



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Phoenix Children's NICU welcomes Texas quintuplets  
Banner Good Sam and Phoenix Children's host news conference today at Good Sam  
August, 1 at 10:00 a.m.**

Phoenix— Arizona's sixth set of Quintuplets, born at Banner Good Samaritan Hospital yesterday, to Rachelle and Jayson Wilkinson of Cedar Park, Texas, weighed in at Phoenix Children's with a total birth weight of 21 pounds, 7.2 ounces. This is the U.S. record for quintuplets, according to Dr. John Elliott, Mrs. Wilkinson's perinatologist and an expert in the delivery of high-order multiples.

"The babies are all in fair condition," said Jordon Leonard, MD, neonatologist at Phoenix Children's Hospital. "Several are still receiving breathing assistance, but are doing well."

Baby girl A (Kassidy) is 5 lbs and 1.2 ounces; Baby girl B (Kaydence) is 3 lbs and 6 oz; Baby boy C (Rustin) is 4 lbs, 15 oz; Baby girl D (Kyndall) is 4 lbs, 2oz; and Baby boy E (Ryder) is 3lbs, 15 oz. The Wilkinsons have two older children, Riley, 6 1/2 and Kaiva, 4.

The previous record birth weight for quintuplets was held by Rebecca Wilson of Cresco, Pa., who gave birth on July 23, 2003, at Banner Good Samaritan to four boys and one girl weighing a total of 21 pounds, 1.2 ounces, following a 34-week, 3-day pregnancy (a record gestation). The average pregnancy for quintuplets at Banner Good Samaritan is 33 weeks, at least four weeks beyond the national average of 29 weeks.

All five of the babies are at Phoenix Children's, where they will stay until they meet the hospital's criteria to leave for home. The Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU), located inside Banner Good Samaritan, is operated by Phoenix Children's Hospital. When Phoenix Children's left Banner Good Samaritan in 2001, the 68 neonatal beds remained there and continued to be managed by Phoenix Children's as a service to the patients and for the perinatology group at Banner.

Phoenix Children's Newborn ICU recently completed Phase one of its expansion plan. When completed in spring of 2008, the nursery will be the length of a football field and the largest neonatal nursery in the country. The expansion will raise the square footage in the nursery from 8,800 sq. feet to 38,000 sq. ft. and include 110 rooms - 75 private and 34 rooms designed for high-order multiples.

Phoenix Prenatal Associates, Neonatology Specialists at PCH, and the nursing staffs at Banner Good Samaritan and Phoenix Children's Hospital, have developed an international reputation for their care and management of women delivering high-order multiples (triplets or more). The hospitals have cared for about 74 sets of quadruplets, six sets of quintuplets and two sets of sextuplets - including the Mache sextuplets born in June 2007.

Most of the quadruplets and quintuplets -- including the Bryant quintuplets from Plano, Texas, born in September 2004 - have come to Phoenix from another part of the country. This is thought to be more sets of high-order multiples than has been delivered at any other hospital in the U.S., and perhaps the world.

“These nationwide referrals say a lot for the reputation of perinatal and neonatal care provided by Banner Good Samaritan and Phoenix Children’s Hospital, and the physicians at Phoenix Perinatal Associates,” said Dr. Elliott. “We have been very privileged to care for a number of mothers expecting quintuplets and other high-order multiples.”

**Individuals wishing to send congratulations, prayers, e-mails and letters of support can contact the Wilkinsons through their website at [www.wilkinsonquints.com](http://www.wilkinsonquints.com).**