

The Kumar Family's Story

Pregnancy is a time of joy, anticipation and excitement -- and October 20th started out just like this for the Kumar family. Raj Kumar had planned to take his two children shopping as a treat to them. But when his pregnant wife Ranjana mentioned she wasn't feeling well, their plans quickly took a different turn.

I'm writing to you today to tell you not only about the strength of the Kumar family and their story, but also to acknowledge and thank you for everything you have done for Richmond Hospital and the residents of our community.

I have seen, through your generosity, how dedicated you are to the quality of care at Richmond Hospital and I want you to know how much I appreciate it. Your past gifts have helped me and my team do everything we can to save the lives of so many people in our community - people just like Ranjana and her family. I hope you will join me in supporting patients and families in our community once again this Christmas.

Ranjana was only 26 weeks pregnant when her husband rushed her to the hospital with abdominal pains --much too early to be experiencing labour. When the couple arrived at the Emergency Department at Richmond Hospital, they were admitted immediately.

The Emergency physician confirmed that she was not in labour; however, the doctor asked her to stay so they could monitor her situation. Her husband, Raj, needed to return home with their other two children, to get them to bed and find childcare in case it would be needed.

Hours went by and then all of a sudden, later that evening, the nurses realized something was wrong. The baby's heart rate was dropping. It was clear. Immediate surgery was necessary to save the baby's life. It was a medical emergency: Code Pink.

Code Pink is a term we use in hospitals across our province to describe a medical emergency involving a pregnant mother and her baby. Time is vital. And for this pregnant mother, time was running out.

Babies born so premature are at a high risk for medical complications. Tragically, 20% of them don't make it to their first birthday. Against these challenging odds, I worked with a team of 11 doctors and nurses from Richmond Hospital who performed an emergency surgery to ensure the safety of both mom and baby.

At 7 p.m. Raj received an urgent phone call from his wife, telling him they were about to perform an emergency C-Section. He rushed from his home to the hospital within 10 minutes. Thirty minutes after he arrived, there was good news! A baby boy was born—very premature, but alive and strong.



**Dr. Erik Swartz, Head of Pediatrics
at Richmond Hospital**

Their baby, named Ojasvi, weighed less than three pounds and couldn't breathe on his own. He was so tiny! And he required constant care. It was a frightening time. Every day, the family prepared themselves for bad news. Raj said he had "a little hope inside, but not 100% hope." Thankfully, baby Ojasvi survived and was able to return home three months later.

I continue to see the baby and parents on a regular basis and I am so happy to have been able to help them during this difficult time—and I am thankful to donors just like you, who help fund the equipment and facilities we need at Richmond Hospital.

Both Raj and Ranjana told me how lucky they were that Richmond Hospital was so close to where they live. We want our patients to feel cared for when their life takes a worrying turn. Donors help ensure that our compassionate, expert teams I work with here have access to the proper medical equipment so they can handle any sort of emergency, like Code Pink.

Giving the very highest quality of care to babies and children here in Richmond depends on donors like you. When I see baby Ojasvi now, healthy and giggling with his parents, I am so thankful that we had everything necessary right here to help him into the world and start his life right. Thank you for helping Ojasvi and his family during their time of need.

The doctors and nurses at Richmond Hospital's Birth Centre delivered nearly 2,000 babies last year, a record amount that continues to grow each year. Richmond's population is booming—the fastest growing urban centre in B.C.

It's more urgent now than ever that we be prepared for any sort of emergency so we can continue providing care for the entire family whenever it's needed. Your gift ensures we are able to provide an extensive range of specialized care for our entire community.

Our children and our grandchildren deserve expert care, close to home. Please give generously today, so we can continue to provide lifesaving care. You can donate by returning the enclosed form, by phone at 604-244-5252, or by visiting the Foundation's website at richmondhospitalfoundation.com.

My sincerest thanks,

Erik Swartz

Dr. Erik Swartz
Head, Pediatrics
Richmond Hospital



P.S. Please give generously today. Every gift has a direct and profound impact on families just like Ojasvi's in your community.