

Getting off to a **healthystart**

A Newsletter of the National Healthy Start Association, Inc.

Summer 2008

New Participation Records Set at NHTA's Annual Spring Conference!

The NHTA's ninth annual Spring Conference was held April 20-23, in Washington, DC, with nearly 450 on hand. This is almost a 10% increase over the last several years. The theme was *National Healthy Start Association: A Decade of Leadership – "Celebrating Our Successes, Creating Our Future."*

On Sunday evening, well over 150 people attended the "History of Healthy Start" overview session, followed by two orientation sessions, one for consumers and the other for first-time staff attendees. On Monday morning, Judith Hill, Chair of the Spring Conference Planning Committee, welcomed everyone to the conference. Because of the increase in attendance, we had an overflow room, and the proceedings in the main room were broadcast in there, so everyone could see and hear what was going on.

Monday was a day of celebration, honoring the NHTA on its 10th anniversary, the Healthy Start Projects whose work has made the Healthy Start model a national success and introducing the consumers who are the heart and soul of Healthy Start. Monday's keynote speaker was Indie recording artist Radmilla Cody, whose presentation touched the hearts of many. A video showcased the NHTA's accomplishments, and Monday's lunch included the NHTA's Annual Meeting. Tuesday's program focused on challenges facing Healthy Start and a "Call to Action" for future direction / successes.

When asked how they felt about this year's Conference, most attendees were positive. In addition to citing the networking and

collaboration opportunities, people noted how much they valued the consumers' active role in the program. Said one, "They did an excellent job of promoting the benefits of Healthy Start and providing insight for ways to strengthen the program."

Another person, commenting on the overall value of the program, said, "There were moments when I felt all of staff should have attended. Coming to this conference brings a more global perspective." Said another participant, "There is power in numbers and the Association does a great job in bringing together all projects."

While there were a few complaints (OK, we won't serve pork for lunch next year; we heard you!), they were few and far between. And there were no complaints about the Baby Room this year. Unlike previous years, the Baby Room was very convenient to the main meeting space and well utilized throughout the two days.



Board President is surprised with flowers from (l to r) Risè Ross Ratney, Penny Womeldorff, Belinda Pettiford and Madie Robinson

There were too many highlights to name them all, but among them a few stood out: Dr. Fleda Jackson's keynote on Tuesday morning on new ways to address barriers for more aggressive advocacy to tackle the crisis of infant mortality, a challenge issued by Healthy Start consumers, and a federal response to Jackson's speech and the challenge, offered by Mirtha Beadle, of the Office of Minority Health; the screening of "When the Bough Breaks," one segment of the *Unnatural Causes...Is Inequality Making Us Sick?* video; Dr. Theresa Mayberry's lunchtime address on Tuesday on being a *Voice for Infant Mortality* and the variety of breakout sessions held over the two days.

Thanks to all the Planning Committee members, presenters and volunteers who helped make this year's conference such a success! (See pages inside for more Spring Conference photographs!)

Many of the presentations are posted on the NHTA's website. Go to www.healthystartassoc.org and click on the Archives tab. And mark your calendars now for next year's conference, March 1-4, 2009, again at the Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill.

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NHTA Joins with AMCHP and CityMatCH on Kellogg Grant!

The NHTA, along with CityMatCH and the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP) has been awarded a two-year grant to support an Action Learning Collaborative for State, Local and Community Maternal and Child Health Leaders. This multi-year project will address racial disparities in infant mortality through coordinated systems building in communities that have a disproportionate share of infant mortality.

Over the coming months, the three Collaborative partners will let you know how state, local and community collaborative teams will be selected. Teams will then be provided with training and technical assistance in current research, best practices and systems building. The project will be evaluated for concrete change and for potential future expansion and replication.

For more information, contact Carlton Purvis at cpurvis@nationalhealthystart.org.

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The National Healthy Start Association, Inc., is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization. Its mission is to promote the development of community-based maternal and child health programs, particularly those addressing the issues of infant mortality, low birthweight and racial disparity.

Message from the President



As we reflect upon the many successes of the Spring Conference and the Leadership Institute, I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of our Board of Directors to thank our members and partners for your support and participation. The presence and growth of the Spring Conference is a testament to the commitment of each of you. Thanks again to Chair Judith Hill and the Planning Committee members and staff and consultants who played a major role in the success of the Conference.

