Calling all Baby Heroes for 2017 calendar

Hemel Hempstead – Medical technology specialist Dräger calls for proud parents to nominate their little ones to appear in a calendar that celebrates brave babies born prematurely.

BabyFirst’s 2017 Baby Heroes calendar aims to shine the spotlight on the deserving babies who have overcome various challenges associated with being born too soon to go on and live happy and fulfilling lives.

For the last few years, Babyfirst.com, an online-resource supported by Dräger that focusses exclusively on neonatal care, has highlighted the inspirational stories of premature infants from across the globe in the Baby Heroes calendar and it is planning to do the same in 2017.

Two of the youngsters featured in the 2016 edition were Henry and Thomas Fuller, born at 30 weeks and 6 days weighing in at just 1.2Kg and 1.35Kg.

Andy, the twins father describes his experience: “My wife Fiona and I live and work in Dubai and went for our usual regular scan on our twin boys (age 30 weeks plus 4 days) on Sunday 1st March 2015. It became obvious when performing the umbilical artery doppler ultrasound scan that our Consultant Obstetrician & Gynaecologist was concerned about something. The blood flow from Twin 1 back to Mummy through the placenta was meeting some resistance. This was not a threat at the time but a very real potential one in terms of compromising organ development or failure, or even worse potentially fatal. He decided that he wanted to get the twins out ASAP to avoid risk. We left the surgery and walked across the road and checked straight into Mediclinic City Hospital in Dubai’s Health Care City.”

“On Tuesday 3rd March at 1pm, our twin boys were delivered by caesarean. Thankfully both were healthy, coming into the world screaming without assistance. Henry weighed in at 1.2Kg and Thomas at 1.35Kg. No time to linger in the operating theatre, they were taken straight into the Neoantal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and setup in their incubators with various cables, cannulas, lines and monitoring equipment while Fiona was given post-op care.
24/7 monitoring, daily testing and drip feeding were the order of the day for the next 2 weeks with assistance for breathing and temperature maintenance and feeding via IV with a umbilical venous catheter for Thomas, and a ‘long line’ peripherally inserted central catheter to deliver the essential IV fluids for Henry as regular cannulas were not proving sufficient. This was inserted into his foot which thankfully didn’t seem to bother him too much."

“In week 3 they started receiving Mummy’s milk through a tube straight to their stomach every 3 hours (1ml at a time) to complement the IV, controlling the intake and monitoring ‘output’ as not to damage their tiny tummies. In weeks 4 to 5, they gradually started bottle feeding eventually having the tubes removed and bottle feeding exclusively.”

“During their 5 week stay in NICU, they had daily visits from the consultants who were happy with their progress at all times and remained in Dräger Caleo incubators until their transfer into the Neonatal High Dependency Unit after 4 weeks once they reached their target weight. They finally came home after a nervous 5 weeks after maintaining stability and reaching their target weight of 2kg, Thomas on 5th April and Henry on 7th April.”

Babyfirst is now looking for parents of inspirational preemies to come forward and submit their story for possible inclusion in the calendar. Luke Bourdillon, Sales & Marketing Manager for Neonatal Care at Dräger UK states: “This calendar is a true celebration of the resilience of children who, despite a challenging and uncertain start to life, overcame the hurdles and went on to grow into happy youngsters.”

“It is also produced to help raise awareness of the issue of prematurity, which affects millions of babies around the world each year. The BabyFirst website provides and unrivalled service for both clinicians and parents of premature infants by providing information and support.”

The deadline for submission to the calendar is 31st July 2016. To nominate a Baby Hero, visit www.babyfirst.com

To find out more about Dräger’s work in neonatal care, please visit www.draeger.com/neonatal-care
Dräger. Technology for Life®
Dräger is an international leader in the fields of medical and safety technology. Our products protect, support and save lives. Founded in 1889, Dräger generated revenues of around EUR 2.6 billion in 2015. The Dräger Group is currently present in more than 190 countries and has more than 13,000 employees worldwide. Please visit www.draeger.com for more information.