the car and onto a waiting stretcher, and placed the baby with her. Staff then rushed mother and baby to Jacobi's Labor and Delivery Unit, where both were carefully examined and found to be in excellent condition.

The next day, sitting comfortably in her bed on the Post Partum Unit with baby Richard in her arms, Pamela reflected, "I never imagined the baby would come so quickly, and when I realized I would not make it into the hospital, I was very afraid. If it were not for Andrea's calming assistance and expert care, I would not have been able to handle the situation."

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“In my many years in nursing,” commented Andrea, “this experience was certainly the most unusual! The opportunity to help Pamela bring a new little life into the world was also one of the nicest Christmas presents I have ever had.”



Caption: Pamela Akukuma, new baby Richard, and Andrea O’Neill, RN, BSN, ANP, Jacobi Medical Center.

About Jacobi Medical Center

Jacobi Medical Center is a member facility of the NYC Health & Hospitals Corporation. A 457-bed teaching hospital affiliated with the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Jacobi offers numerous centers of excellence including its renowned trauma center, multi-person hyperbaric unit, burn center, surgical intensive care unit, stroke center and regional perinatal center. Jacobi’s Women’s Health Service provides expert care for 2,500 deliveries per year. Jacobi’s new Ambulatory Care Pavilion is a stunning complement to its recently constructed inpatient facility and allows staff to provide outpatients with high-quality care in a modern, state-of-the-art environment.

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