

# People in Profile - Marty Geusebroek

Nine years after the birth of his first son, Marty Geusebroek still chokes up talking about the delivery.



His wife Signe's pregnancy had gone smoothly until she went into unexpected and premature labour.

"It was a very dramatic and traumatic birth – when he (Jonah) was born his heart had stopped," Marty says, his voice catching as he recalls that day. Marty's wife was oblivious to the crisis due to her difficult labour. But Marty was at her side and watched the medical team revive his first-born his son. "They were able to bring him back."

Jonah spent his first two weeks at the Misericordia Community Hospital's Intermediate Care Nursery in Edmonton, where the Geusebroeks lived at the time. There, Marty and Signe leaned on the compassionate staff who imbued the couple with a feeling of calm and "stability" they so desperately needed. "They understood the brevity of the situation, but didn't commit to any one outcome," he says.

They simply guided the family, step by step, through all the bumps in Jonah's recovery. The Geusebroek's second son Sebastian also arrived early and spent some time in the same unit.

Marty's experience with the stellar medical care provided to both boys who are now active and healthy nine and six-year-olds, left an indelible mark. So when he had a chance to work on the BC Children's and BC Women's Redevelopment Project, he uprooted his family and moved to Vancouver for a position as Vancouver Regional Manager of SMP Engineering, a contractor with the project.

"I gravitate to projects that have purpose and community. Health care and hospitals ... are one of the pillars of the community," Marty says. "I love the idea that some of the work I'm doing will affect the people I share my community with."

Marty, who worked on lighting at the new Teck Acute Care Centre, says the new hospital is beautifully designed. Most hospitals are so dark, he says. "Walking through this space, it's such a bright open building. There's a lot of natural light into most of the spaces and I think that will really help give the patient that much better care experience and aid in the recovery."

As he works on the finishing touches, Marty says he looks forward to opening day and can't wait to show his wife and two boys the inside of the hospital. "It will be a proud moment."

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**Note:** A huge thanks to our media partners who also shared these stories.

**Vancouver Sun:** <http://vancouversun.com/news/local-news/0909-building-from-the-heart>

**Global News:** <http://globalnews.ca/video/3733168/personal-stake-in-bc-childrens-hospital-redevelopment>