

She needs her mom

Nurse's **swift actions** help a newborn survive a life-threatening infection

Riley Hazel Schoenbeck made a textbook-perfect arrival into this world at Avista Adventist Hospital. Weighing 6 pounds, 2 ounces, she was born full-term and outwardly healthy.

Within 46 hours though, the little girl found herself fighting for her life. In the early morning hours of Feb. 11 — the day her first-time parents, Russell and Renee, planned to take her home — an eerie silence fell over their hospital suite. “It wasn’t that I heard something; it was that I stopped hearing something,” Renee says.

Scary Start

Russell sensed it too and hit the lights. “That’s when I saw my little girl, eyes wide open, and blue as can be. She had stopped breathing,” Renee says.

Renee screamed for help and within seconds, a team of Avista New Life Center nurses descended on the room — among them, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) nurse Chelsey Manzanares, RN.

Russell locked eyes with Manzanares and handed Riley to her. “Russell told me later that Manzanares wasn’t the first nurse to walk into the room, but an instinct told him, ‘This is the nurse you need to give Riley to.’”

Manzanares took quick action, swiftly assessing, treating, and coaxing Riley Hazel to live, “Come on, sweet girl, breathe. You are scaring your parents. Come on, strong girl. You can do it.”

The silence broke and Riley started to cry, only to stop breathing again seconds later. Manzanares pulled Riley through several breathing episodes and explained to the Schoenbecks their daughter needed the advanced care of the NICU. “I physically stepped back, creating distance from Riley as if I might break her,” Renee says, recalling those moments of fear. “I remember thinking, ‘I failed already. I’m not even home yet, and I’ve already failed.’”

Once again, Manzanares, a former NICU mom herself, knew exactly what to say: “Please come with us, Renee. She needs her mom.”

Happy Birthday

As days unfolded, the Schoenbecks learned Riley had a severe infection and would need two doses of strong antibiotics a day to help her survive.

Riley required seven days of IVs, monitors, and the watchful eyes of Avista Adventist Hospital’s team of NICU nurses.

“I don’t know where we’d be without them,” says Renee. “I really believe NICU nurses are the strongest of souls. The NICU nurses not only took great care with Riley, but they cared for our entire family.”

Riley Hazel, now healthy and thriving, will celebrate her first birthday Feb. 9.



To learn more about the New Life Center at Avista Adventist Hospital, schedule a tour, or register for birthing classes, visit online at avistahospital.org/birthcenter.

IN THE NURSERY



It’s a ... set of TWINS!
In 2016, Avista Adventist Hospital had delivered 23 sets of twins as of November.

Riley Schoenbeck is held closely by mom Renee just after her birth.

