

Our thanks...

The Healthy Start team is constantly in awe of the community we're privileged to be a part of, from the families we work with, who want to create the best, healthiest opportunities for their babies, to our donors and volunteers, who believe strongly in our mission, to the community partners we engage with to, collectively, help move the needle on Maternal Child Health outcomes. During this season of gratitude, we're particularly mindful of – and grateful for - the special individuals, families, and organizations that we're connected with. Thank you for your commitment to Manatee County moms, babies, and families!

With our limited space, here, we'd like to extend our thanks to our dedicated donors and volunteers who've supported our work over the last few months. We're so grateful to author Danielle Palli for her ongoing donations, which come from a portion of the sales of her children's yoga book, *Anna in Paris*. We can't thank enough the women of the Loving Stitches Ministry at Our Lady of the Angels Church for their ongoing donations of beautifully hand-made baby booties, hats, and blankets over the years. Our families benefit greatly from the special hand-crafted Moses bassinet liners and quilts that the Trinity Lutheran Church community donates regularly. Our dedicated volunteer "buyer," Norma Baker, helps keep our Moms' Closet stocked with her regular donations of baby clothes and toys, throughout the year.

We're also so fortunate to have the ongoing support of the Democratic Women's Club (DWC), who generously donate Christmas gifts, annually! Our board member and DWC member, Patty Benson, made the delivery this year, and we were finally able to present our Donor of the Year

Award to DWC during her visit, as they weren't able to attend our annual meeting last May to receive it. Patty, also a member of the local American Association of University Women, brought diaper donations on behalf of this amazing organization, as well. Our heartfelt thanks to these generous, thoughtful women, who always remember Healthy Start families at this time of year!



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Healthy Start Coalition of Manatee County, Inc.

410 43rd Street West
Suite N
Bradenton, FL 34209

P: 941-714-7541
F: 941-714-7544

www.hsmanatee.com 

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Established in 1992

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New, Collaborative Approach to Serving Families: Coordinated Intake & Referral

As part of a statewide program redesign, all Healthy Start Coalitions across the state are tasked with developing their own locally-informed Coordinated Intake & Referral (CI&R) system and as one of the first coalitions to pilot this effort, Healthy Start Manatee was thrilled for the opportunity to share our model at the 2017 CityMatCH Maternal Child Health Leadership Conference & Healthy Start Convention in Nashville this past summer.

Healthy Start Manatee staff Lauren Blenker and Marissa Bressi discussed the successes and challenges of forming a local team of partners to coordinate efforts and connect families to appropriate services, while maximizing resources available in the county. This included developing a referral algorithm with small target populations and using the Continuous Quality Improvement framework to conduct testing cycles to perfect the referral process. The CI&R pilot initially focused on parenting and pregnant teenagers, then expanded to include first time mothers, and now also incorporates moms in four targeted zip codes throughout the county. By July 1, 2018, testing of the CI&R referral algorithm will include the entire county.

Healthy Start Manatee, along with several other coalitions in the state, received funding from the Florida Maternal Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Initiative (MIECHV) to develop the CI&R pilot framework and are, now, providing peer support and technical assistance for those Healthy Starts working to implement the approach as part of the redesign process.



Family Outreach and Education

The Healthy Start team shared lots of information on Maternal Child Health with Manatee County families at the Home Visiting Coalition's holiday party, where attendees enjoyed photos with Santa, arts and crafts, music, and games, along with access to useful community resource information.



Our team also connected with close to 200 family members at the school district's Migrant Education Program's resource fair, where we provided information on Healthy Start programs and services. Families also enjoyed a visit from Santa, fun activities, and culturally and linguistically appropriate resource information.



Striving to Offer the Best Services Possible

In our ongoing quest to best meet the needs of our clients, the Healthy Start team participated in two, full-day trainings in the last quarter. In November, we had a great day of learning, sharing and team building during the "Strategies for Effectively Engaging Families," training, facilitated by Robin Hart with Healthy Families Florida. This included special presentations by our partners, Barbara Brownell with Parenting Matters, and Anna Cismesia with Healthy Families Manatee. The session highlighted proven methods to connect with, engage and guide vulnerable families to voluntarily participate, follow through, and make choices that can improve outcomes.



In December, the team attended the "Interconception Care Curriculum for the Healthy Start Program" training, which afforded our Care Coordinators an opportunity to strengthen their skills around working with women between/before pregnancies. This curriculum is based on the understanding that prenatal care often starts too late to prevent many poor pregnancy outcomes. Women who are as healthy as possible, before conceiving, have healthier reproductive outcomes.



Healthy Start Manatee Risk Screening Data

The Healthy Start system of care utilizes a one-page risk screening tool for obstetric and pediatric providers, as well as other health professionals to identify and refer women and infants who may benefit from our program. This collaborative system helps ensure that women who need our services are able to readily access them.

The Florida Department of Health collects prenatal and infant screening data on a regular basis for all counties. For the first quarter of this fiscal year, 1,366 pregnant women have been screened, making Manatee County's prenatal screening rate 81.6%. In addition, 1,307 mothers of infants were screened, making the infant screening rate 86.0%.

We are grateful to all of our provider partners who voluntarily conduct Healthy Start patient screening, including the OB practitioners listed here:



Prenatal Risk Screening Rates for Manatee Residents by OB/GYN Providers July 1, 2017 to October 31, 2017	
Provider	Number of Screens
East Manatee Women's Health Center*	6
Edgar H. Price, Jr. OB/GYN*	28
Lakewood Ranch OB/GYN	50
OB/GYN Women's Center	67
River Landings OB/GYN*	122
Premier OB/GYN	25
University Park OB/GYN	45
West Manatee OB/GYN*	478
Providers in Other Counties	315
Total	1,136

*Denotes MCR Health Services Locations (formerly known as Manatee County Rural Health Services)

Healthy Start Coalition of Manatee County, Inc. receives funding from:



AGENCY FOR HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATION

What Moms Say About Their Experience with Healthy Start's Infant Safe Sleep Campaign

Jasmine, the loving mom of two-month old Cameron, shared with us that she couldn't afford a crib or pack n'play, but she didn't want to co-sleep with Baby Cameron, knowing that having his own sleep space would be the safest for him. So she was very grateful to Healthy Start for providing a pack n'play and being able to help her give her baby the safest, healthiest start in life.



Esperanza's five-month old infant, Gael, had been safely sleeping in a bassinet. However, at 5 months, he was outgrowing it, so Esperanza, also knowing the sleep safety guidelines- thanks to the outreach and education of our Care Coordinators- called Healthy Start to see if they might be able to receive a pack n'play. Baby Gael now has a safe place to sleep, which will last him at least another year, when the risk of SIDS/SUID decreases significantly.

Healthy Start was able to provide pack n'plays to these precious babies thanks to a generous grant we received from the Lakewood Ranch Community Fund during their 2016-17 grant cycle.