



# PARKVIEW WABASH FOUNDATION

## Parkview Provides Comfort and Privacy for Mothers

Thanks to donors like you, a breastfeeding pod is available at community events.

Breastfeeding is one of the best things you can do to give your baby the healthiest possible start in life. Just because it is normal and natural, however, doesn't mean it's always easy. Mothers who nurse their babies in public often experience negative reactions from others, and many mothers feel uncomfortable feeding their babies outside their homes.

Parkview Health knows that for those who breastfeed, it is a natural part of motherhood. In support of our Parkview moms, Ashli Pershing — Birth Planner and Lactation Consultant with Parkview Wabash Hospital — sought out a solution to make mothers more at ease with public scrutiny that sometimes occurs when breastfeeding.

A mother herself, Ashli understood the importance of having a space for privacy that is comfortable for all. With the new Wabash Hospital providing OB services, this is the first time in 14 years Wabash Hospital has delivered babies — giving a growth to Wabash County for family-friendly activities and events.

At these events, such as the 4-H Fair, mothers now have a space to breastfeed in private or care for their child in a dedicated space. With Ashli's help, Wabash County has a portable, free-standing breastfeeding pod that can be easily transported to several events throughout the year.

The pod is hard to miss with the bright 'Parkview green' color and words, 'I'm a Parkview mom.' It is designed to be relaxing for mothers with amenities including tissues, a comfortable chair and table, and reading materials — just to name a few. It also has doors with magnetized closures, and a 'vacant' or 'occupied' sign with plenty of space for bags and strollers!



"I want this to be very comfortable for mothers. I had a mom ask if she has to breastfeed in there and I told her absolutely not. She can pump, bottle feed her child, clean her child in there, or if a child has autism it can be a great space to help them desensitize. It can be used any way to help mothers and families," Ashli explained.

August 1-7 is National Breastfeeding Awareness week. For information on breastfeeding classes in your community, call (260) 672-6185.

And remember, happy, healthy moms and babies mean a happy dad too!

For more information about how your generosity heals, please visit [ParkviewFoundations.org](http://ParkviewFoundations.org).

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# Kindness for Kids Program Provides Comfort at Parkview Wabash Hospital

Long-time program gives stuffed animals to pediatric patients.

Parkview Wabash Foundation is ensuring a long-time program stays right where it is — at Parkview Wabash Hospital. The Wabash Foundation is utilizing and accepting generous donor dollars to a caring, and meaningful fund — the Kindness for Kids program. The Wabash Hospital Auxiliary has been raising funds from their organization for this program. Now with the Auxiliary's help, the Wabash Foundation will see that this generosity continues.

The Kindness for Kids program ensures children, who are Parkview patients in the laboratory, emergency or surgical departments, will receive a stuffed animal during their stay.

Wabash Hospital Auxiliary and the Parkview Wabash Foundation hope these stuffed animals will help to calm a child who is facing a needle stick, stitches or an operating room procedure. Hospital staff also hope the stuffed animals will provide comfort to the parents — knowing their child has a 'stuffed friend' to squeeze

tight and help them overcome any anxiety.

The Wabash Hospital Auxiliary has long supported Parkview Wabash Hospital in a wide variety of ways. From operating the gift shop and helping provide a scholarship fund, to bake sales and supplying the emergency room, surgery and laboratory with small, stuffed animals for children.

For more information on the Kindness for Kids program or if you would like to support this fund, please contact the Parkview Wabash Foundation at (260) 569-2254.



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## Contact Your Parkview Foundation

Parkview Wabash Foundation

(260) 569-2254

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*"The Foundations of Parkview Health inspire the generous spirit of our community that brings gifts of healing and comfort to everyone Parkview serves."*

[ParkviewFoundations.org](http://ParkviewFoundations.org)