



UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL, OCEAN BREEZE

Here's looking at you, kiddo

Family welcomes a baby girl at midmorning of New Year's Day after mom preps by eating pizza



The Maniglias of Westerleigh show off their newest member, Gianna Grace, born on New Year's Day. *Kristin Dalton, Staten Island Advance*

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Welcome to the world, Gianna Grace Maniglia! Maria, 32, and Charles, 34, of Westerleigh, greeted their newest addition at 9:22 a.m. on New Year's Day at Staten Island University Hospital in Ocean Breeze.

Tipping the scales at 7 pounds, 4 ounces, and measuring 20.75 inches long, Gianna was the first baby born at University Hospital in 2018, a spokeswoman for the hospital confirmed.

One-and-a-half-year-old Bianca is a proud big sister, Maria told the Advance from her hospital room, where she said she's feeling great and is excited to have borne the hospital's first baby of 2018.

The Maniglias said they spent New Year's Eve "low-key" at a friend's house, hanging out and enjoying pizza, all while Maria was having contractions.

"They weren't that bad; they were still very mild at that point," Maria said.

"I wasn't in active labor until early this morning, and we came to the hospital at 5:30 a.m.," she said, joking that the birth of Gianna was much quicker than that of Bianca.

"Six pushes and she was out!," the mom of two marveled.

Charles said Bianca was mesmerized the moment she saw her little sister and wouldn't take her eyes off of her.

After visiting Gianna in the NICU, Bianca didn't want to leave, saying, "Baby! Baby!" and pointing to the door as she walked back down the hallway to mom's hospital room.

"She's been kissing my belly and saying 'baby' the whole time. She's so excited," Maria said.

Gianna was taken to the NICU because Maria had group B strep and wasn't finished with her second dose of antibiotics when Gianna was born four days early.

The family is anxiously waiting to go home as a family of four.

The borough's very first New Year's Day baby, a boy born to Ariana Pumarejo and Eirk Erazo, arrived at Richmond University Medical Center at 12:24 a.m., according to a spokesman for the hospital.