



PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Sara M. Rieger

Office: (904) 723-5422 ext. 124

E-mail: srieger@nefhsc.org

July 23, 2015

For Immediate Release

NORTHEAST FLORIDA HEALTHY START COALITION ANNOUNCES THEIR THIRD BABY GRADUATION

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – The 20 toddlers that march down the aisle on August 1 to “Pomp & Circumstance,” donning caps and gowns, will join a special group of kids in Northeast Florida. The children and their mothers are graduates of the Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition Nurse Family Partnership, an evidence-based home-visiting program that helps ensure first-time mothers have the education and resources to have a healthy baby.

The graduation will take place August 1, 2015 at 1 pm at the UF Health Learning Resource Center on the corner of Jefferson and 8th streets in Jacksonville. The event coincides with the semi-annual Baby Shower held by UF Health. The graduates are enrollees in the Nurse Family Partnership program, which launched in 2012 as part of the Florida Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program. The program, which is integrated into the local Healthy Start program, provides intensive case management and home visiting by a nurse for first time moms from pregnancy until the baby is two.

The Nurse Family Partnership is an evidence-based home-visiting model for pregnant women in Duval County. Services are provided to 100 high-risk, first-time mothers in the New Town Success Zone and two other neighborhoods annually by specially trained nurses from the Florida Department of Health Duval County and UF Health Jacksonville. The Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition administers the program.

The model has been identified as successfully impacting key outcomes in maternal and child health, child maltreatment, child development, school readiness, family socio-economic status and injuries, crime and domestic violence. A long-term study recently published in the JAMA Pediatrics journal showed participants in the program are less likely to experience child and maternal mortality.

About Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition

The Healthy Start Coalition leads a cooperative community effort to reduce infant mortality and improve the health of children, childbearing women and their families in Northeast Florida. For more information visit <http://nefhealthystart.org> or <http://www.facebook.com/NEFHealthyStart>.

###