



NEWS RELEASE

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Baby Boom hits Banner Estrella Medical Center

Hospital adds more resources to meet community need

PHOENIX (Jan. 7, 2008) – Banner Estrella Medical Center delivered a record number of babies in 2007 and to meet the demand will add a second nursery, four more labor and delivery rooms, and eight more postpartum beds. Additionally, the hospital will be launching a teen parent education program.

A record 2,772 babies were born at Banner Estrella Medical Center in 2007, an increase of 27 percent from 2006 and the largest increase of any Banner Health hospital in Arizona. The hospital has seen consistently higher delivery numbers since it opened in 2005. That year, 1,368 babies were born. In 2006, this number climbed to 2,190, an increase of 60 percent. Delivery numbers are expected to reach close to 3,200 in 2008.

When the hospital's new patient floor opens at the end of this month, the hospital will offer a total of 29 postpartum beds and 11 labor and delivery suites. A well baby nursery will be added to the new patient floor and the current Level II nursery is in the process of expanding to 13 beds.

"The increase in deliveries reflects the growth of the Southwest Valley," said Dr. Mystie Johnson, departmental chair of Obstetrics and Gynecology. "We're pleased to meet the growing community need with the additional beds, nursery, and uniquely designed programs."

Nearly 15 percent of babies born at Banner Estrella Medical Center are to teenage mothers. As part of a larger teen parent education program under development, the hospital will offer childbirth classes geared specifically to the needs of teenage parents before, during, and after childbirth. The goal of the overall program is to decrease the number of teenage pregnancies and teach adolescents to make healthy decisions.

Banner Estrella Medical Center, located on the southeast corner of the Loop 101 Freeway and Thomas Road, is a 172-bed full-service hospital offering general surgery, orthopedics, OB services, a full cardiac program with open-heart surgery, emergency services, and imaging services. Banner Estrella is part of Banner Health, the leading provider of health care services in the Valley with eight hospitals.

For more information about Banner Estrella, visit us online at www.BannerHealth.com.

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