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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A MOTHER’S DAY OF CARING SCHEDULED TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO PREGNANT WOMEN, BABIES AND THEIR FAMILIES DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – The Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition is hosting a Mother’s Day of Caring on Friday, May 8th, for pregnant women, babies and their families. The day will allow the agency and its individual programs to provide support, much-needed baby items and education to families in the region during the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic.

The day of caring will focus on community members that are pregnant or families with children under three years old.

- Fatherhood PRIDE, the Northeast Florida Healthy Start Community Programs Office and Healthy Families Jacksonville will hold a drive-through distribution event at Pearl Plaza (5316 N. Pearl St., Jacksonville, FL 32208) at 1 p.m. This event is open to program participants and community pregnant women and families with children under age three. Items to be distributed include infant items like diapers, wipes and formula and household supplies like soap and disinfectant. Free masks, gloves and COVID-19 testing information will also be provided.
 - Fatherhood PRIDE is a federally-funded program that strengthens and expands fatherhood, employment, housing, health care, mentoring and recidivism reduction services through case management, referrals and group classes.
 - CONNECT is a centralized system that uses the state universal prenatal and postnatal risk screens to match families to a maternal and child health home-visiting program.
 - Healthy Start is a free, voluntary program that provides referral information and support services for ALL pregnant women and infants up to age 3 and their families. Services are tailored based on individual needs.
 - Healthy Families is a nationally-accredited family support and coaching program that helps parents provide the safe and stable environments children need for healthy growth and development.
- The Magnolia Project will be distributing caregiver bags to their clients through contactless home delivery. The Magnolia Project, an initiative of the Coalition since 1999, is a special federally-funded Healthy Start initiative to improve the health and well-being of women during their childbearing years (15–44 years old) in 32208, 32209, 32211 and 32277.

“As a maternal and child-health focused nonprofit, we felt it was critical to continue to support our moms, dads and babies during such a challenging time,” CEO Faye Johnson said, “Our families are feeling the effects of COVID-19, whether it be from job loss, issues accessing care or services, needing baby items, feeling lonely or depressed. We are all in this together!”

The event is supported in part by the First Coast Relief Fund.

About the Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition

The Healthy Start Coalition leads the community effort to reduce infant death and improve the health of children, childbearing women, fathers and their families in Northeast Florida. For more information, [view our media kit](#) visit us at <http://nefhealthystart.org> or on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram @nefhealthystart.

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