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MAGNOLIA PROJECT LAUNCHES GROUP PRENATAL CARE MODEL

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – Prenatal care is a group effort now at the Magnolia Project, an initiative of the Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition. Pregnant women that receive care at the women’s health clinic in the Jacksonville urban core can now participate in a compassionate group setting, with the launch of new SHARE (Support Health Assessment Relationships Education) classes that combine medical care, peer support and education.

The group care model utilizes materials and literature from CenteringPregnancy through a membership agreement. Centering is a nationally recognized model that provides patient-centered care and results in positive health outcomes for moms and babies.

While too many babies are born too small and too soon in Northeast Florida and throughout the country, research has shown that group prenatal care can lead to better birth outcomes, including among low-income and African American populations. Studies show babies born to mom in group prenatal care had higher birth weights and longer gestations.¹

Participants receive their medical prenatal care by an ARNP during the classes. Women are grouped by gestational age and attend based on how far along they are in — from 12 to 28 weeks classes are monthly, 28 to 36 weeks the classes are every two weeks and 36 to 40 weeks classes are weekly. Approximately 13-15 women are scheduled for each group at the Magnolia Project. The groups cover topics like nutrition, body changes, oral care, stress management, fetal development, the birth experience and more.

The Magnolia Project is a federal Healthy Start program that improves the health and well-being of women during their childbearing years by empowering communities to address medical, behavioral, and cultural and social service needs. The Project, which launched in 2000, offers clinical and case management services in a storefront location in the Jacksonville’s Health Zone 1.

About the 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>.

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¹ <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3489125/>
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2276878/>
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2430324/>