The changing faces of America are diverse, representing many cultures and giving us all an opportunity to honor our traditions and heritage by embracing change. Our values of equality and inclusion must be incorporated in our nation's health care policies for all people. This year's Presidential election is an important time for us all, and we continue to see a focus on national health issues. As we search for better ways to close the gap in health disparities, we know that with more collaborative and innovative approaches we can make a difference in the lives of underserved families and children.

The NHSA is committed to building our Association's future on national strategies and initiatives. The NHSA Board plans to strengthen involvement with national partnerships and expand participation in community health decision making in order to impact policy changes in the health care system.

In our recently held Retreat, the NHSA Board will begin to look at the priorities of our membership. We will soon begin a national search process to fill the Association's leadership position. We look forward to the challenges of change and embrace the future with emphasis on Vision, Empowerment & Inclusion for everyone in our Healthy Start Network.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Dean
President

Greetings from the NHSA National Office!



As many of you already know, the NHSA Board of Directors asked me to take on the role of Interim CEO. I resigned from my position on the Board and started work in this new role in mid-April. Jumping in six days before the Spring Conference certainly made for a fast start!

A Smooth Transition

This is a time of tremendous opportunity and activity for the NHSA. We are working diligently to support your efforts to strengthen programs and services that reduce infant mortality and pre-term births. My role is to work with the NHSA Board, staff and contractors to ensure a smooth transition in supporting our members' and Association activities until a permanent CEO is selected.

This role is somewhat familiar to me, as I previously served as Interim President of the Board prior to our establishing a DC-based office and hiring a first CEO. The work plan for this role includes managing staff and contractors, as well as working closely with the Board on a wide range of activities, such as achieving legislative goals, completing grant deliverables, managing finances and identifying new resources.

Building Momentum from the Spring Conference

The Spring Conference was a great time of celebration, education and interaction for staff, consumers and partners. This event truly added momentum to a year that was already filled with promise for Healthy Start and the NHSA. The Spring Conference was also a very valuable time for the Board and staff, as we gained insight into how the NHSA can better meet the needs of members in the coming year.

Through your participation in the Spring Conference and other activities in recent years, the NHSA has grown significantly in activity and influence. Your efforts on Capitol Hill this year have already resulted in passage of the Healthy Start reauthorization bill by the Senate! In addition, we are increasingly sought out by leaders of other organizations interested in partnering with the NHSA and member projects. This has led to an increase in NHSA opportunities and partnership activities related to the services that you provide daily.

New Opportunities

We will be alerting you throughout the year as new partnerships, resources and opportunities are identified. Here are a few examples

Male Involvement Roundtable at the Spring Conference: *An Overview*

Male Involvement Where Dads Matter continues to be an important and lively issue for Healthy Start. At the 2008 Spring Conference in Washington, DC, the Male Involvement Initiative held a roundtable discussion with an overflow crowd. The topic of discussion was "Moving Male Involvement Forward: Methods for Making It Work."

The workshop was a true roundtable discussion with three key subjects – benefits, battles and basics – presented by three committed volunteer leaders of the National Male Involvement Cohort, Sheldon Applewhite, Felecia Allen and Michael Caliguiri. Small group discussions were held at each table. The results of the table discussions were recorded and presented to the larger group that was facilitated by Kenneth Scarborough, the National Cohort Coordinator.

The individual and group discussions were vigorous and thoughtful. The results of the benefits have been experienced by having males / fathers involved, the battles or challenges of getting males / fathers involved and the basics that are essential for males / fathers to become or be involved were summarized and will be used in developing a framework for moving *Male Involvement Where Dads Matter* forward.

Thanks to all those who attended the Conference and the roundtable and the balance of you who continue to support the Initiative. Male Involvement continues to be a priority for a number of Projects and the value it brings to mission and goals of Healthy Start. As a leadership team, we are committed to establishing a solid framework and best practices as we move forward. Be on the lookout for next steps and the work that is still before us.

Continued on page 4

Legislative Update

On the evening of April 30, 2008, the United States Senate unanimously passed the Healthy Start Reauthorization Act. This bill, which authorizes the Healthy Start program through 2013, is an important part in ensuring the long-term health and growth of the program.

