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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# Ziegler Family Donates CuddleCot to Astera Health in Memory of Son

**WADENA, Minn. – April 8, 2025** – On April 3, 2025, Astera Health received a CuddleCot donation from Brad and April Ziegler. A small ceremony was hosted to honor the family and their son, Archer.

A CuddleCot is a specially designed cooling cot that allows family members to spend time with a deceased infant. Their use is completely voluntary. The Ziegler family used a CuddleCot with Archer, and the experience was so positive they became advocates for its use in hospitals across the nation.

“On February 27, 2024, our lives changed forever. At our anatomy scan, we learned our son was very sick. In an instant, it felt like the dreams we had about becoming parents were no longer guaranteed. We were terrified for the future. After 5 weeks of what felt like endless doctor appointments, our greatest fears were confirmed, our beautiful baby boy had passed away,” said April Ziegler while reflecting on her birthing experience.

The family was able to spend eight hours with their son because of the CuddleCot. This time was precious and motivated them to provide a CuddleCot to other families in need. Around Archer’s first birthday, they partnered with Ashlie’s Embrace. Ashlie's Embrace is a non-profit organization dedicated to placing CuddleCots in as many hospitals as possible. With their help, the family was able to donate a CuddleCot to Astera Health.

During the ceremony, members of staff graciously thanked the couple for their dedication to others. The attendees shared stories of their own struggles and remarked on the strength it takes to move on after the death of a child. A picture of Archer was placed in the crate where the CuddleCot is stored.

“Although our family will never truly feel whole again, knowing we are able to help others in his honor helps us find peace,” said April Ziegler.

For more information about obstetrics at Astera Health, please visit [asterahealth.org](https://asterahealth.org).



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### **ABOUT ASTERA HEALTH**

Asteria Health is an independent, not-for-profit healthcare organization dedicated to improving community health for over 100 years. Guided by our vision to be your trusted partner for life, we provide comprehensive, patient-centered care in orthopedics, oncology, urology, ENT, chiropractic care, women's health, and diagnostic imaging.

Our hospital, clinic, and cancer center in Wadena, along with five satellite and two physical therapy clinics in Bertha, Henning, Ottertail, Sebeka, and Verndale, serve Wadena, Todd, and Otter Tail counties. Our hospital features surgery suites, labor and delivery, lab, rehab services, and 24-hour emergency care. We are committed to expanding specialized care, advancing innovation, and enhancing care.

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