

Community Briefs: Women's & Children's Health Programs Mark 25 Years with weeklong event series

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CHESTER >> Crozer-Keystone Community Foundation holds week-long series of 25th anniversary events for Women's and Children's Health Services, beginning with the Healthy Start and Nurse-Family Partnership Family Reunion and Baby Buggy Walk from 1-5 p.m. Saturday at Memorial Park on the J. Lewis Crozer Library side, 2300 W. Seventh St. WCHS provides home visiting case management and nurse programs to women during pregnancy and with children under the age of 2.

Since 1992, Women's and Children's Health Services in Delaware County have improved maternal and birth outcomes and contributed to a significant reduction in the disparate infant mortality and morbidity rate in the City of Chester. In 1995, Chester had an infant mortality rate of 22 infant deaths per 1000 babies born. In addition, babies born in Chester were three times more likely to die than babies born elsewhere in Delaware County. The most recent data from 2014 shows that the Infant Mortality and Morbidity Rate in Chester is down to 14.9 in 1000.

Saturday's event program includes:

- Picnic and graduation for families from 1-2:30. Registration, food, games, music, resource fair and socializing are held from 1-2, followed by graduation for Nurse-Family Partnership and Healthy Start families from 2-2:30.
- Baby Buggy Walk and Decorated Stroller Contest from 3:30-4:30. The one mile Baby Buggy Walk on Seventh Street is from 3:30-4, followed by the decorated stroller contest from 4-4:30.

Upcoming events in the weeklong celebration are:

- Monday, Sept.11, 1-4 p.m. - Doing Right by Babies event and Community Film Screening from 1-4 p.m. Monday, Sept. 11, at Widener University Alumni Auditorium. Giving every baby a healthy start in life should be a national priority and yet many children in the US, the richest nation on the planet, are faring poorly. This event is a call to action for all residents in Delaware County that includes a documentary film screening of The Raising of America, the Signature Hour and a panel discussion to help reframe the conversation about our shared responsibility as a nation to help families and children succeed.

- **Community Action Network (CAN) Meeting from 9-11 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 12, in Chester City Hall's Community Room. The Baby's 1st Project Community Action Network is a large cross-sector group of stakeholders interested in improving birth outcomes and the welfare of families with children under the age of 5. Guests hear the findings of an infant death study in Delaware County and the release of a Community Action Plan to help every baby have a great start in life. We will also celebrate 25 years of Maternal and Child Health partnerships, recognizing community partners for helping to strengthen the safety net for families.**
- **Medical-Legal Partnership (MLP) Training from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 14, in Widener University's University Center Webb Room. Unmet legal needs are one of the key stressors for low-income families but free legal assistance is often difficult to access. The Health, Education and Legal Assistance Project: A Medical-Legal Partnership works collaboratively with health care partners to identify and address unmet legal needs for expecting mothers, and those with young children, to reduce stress and improve outcomes for both. This educational event is geared towards front-line service providers. Sessions include: Special Education Access, Federal and State Health Policy, Immigration Law and Housing Rights.**
- **A grand finale at 6 p.m. Friday, Sept. 15, at the Ballrooms at Boothwyn, 1405 Meetinghouse Road, honoring: Rhoda Burrell, Delaware County volunteer; Karen Clark, Activities and Outreach Coordinator, Delaware County Family Center; Darcy Hayes, MD, FAAP; Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Associate Program Director Pediatric Hospital Medicine and Emergency Care, Crozer-Chester Medical Center; Adrienne Cruz and Maryann Phillip, in memory of David Angelo Cruz, fundraising for Delaware County Cribs for Kids; Joan K. Richards, retired president and CEO of Crozer-Keystone Health System, board member of Crozer-Keystone Community Foundation; Gwendolyn Smith, RN, CCRN, MBA, MSN; President Springfield Hospital, and Vice President Crozer-Keystone Health System.**

For information on the anniversary events, visit ckcommunityfoundation.org/events.