While we have succeeded in getting our reauthorization bill through the Senate, it still needs to pass the House. Thanks to your advocacy, the House reauthorization bill has picked up 18 cosponsors in the last several weeks. This is a great start....but we need more cosponsors! If you met with a Congressional office during your time in Washington, PLEASE take a moment and call or send the staffperson an email and remind them that we need more cosponsors on our bill.

Current cosponsors of HR 3267, the Healthy Start Reauthorization Act

Rep. Leonard Boswell [IA-3]
 Rep. Robert A. Brady [PA-1]
 Rep. G.K. Butterfield [NC-1]
 Rep. Michael E. Capuano [MA-8]
 Rep. Andre Carson [IN-7]
 Rep. Yvette D. Clarke [NY-11]
 Rep. Henry Cuellar [TX-28]
 Rep. Keith Ellison [MN-5]
 Rep. Jo Ann Emerson [MO-8]
 Rep. Raul M. Grijalva [AZ-7]
 Rep. Ruben Hinojosa [TX-15]
 Rep. Sheila Jackson-Lee [TX-18]
 Rep. William Jefferson [LA-2]
 Rep. James P. McGovern [MA-3]
 Rep. Gregory W. Meeks [NY-6]
 Rep. Solomon P. Ortiz [TX-27]
 Rep. Fortney Pete Stark [CA-13]
 Rep. Fred Upton [MI-6]

Do not hesitate to contact Jon Terry at jonterry@triangle2.org or 202-558-6582 if you need any assistance with contacting your elected officials or have any questions.

Greetings from the NHSA National Office! from page 3

currently being implemented or pursued by your NHSA national office and Board:

- A Kellogg Foundation sponsored joint effort of NHSA, CityMatCH and AMCHP focused on developing an *Eliminating Health Disparities in Infant Mortality Action Learning Collaborative*, (see article).
- A partnership with the Office of Minority Health to draw attention to *National Infant Mortality Awareness Month* in September 2008.
- Expansion of the *Healthy Start Leadership Training Institute* to cover a wider range of leadership development issues starting in August 2008, (see article).
- A grant proposal with Today's Child Communications, Inc., and the National Head Start Association to improve health literacy.
- A joint effort of the NHSA, CityMatCH, AMCHP and others on a contract proposal to MCHB to develop evidence-based Interconceptional Care and Care Coordination models for high-risk women.

We will explore additional partnership opportunities with the National Football League, the March of Dimes, AMCHP and our AIM partners. Also, *coming soon*, a *free* resource for first time mothers that is being made available through the NHSA to Healthy Start projects by a sponsoring corporation!

We hope that you have a real sense of what you have accomplished nationally through the NHSA over the past 10 years. This is truly an exciting time for the Association! Our future is bright, and we look forward to helping you make that future bright for the thousands of mothers and babies who will receive care and services through your programs in the years to come.

Have a great summer!



Carlton L. Purvis, III
 Interim CEO

Leadership Institute Trained 47 Healthy Start Staff in April

Prior to the Spring Conference, the NHTSA held the third session of the *Healthy Start Leadership Training Institute*. Thirty Healthy Start staff attended the Orientation to Healthy Start module, and 17 participated in the second track, Administrative and Operational Skills for Managers. The Orientation track was led by former NHTSA Board Members Deborah Frazier and Carol Synkewecz, and included presentations by staff of HRSA's Grants Management office and the Division of Healthy Start and Perinatal Services.

Tom Westbrook, Professor of Leadership & Adult Development at Drake University's School of Education in Des Moines, Iowa, offered a two-day module on administering and operating a successful Healthy Start project. Michele Drayton, co-founder of the NHTSA and CEO of Today's Child Communications, addressed the combined group at lunch on the first day.

The next Institute will be held August 14 & 15 in Washington, DC, with four tracks:

- Track I – Orientation to Healthy Start
- Track II – Administrative & Operational Skills for Managers
- Track III – Leadership Practices for Managers
- Track IV – Developing Community-Based Leaders

For more information, contact Lisa Derrick, NHTSA Board Member and member of the Institute Planning Committee, at lisaderrick@mail.maricopa.gov or 602-438-7812.

Congressional Reception



Senator Claire McCaskill (D-MO) with members of the Missouri Healthy Start delegation

A highlight of the Spring Conference was the Congressional Reception held in a private room on the top floor of the Senate Hart Building. After a long day of speakers and workshops at the hotel, the reception provided Healthy Start staff and consumers the chance to relax, enjoy some refreshments and mingle with Members of Congress and Congressional staff.

