
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Nurse Family Partnership Celebrates
10 Years in Kent County**

GRAND RAPIDS – Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) is celebrating its ten year anniversary in Kent County this year. The program started in Kent County on March 11, 2004, and has served 658 families in Kent County to date. NFP was created in order to help promote self-sufficiency in first time mothers and help with the transition into parenthood.

Jayla was a 15-year-old girl when she found out she was pregnant. Soon after she decided to enroll in the NFP and was assigned to TaCoya, an NFP nurse. TaCoya and NFP has helped Jayla in accomplishing her goals and maintaining a bright future. With dedication to not only herself and her son, Jayla has been able to handle being a mother, a full-time high school student, and maintain employment. Jayla is planning to attend Western Michigan University this fall, and live on campus with her son.

NFP is a 26-30 month program that goes through three phases: pregnancy, infancy and toddlerhood. “This program teams up a nurse with a first time parent to help encourage successful outcomes,” says Adam London, Health Officer of the Kent County Health Department. “Our nurses listen to the parents, guide them, and develop a good relationship with the parent.” These relationships help parents reach their goals, which include continuing education, obtaining housing, buying a car, employment, and much more.

NFP has helped many people in situations similar to Jayla, and has over 30 years of national research in support of the program’s successes. The program’s mission is to “*Empower first-time mothers living in poverty to successfully change their lives and the lives of their children through evidence-based nurse home visiting.*” The program has seen many positive effects, which include better prenatal health, fewer childhood injuries, maternal employment, improved school readiness and much more.

Members of the media are invited to hear more success stories like Jayla’s at the Nurse Family Partnership picnic, celebrating the 10 year anniversary in Kent County. The picnic will be held on June 25, 2014 at John Ball Park, 1300 West Fulton in Grand Rapids, beginning at 12:30 PM. We hope you can see how this program is helping to change lives.

Contact Melissa Nestle at 616.632.7178 or on site at the picnic for more information.

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KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 260 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and specialized staff at the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates one main clinic and four satellite clinics located in Wyoming, Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD services, visit www.accesskent.com/health.

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