



## Families celebrate children who beat the odds

by KVUE News

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AUSTIN -- Hundreds of Austin families celebrated children who beat the odds on Sunday at the Texas Fertility Center's annual Baby Reunion.

Brian and Rachael Westerman's daughter, Raegan, is 10 months old today

"She's talkative, so vocal, so endearing and loving and has been a smiler," Rachael said.

"It's exciting just to have a family that we say is ours," added Brian.

Something that might sound simple wasn't for the Westerman family, who tried for years to get pregnant.

"Everybody in the world looks like they're pregnant, everywhere you go it's like 'why

does it happen to her but it won't happen to me," Rachael said "It's really emotionally and physically draining in every way, it's something you want so bad it consumes you."

Thanks to in-vitro fertilization and intracytoplasmic sperm injection, Raegan was conceived.

"Look at the blessing that we have, this is what it all boiled down to," Brian explained.

"This is what it's all about, this is why we come to work every single day," said Texas Fertility Medical Director Dr. Kaylen Silverberg.

Dr. Silverberg helped the Westerman family and hundreds of other families who showed up at the annual baby reunion on Sunday.

"This is the once a year party where everybody gets to come back and everybody get's to see everybody. Our staff gets to meet these babies," Dr. Silverberg said.

The event allows the families to reconnect and swap stories.

"It's a bunch of people who are in the same situation that we were in," Rachael said.

The Fertility Center says more than 80% of couples completing treatment with a fertility specialist will have a baby.

"25, 30 years ago really this was really the stone age in fertility treatment," claimed Dr. Silverberg. "Now we've come so far and there are so many things we can do. Not only for female factor infertility but also for male factor infertility as well"

Dr. Silverberg said unlike many other medical conditions, infertility is now treatable and curable.

"We can't cure diabetes, heart disease, we can't cure the common cold but we can cure infertility," he said.

"No matter what's going on at the end of the day you just look at this sleeping child and you're like 'it was all worth it I would do it again,'" Rachael said.

After a long road of challenges and disappointments the Westerman family said, in the end, it was all worth it.

The Texas Fertility Center says in 1984 the success rate for in-vitro was less than 10%, today delivery rates are as high as 60%.