The reception also provides the NHTSA with an opportunity each year to officially honor several elected leaders who have demonstrated ongoing support for Healthy Start and taken steps to combat infant mortality and low birthweight babies. This year's awardees included Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Senator Richard Burr (R-NC) and Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro (D-CT). Senator Brown and Senator Burr are the lead sponsors on the Senate version of the Healthy Start Reauthorization Act and Congresswoman DeLauro has used her position on the House Appropriations Committee to vigorously fight for increased funding for the Healthy Start program.

Senator Claire McCaskill (D-MO) stopped by the reception and enjoyed a conversation with the Healthy Start delegation from Missouri, including NHTSA board president Cynthia Dean. Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) also made an appearance and provided an enthusiastic speech to the crowd on his commitment to Healthy Start and the importance of providing all mothers with quality health care.

What Participants Say about the Institute

As a consortium coordinator, I deal with many personalities from my community, with many personal agendas...the information provided exceeded my expectations and was extremely relevant and helpful.

My position is directly related to the management of the grant, so information about grant management from HRSA was wonderful.

Now I really know what Healthy Start is all about...the history and information from [the Maternal and Child Health Bureau] was very helpful...it is great to meet the caring women behind the Healthy Start scenes and experts in their field. Thank you.

NHSA Spring Conference PHOTOS



Board Member Tamela Milan leads a group discussion



NHSA's Government Relations Consultant Jon Terry (l) with Board Member Rick Haverkate and Interim Director Carlton Purvis (r)



Vice President of Programs Lo Berry with a young conference participant



Fun in the "Baby Room" at the Spring Conference

FAMILIES AT THE CONFERENCE



Congressional Reception PHOTOS



NHTSA Executive Assistant Kemia Duncan and Spring Conference Logistics Coordinator Bea Haskins sign in people at the Reception



NHTSA's Vice President for Operations & Finance Lisa Matthews and members of the Ohio Healthy Start delegation present Roberta Downing with Senator Sherrod Brown's (D-OH) award as Board Member Will Payne looks on



Joye Rozier, Project Director for Camden Healthy Start, introduces Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ)



Leticia Mederos, Legislative Director to Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), accepts award from New Haven Healthy Start Project Director Delores Greenlee



Future voters enjoy the Congressional Reception on Capitol Hill

Research News:

Pregnant Women Not Always Truthful about Alcohol

Sound familiar? That was the headline from a brief summarizing a recent article in the *American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology*¹. “Women may not always tell the truth about their drinking habits during pregnancy, the findings of a new study hint.”²

Of 103 Swedish women studied, 94 (91%) said they had not consumed alcohol at all during their pregnancy. Nine admitted to drinking while pregnant: six said they drank once a month or less, three said they drank two to four times a month. However, based on hair tests to detect alcohol use, 25% of the women drank during pregnancy while just 8.7% admitted to it. The findings are “discouraging,” the researchers say, given that abstinence from alcohol during pregnancy is recommended.³ The United States is not immune from maternal drinking. In 2005, *The NSDUH Report* said that 9.8% of pregnant woman aged 15-44 reported drinking alcohol in the past month.⁴

Abstinence from alcohol is not just recommended, it is essential, say experts. “No amount of alcohol is safe to drink during your pregnancy,” said Dr. Ira Chasnoff, president of the Children’s Research Triangle in Chicago. “There is no known safe threshold. And the public still doesn’t get it.”⁵ Chasnoff has spent over three decades studying the effects of maternal drug use during pregnancy.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders, or FASD, can result when women drink during pregnancy. FASD is an umbrella term that includes Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS), Partial Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (PFAS), Alcohol-related Neurodevelopmental Disorder (ARND) and Alcohol-related Birth Defects (ARBD). The National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome says FASD affects an estimated 40,000 infants each year.⁶ According to the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, rates of FAS vary depending on the population studied and the survey methods. FAS rates in different areas of the country range from 0.2 to 1.5 per 1,000 live births, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which also says that other types of FASDs occur even more frequently.⁷

The effects of FASD include:

