

Press Release

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Ellis Medicine welcomes New Years Baby

SCHENECTADY, NY-- Ellis Medicine today (Friday, January 1, 2010) announced the birth of a New Years baby girl at Bellevue Woman's Center at 12:26 am on January 1, 2010.

18 year old Ashanti Vargas of Schenectady delivered Shiyanna Vargas at 7 lbs, 4 oz measuring 19 ½ inches long. The baby's father is Manuel Toomer, 19 of Schenectady.

Vargas said that once she passed her due date of December 27th, she was hoping for a New Years baby, but never dreamed she would have the area's first baby of 2010. "I'm so happy," said Vargas. "Shiyanna will always have a special birthday because it's New Years. When the ball drops and people celebrate, she'll think its all for her."

Vargas is a first year student at Schenectady County Community College where she is studying Health Studies, with the goal of attending nursing school to become an RN. She plans to return to school when classes resume in a few weeks and says she'll be counting on family for support as she juggles baby and school.

Ephriam Back, MD, is the director of the pre-natal program at Ellis Medicine's Ellis Family Health Center, where Ashanti is a patient. Dr. Back delivered little Shiyanna and was assisted by first year family medicine resident Veronica Bubb, MD. "It was very exciting," said Dr. Back. "Ashanti was pushing when the ball dropped at Times Square and 26 minutes later, Shiyanna was born." The Bellevue staff was excited about the birth and it was the buzz around the hospital.

"At Bellevue, we have been welcoming babies into the world every day for more than 75 years. It's really a privilege to be a part of such milestones in the lives of families in our community – and it's extra special when it's a New Years baby," said Donna Evans, Manager of Public Relations for Ellis Medicine.

Evans also noted that the first birth of 2010 marks the beginning of a year in which Ellis hopes to break ground at Bellevue -- pending regulatory and financing approvals --- with plans to expand and update the facilities there to better serve patients and their families. Plans include: additional private rooms for post-partum moms, an expanded Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, a new Imaging Center and amenities such as a café and a redesigned lobby area. "With the birth of the New Years baby, 2010 is off to an auspicious start at Bellevue. The New Year brings the great potential of Ellis Medicine's continued commitment to take even better care of women and babies in our community," said Evans.

More than 2400 babies were delivered at Bellevue Woman's Center in 2009

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