

PRESS RELEASE

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August 1, 2014

For Immediate Release

NORTHEAST FLORIDA HEALTHY START COALITION ANNOUNCES THEIR FIRST BABY GRADUATION

JACKSONVILLE, Fla – When a group of 37 healthy, happy two-year-olds walk down the aisle on Saturday, donning caps and gowns, they'll be celebrating a new milestone in Northeast Florida. The children and their mothers are the first 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 2 at 1 pm at the UF 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 the original 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 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 NEFHealthyStart.org or [Facebook.com/NEFHealthyStart](https://www.facebook.com/NEFHealthyStart)

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