- Specific facial characteristics
- Growth deficits
- Mental retardation
- Heart, lung and kidney defects
- Hyperactivity and behavior problems
- Attention and memory problems
- Poor coordination or motor skills delays
- Difficulty with judgment and reasoning
- Learning disabilities⁸

The CDC says that FAS lasts a lifetime and that there is no cure. “Women can prevent FAS and other problems related to alcohol use by not drinking when they are pregnant or might get pregnant.”⁹ And FAS is not the only result of maternal drinking. A study that excluded children with FAS and was published in the April issue of *Pediatrics*, found that babies of women who used cocaine, alcohol or tobacco may have changes in their brain structure. While the study was small and more research is needed, the lead author said the findings are “highly suggestive.”¹⁰

A recent *Good Morning America Weekend* story, “Can Pregnant Women Drink Alcohol in Moderation?,” presented what the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) call a “mixed message” to pregnant women. As a result, ACOG has reiterated that drinking while pregnant also increases the risk of miscarriage, low birthweight and stillbirth, in addition to FASD.¹¹ “Behavioral problems can include lack of inhibition, poor attention to tasks, hyperactivity and poor impulse control.”¹² According to ACOG, “Women should avoid alcohol entirely while pregnant or trying to conceive because damage can occur in the earliest weeks of pregnancy, even before a woman knows she is pregnant.”¹³

“The biggest tragedy of this problem is that it’s all preventable,” said Chasnoff.¹⁴

Breastfeeding moms should also avoid alcohol, as the alcohol gets to the baby through the breast milk. “Moderate to heavy drinking...can harm the baby’s motor development and cause slow weight gain.”¹⁵

The NHTSA is proud to announce a new partnership with the Children’s Research Triangle, and that Dr. Ira Chasnoff will present at upcoming Leadership Institutes and other NHTSA events.

(Footnotes)

¹ Source: *American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology*, April 2008.

² Harding, Ann, *Pregnant women not always truthful about alcohol*, Reuters, April 24, 2008, www.reuters.com.

³ Ibid.

⁴ *The NSDUH Report*, National Survey on Drug Use and Health, June 2, 2005, www.oas.samhsa.gov/2k5/pregnancy/pregnancy.htm.

⁵ Specht, Sanne, "Health officials urge pregnant women to avoid alcohol," *Mail Tribune*, Oregon, April 1, 2008, <http://www.ntiupstream.com>.

⁶ *FASD: What Everyone Should Know*, National Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (NOFAS), www.nofas.org.

⁷ *Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders*, National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDD), www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/fas/fasak.htm.

⁸ NOFAS, op sit.

⁹ *Fetal Alcohol Syndrome*, MedlinePlus, <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/fetalalcoholsyndrome.html>.

¹⁰ Preidt, Robert. *Fetal Exposure to Substance Abuse Changes Brain Structure*, MedlinePlus, April 7, 2008, http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/print/news/fullstory_63116.html.

¹¹ ACOG News Release, Alcohol and Pregnancy: Know the Facts, February 6, 2008, <http://www.acog.org>.

¹² Specht, op sit.

¹³ ACOG News Release, op sit.

¹⁴ Specht, op sit.

¹⁵ National Women's Health Information Center, *Breastfeeding: Best for Baby, Best for Mom*, 2005, www.4women.gov.

Excellent resources can be found at the March of Dimes website, <http://www.marchofdimes>, as well as those listed in the footnotes.

Healthy Start in the News

Has your Healthy Start project been in the news lately? Send the NHSA links to newspaper articles, TV news stories or radio and TV PSAs so they can be shared with your fellow projects.

STAY IN TOUCH!

Be sure to notify the Association if you change project directors or contact information, such as e-mail addresses or phone numbers. This will keep our records up to date so we can easily notify you of important news.

**Visit the National Healthy Start Association website at:
www.healthystartassoc.org**

BECOME A FRIEND OF HEALTHY START!

**MEMBERS RECEIVE THE QUARTERLY
NEWSLETTER AND OTHER INFORMATIVE
NHSA PUBLICATIONS**

**(SEE PAGE 12 FOR MEMBERSHIP DETAILS,
CONTRIBUTION FORM AND MAILING INFORMATION)**

Partner's Corner: National Partnership for Action to End Health Disparities

The continuing disparity in death and illness for racial and ethnic minorities, compared to the U.S. population as a whole, led to the establishment of the Taskforce on Black and Minority Health in 1985. In establishing the Taskforce, then-Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS), Margaret M. Heckler, described these disparities as an "affront both to our ideals and to the ongoing genius of American medicine."

