



MCHC To Open New Family Center in Kennett Square

Maternal and Child Health Consortium (MCHC) is establishing a Family Center in Kennett Square to provide home visiting and parent education to families with young children aged 0-5 years old to promote early childhood development. MCHC joins almost 50 Family Centers across Pennsylvania that use the “evidence based”, nationally recognized curriculum called “Parents as Teachers” (PAT) to help increase parents’ skills and children’s school readiness. The Family Center will offer four ways to help families: 1) personal in-home visits; 2) parent support groups; 3) health screenings for hearing and vision; and 4) resource referrals.

“MCHC has been serving the Kennett Square and Oxford communities for many years through our Healthy Start program. We are especially pleased that we can expand home visiting and parent education to families of older children in these communities, helping to increase school readiness,” says Pamela Bryer, MPH, executive director of MCHC.

Center Director Nelly J. Arévalo and Parent Educators Maritza Rivera Cochran and Elizabeth Garduño will staff the Family Center. A key component of the Family Center is to provide one-on-one parent education including in-home activities that parents and children can do together with common household items. One sample activity for parents is to encourage young children to put clothes pins into the top of a plastic gallon size milk container. This

activity helps little fingers develop, helps increase hand-eye coordination, and helps increase language skills through parent and child interaction.

MCHC expects that the Center will open its doors in fall 2006. More information including the Center’s wish-list of items is posted on MCHC’s web site www.ccmchc.org.



Kennett Square Family Center staff from left to right: Maritza Rivera Cochran, Nelly J. Arévalo, and Elizabeth Garduño.

One Mother’s Story

Sharon enrolled in our Coatesville Healthy Start program in June 2006; she is pregnant for the first time. She recently lost her job and is struggling to make ends meet. In addition, her Family Health Advocate assessed that Sharon was high-risk because she has both depression and diabetes. When an expectant mom is considered high-risk, she receives intensive support from her Family Health Advocate and the Supervisor. Her Advocate helped Sharon enroll into Medical Assistance and helped her get supplies to help control her diabetes. To address her prenatal depression, Sharon’s Advocate referred her for counseling assistance. Healthy Start staff also made sure that she received clothing and baby supplies. Sharon’s Advocate is keeping in close contact to ensure that she gets the help and support she needs to have a healthy pregnancy and a healthy baby.

MCHC Honors Supporters at Annual Luncheon

MCHC celebrated the 10th anniversary of Healthy Start at our Annual Luncheon held in June 2006 at Chester Valley Golf Club in Malvern. MCHC honored three long-time partners whose financial support and volunteer efforts helped MCHC connect pregnant women and new mothers with prenatal care, health insurance, home visiting, and supportive services. They are: Dr. Henry Jordan, Former Executive Director of the Claneil Foundation, Inc.; Louisa McDonald, coordinator of the annual Santa’s Brigade; and National Penn Bank.

The keynote speaker was Dee Bill, MPH, PhD., CHES, Associate Professor, College of Health Sciences, West

Chester University. Dr. Bill shared information about the impact of nearly ten years of Healthy Start in communities throughout Chester County. The findings demonstrated improvements in maternal and child health outcomes for Healthy Start participants enrolled in the program, such as fewer low birth weight infants, lower pre-term births, and improvements in access to prenatal care compared to non-Healthy Start participants.

The Annual Luncheon was made possible through generous support from presenting sponsors including Mrs. J. Maxwell Moran, National Penn Bank, First National Bank of Chester County, and Sam’s Club.



From left to right: Pamela Bryer, Executive Director of MCHC together with honorees Dr. Henry Jordan and Louisa McDonald.

MCHC Matters

A core service provided by MCHC staff includes the enrollment of eligible Healthy Start participants into health coverage. Due to a change in the federal Medicaid law that took effect July 1, all Medical Assistance applicants and recipients will be required to prove citizenship and identity at the time of their application or re-certification. Obtaining the required documentation can be extremely difficult for low-income people including pregnant women and new mothers that MCHC serves. As part of our advocacy effort to ensure that eligible participants get health insurance, all of MCHC's Family Health Advocates have been briefed and prepared to help families confront the challenges created by this new policy.

Thank You

We appreciate the generous support of all who contribute to MCHC. Some of our recent supporters include:

- **The employees of McKesson Corporation** who painted a mural on the wall of the Phoenixville Healthy Start office.



Mural painted for us by the employees of McKesson Corporation.

- **The employees of XL Insurance** who volunteered through the United Way of Chester County to organize the mailing of our 2005 Annual Report.
- **The congregations of Beth Chaim and Kesher Israel** for donating baby care items.
- **The Newcomers Club of Central Chester County** for their generous support.
- **Haydee (MCHC Board member) and Gib Gullaksen** and the guests of their 30th wedding anniversary

celebration who donated to MCHC in lieu of gifts.

- **The Bentley Foundation** and Thomas Bentley for supporting our African American Women's Health program.
- **The Penn Oaks Quilt Guild and the Hershey's Mill Knitting Circle** for their handmade quilts and blankets for our newborns.
- **Girl Scout Troops 1827, 248, and 1201** for their donations of Baby Bundles.

MCHC Depends on Your Support

Your donor designation to MCHC through the **United Way** gives children a healthy start! For United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania, write in #08548. For all other United Ways, write in *Maternal and Child Health Consortium*.

Every new mom in our Healthy Start program receives an infant care package of items. We are seeking donations including newborn and size one diapers; baby wipes; baby lotions, powder, and wash; and onesies for age 0-3 months. For more information, please contact Jennifer Giunta at 610-344-5370, ext. 100 or at jgiunta@ccmchc.org.



Healthy Start moms and their babies.

Healthy Start Offices

COATESVILLE
Healthy Start
Coatesville Center for
Community Health
1001 East Lincoln
Highway, Suite 104
Coatesville, PA 19320
(610) 383-0630

KENNETT SQUARE
Healthy Start
400 McFarlan Road
Suite #5
Kennett Square, PA 19348
(610) 444-4002

OXFORD
Healthy Start
Neighborhood
Services Center
35 North Third Street
Oxford, PA 19363
(610) 444-4002

PHOENIXVILLE
Healthy Start
21 South Main Street
Phoenixville, PA 19460
(610) 917-1360

WEST CHESTER
Healthy Start
Cambridge Square Plaza
323 East Gay Street,
B-1-C
West Chester, PA 19380
(610) 696-5122

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