

## Hope is born -- diaper duty, too

*A couple await the birth of twins, thanks to a group called Fertile Dreams.*

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The call came while Yadira Campis was at school. In many ways, it couldn't get worse. Here she was learning that she wasn't going to have a child -- that in vitro fertilization had failed -- and once she hung up the phone, she would have to face the roomful of elementary-school children she taught.

Campis remembers the day like a nightmare.

Her husband, Jaime Medina, says tears plagued them almost nonstop for two days.

But the blow didn't end there. The price tag would haunt them, too.

The young couple, who had tried to naturally conceive a child for four years, had refinanced their home to afford the treatment that set them back thousands of dollars -- a large sum of money for two special-education teachers.

"You can say that you don't care about the money," Medina says, "but when you don't have a baby and you don't get the money back, it's a bad situation. It was just so sad."

Lacking the funds to try again, Campis and Medina planned to ask their doctor, Mark Trollice, for a break. They hoped he would accept payments the second time around or maybe even give them a discount.

What happened was far better.

This time, in vitro was free.

### 'Our last chance'

It just so happened that Trollice, a Winter Park fertility specialist, had another option for them. The organization he founded in 2004, Fertile Dreams, planned to award its first Embracing Hope grants -- \$10,000 toward the cost of in vitro fertilization at any clinic in the United States, not just his.

He urged Campis, 32, and Medina, 35, to apply last year.

The annual grants are decided by applications, and the funds are raised through a gala and Fertility Health Awareness Health Fair, also put on by Fertile Dreams.

Families must prove through documents, including tax returns and pay statements, their financial need. Additionally, they're asked to write an essay, outlining their struggles with infertility. A committee of nine, including doctors, a lawyer and other community members, selects the winners.

Medina was positive he and Campis would be selected. Campis wasn't as sure. But she began crafting the essay, detailing their move from Puerto Rico to Florida, their failed attempt at in vitro, Medina's low sperm count and her polycystic ovary syndrome.

"This will probably be our last chance to have our own biological child," the couple wrote. "With the expertise of your doctors and our prayers, perhaps this dream can become a

reality. Perhaps one day we will be able to see the glow and happiness of life we see in the children in our classrooms every day."

Committee member Dr. Timothy O'Leary, of Winnie Palmer Hospital for Women and Babies, says their story pulled at his heartstrings.

"If there's anybody who deserves a family, it's these two," O'Leary says. "God bless them for working with special-education students".

Campis and Medina were chosen as the first of three recipients.

"I just remember asking him, 'Does this cover the medicines and everything?' And he said yes, everything," Campis says of her conversation with Trollice. "We love him."

In June, the couple began their second -- and free -- round of in vitro with Trollice.

### Doctor knows the pain

The literature in the waiting room of Trollice's Fertility C.A.R.E. office is stamped with this motto: "We care . . . because we know."

Trollice and his wife, Andrea, were unable to have children after five rounds of in vitro -- a wicked irony, he admits.

Annually, more than 9.3 million American women seek fertility treatments. Statistics show that 40 percent of the complications typically come from women, 40 percent from men and 20 percent are unidentified.

"I find no other calling or privilege greater than helping these people start a family," Trollice says. "It's an indescribable feeling."

Ultimately, the Trollices decided on adoption. They're now the proud parents of "little angels" Amelia Rose, 3, and Alexander Romeo, 6 months.

In what free time Trollice has -- when he's not at home with his family or seeing clients as many as seven days a week -- he is touting Fertile Dreams. He sees the organization becoming a leader in research funding and development, as well as a way to lobby Florida to provide mandatory health-insurance coverage for fertility treatments.

But one of the most satisfying aspects of his job and this organization is turning couples into parents.

Any day now, that will happen.

### A special call

On July 25, Campis took a pregnancy test and returned home to await the results with her husband.

"Yadira?" Trollice asked over the phone. "Congratulations."

Campis broke into sobs and reached for her husband, whose face lit up with a smile.

In the coming weeks, they received more news. In nine months, they would be the proud parents of twins, a boy and a girl, Jaime Yadiel and Yadielis, respectively.

Campis is scheduled for a C-section on March 15, barring that she doesn't go into labor sooner.

The couple's home is prepared for the babies, who will share a sage green room with matching cribs and animal mobiles.

Baby clothes from two showers fill the nursery closet. On the top row hang baby boy clothes, blue and white.

Newborn shoes for the little girl outnumber those for the boy, perhaps the beginning of Yadielis' love for the accessory.

"This grant made our dreams come true," Campis says.

"Maybe it wasn't right two years ago, but it's right now."

To learn more about Fertile Dreams' Embracing Hope Gala and the grants it will fund, go to [www.fertiledreams.org](http://www.fertiledreams.org)