In 1986, a report of the Taskforce led to establishment of the Office of Minority Health (OMH) within the Office of the Secretary, HHS, to address health concerns of African Americans, Hispanics, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders, and American Indians and Alaska Natives. Among the disparities identified in the Taskforce report is infant mortality, an issue that links the mission of OMH with the work of the National Healthy Start Program and its grantees.

The existence of health disparities for racial and ethnic minority communities remains undisputed – the question



Actions proposed in the Regional Blueprints will be advanced during the 2009 National Leadership Summit to Eliminate Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health.

While programs that are successfully addressing health disparities among racial and ethnic minority communities currently exist, a fundamental principle of the NPA is that their effectiveness can be increased through a collaboration of partners. The NPA will be complemented by health disparities campaigns, which will help mobilize partnerships and communities for action.

The first such campaign is *A Healthy Baby Begins with You*, which launched in 2007 to educate young mothers and fathers in the African American community about infant mortality prevention, SIDS and healthy living. The Spokesperson for the campaign is Tonya Lewis Lee,



that confronts us today is: "What actions can be taken to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of our collective efforts?" To address this and other questions, OMH launched a multi-year initiative entitled the *National Partnership for Action to End Health Disparities (NPA)*.

The mission of the NPA is to increase the effectiveness of programs that target the elimination of health disparities through the coordination of partners, leaders, and stakeholders committed to action. The objectives are to:

- Increase awareness of health disparities
- Strengthen leadership to address health disparities at all levels
- Improve patient-provider communications
- Improve cultural and linguistic competency
- Improve coordination and use of research and evaluation outcomes

OMH has been holding a series of Regional Conversations as part of the NPA to lay the foundation for a comprehensive, community-driven, sustained approach for ending health disparities. The Regional Conversations provide, for the first time, a unique forum for broad-based, open discussions of findings and solutions that can be implemented. The culmination of these meetings is the development of tactical recommendations known as the Regional Blueprint.

attorney, author, producer and wife of filmmaker Spike Lee.

Organizations from all sectors that are willing to implement *A Healthy Baby Begins with You* can join the NPA. Partners may include community- and faith-based organizations, professional societies, government agencies, national non-profit organizations, advocacy groups, foundations, corporations, businesses of all sizes, industry groups and colleges and universities. As members of the NPA, partners agree to support the goals of the NPA and commit to help develop, plan, and implement efforts to reduce or eliminate health disparities.

To bring *A Healthy Baby Begins with You* event to your community, sign up at www.omhrc.gov. OMH will help provide supporting printed and electronic materials, customize the materials to include your logo, organize news conferences for selected events as appropriate, and pitch stories to local and national media.

The NHSA and OMH are joining together for this September's National Infant Mortality Awareness Month. Be on the lookout for information and materials relating to this important national health celebration!

Mark Your Calendars

2008

- **June 18-20, 2008**, Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees, Promoting Immigrant Integration: Leadership in Challenging Times, Chicago, IL, www.gcir.org
- **June 20, 2008**, Nation ASK (Asking Saves Kids) Campaign Day, <http://www.paxusa.org/ask/index.html>
- **July 9-10, 2008**, Partnership for America's Economic Success's Fourth National Economic Forum on Early Childhood Investment, Washington, DC, www.partnershipforsuccess.org
- **July 22-26, 2008**, National Conference of State Legislators' Legislative Summit, New Orleans, LA, www.ncsl.org
- **August 4-7, 2008**, 12th Annual Birth to Three Institute, *A World of Difference for All Infants, Toddlers and Families*, Washington, DC, www.ehsnrc.org
- **August 14 & 15, 2008**, NHTSA's Healthy Start Leadership Training Institute, Washington, DC, www.healthystartassoc.org > Announcements
- **September** is National Infant Mortality Awareness Month! NHTSA, www.nationalhealthystartassoc.org > Announcements
- **September 9-12, 2008**, Association of State and Territorial Health Officials' / National Association of County and City Health Officials' Joint Conference, Sacramento, CA, www.astho.org
- **September 19-20, 2008**, Association of SIDS & Infant Mortality Programs (ASIP) National Conference, *Infants at Risk: Science to Solutions*, Dearborn, MI, http://www.sidsprojectimpact.com/programs/cal-detail.cfm?event_id=212
- **September 20-23, 2008**, CityMatCH 2008 Urban Maternal and Child Health Leadership Conference, *A Life-Course Perspective: Pathways for Improving Practice in Urban MCH*, Albuquerque, NM, www.citymatch.org
- **October 5-8, 2008**, Seventh North American Conference on Shaken Baby Syndrome (Traumatic Brain Injury), Vancouver BC, <http://www.dontshake.org>
- **October 11-14, 2008**, American Academy of Pediatrics' National Conference & Exhibition, Boston, MA, www.aap.org
- **October 25-29, 2008**, American Public Health Association's Annual Conference: *Public Health without Borders*, San Diego, CA, <http://www.apha.org/meetings/pastfuture>
- **December 8-10, 2008**, National Business Group on Health, 22nd Annual Conference on Health, Productivity and Human Capital, San Diego, CA, www.businessgrouphealth.org
- **December 10-12, 2008**, 14th Annual Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Conference, Atlanta, GA, <http://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/MCHepi/2008/AboutConference.htm>

2009

- **March 1-4, 2009**, NHTSA's 10th Annual Spring Conference, Washington, DC, www.healthystartassoc.org > Announcements
- **March 4-6, 2009**, NHTSA's Leadership Training Institute
- **March 18-20, 2009**, Grantmakers in Health, 2009 Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, www.gih.org
- **May 21-25, 2009**, American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry's 62nd Annual Session, Honolulu, HI, www.aapd.org



Become a Friend of Healthy Start!

Since 1991, the Healthy Start Program has been dedicated to reducing the incidence of infant mortality and low birthweight. We are proud of the unique characteristics of this program which are crucial to success. Healthy Start is:

- *Community based:* Long term results depend on a “buy-in” of local communities that takes time and trust to build.
- *Targeted to the Toughest Populations:* Aggressive outreach has proven to be one of the most important tools to reach young women who are pregnant and/or are already mothers, as well as fathers who live in communities with the toughest poverty, drug use and unemployment
- *Labor intensive and personal:* A focus on specific individuals in specific communities has resulted in dramatic changes in the lives of those in the program. It is not unusual for program employees to consist of those who have benefited from the program. The most effective case workers relate to those who face the same challenges they faced.

In 2000, the National Healthy Start Association was pleased that Congress overwhelmingly voted to move the program from the status of a demonstration project to that of a permanent program authorized under federal law. The Association is currently working on the reauthorization of the Healthy Start program.

Despite its successful track record, Healthy Start’s funding was reduced several years ago, and the National Healthy Start Association is dedicated to reversing this trend. In some project areas, infant mortality has begun to rise again because of insufficient funding.

We ask you to join the National Healthy Start Association and work with us to ensure that this *program receives the funding needed to serve all eligible communities. What could be more important than reducing infant mortality? Only one-third of the 300 eligible communities currently receive funding.* We need you to become a friend of Healthy Start by sending your contribution to NHSA today!

Friends of Healthy Start receive the quarterly e-newsletter, *Getting off to a Healthy Start*, and monthly email research updates and other alerts and notices. Please join today.

The NHSA depends on contributions from supporters, as well as members. If you would like to become a Friend of Healthy Start, please complete the form below and send it today with your check.

I/we want to be a Friend of Healthy Start and enclose a check to National Healthy Start Association, Inc.

- \$25 Individual
- \$50 Community-based organizations; local businesses and corporations
- \$100 State or regional organizations, businesses or corporations
- \$200 National organizations, businesses or corporations
- Additional contribution enclosed \$ _____

Name _____ Company Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____

Zip _____

E-mail _____

Please return this form with your check to: National Healthy Start Association, Inc., P.O. Box 25227, Baltimore, MD21229-0327.

The National Healthy Start Association, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Consult your tax advisor. Copies of NHSA's annual financial report may be obtained by writing to National Healthy Start Association, Inc., P.O. Box 25227, Baltimore, MD 21229-0327. Documents and information filed under the Maryland charitable organization laws can be obtained, for the cost of copies and postage, from the Office of the Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis, MD 21401, (800) 825-4510 (for residents of Maryland).