

# Starting Off Right

A Quarterly Newsletter from  
Healthy Start Coalition of Jefferson,  
Madison & Taylor Counties, Inc.

SPRING 2017



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## Fulfilling the Promise to Mothers and Babies

The positive impact of health education services delivered at a client's home, especially for at-risk populations, is nothing short of astounding. Home visiting provides benefits that are both permanent and life changing. Moms and babies are healthier, children are safer and better prepared for school, and families are far more self-sufficient.

While each of these benefits is notable, one financial measure speaks volumes: **Every \$1 invested in home visiting results in \$5.70 in savings.** Still, it all begins with Healthy Start.

As we celebrate our 25th Anniversary, the Healthy Start Coalition of Jefferson, Madison & Taylor Counties joins our sister coalitions throughout the state in launching the Coordinated Intake and Referral program, which is designed to ensure that at-risk mothers get enrolled in both Healthy Start and all relevant affiliated programs.

"Coordinated Intake and Referral is the assertion of Healthy Start at the epicenter of a system of care for pregnant women and infants. This streamlined process is a commitment to continuous quality improvement and the inclusion of families in the services that best fit their needs. This fulfills the Coalition's vision: 'By 2020, every pregnant woman residing in JMT is offered evidence-based home visiting services, resulting in the best start in life for her baby.'" says HSJMT Executive Director Donna Hagan.



*Celebrating* **25**  
SERVING MOMS & BABIES  
years

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# What is Home Visiting? Why is it Making Such a Difference?



Consider the basics. Home visiting programs consist of visits from social workers and parent educators to low-income families with pregnant mothers and babies in the home. The visitors provide health checkups, referrals, parenting advice, and guidance with navigating other programs. The visits usually take no longer than an hour, and although they're voluntary, once mothers and families engage the programs with fidelity, health outcomes compared to those who don't participate are like night and day.

In the end, the results speak for themselves:

- ▶ Child development and school readiness
- ▶ Child health
- ▶ Family economic self-sufficiency
- ▶ Linkages and referrals to other services
- ▶ Maternal health
- ▶ Positive parenting practices
- ▶ Reduction in child maltreatment
- ▶ Reduction in juvenile delinquency, family violence, and crime

## Getting started is the key ...

To review our HIPAA-compliant and convenient referral process, please visit [www.healthystartjmt.org/gettingstarted](http://www.healthystartjmt.org/gettingstarted).

For more information regarding CI&R or to discuss the Healthy Start referral network, please email [cakins@healthystartjmt.org](mailto:cakins@healthystartjmt.org) or phone (850) 948-2741.



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*Madison County Members:*

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## Resource Directory Promotes Referrals and Local Providers

In an ongoing effort to support our partners and promote the referral process, HSJMT continues to introduce best media practices to better connect and accommodate our target populations. Our upgraded resource directory was designed with that in mind.

### Let us know how we can customize your link ...

Please visit [www.healthystartjmt.org/resourcedirectory](http://www.healthystartjmt.org/resourcedirectory) to familiarize yourself with your new resource page. Type your organization name into the search box or simply navigate through the categories. Once you locate your entry, just let us know any changes you prefer. And if you're not listed yet, we'll add you immediately.

Please email us at [resourcedirectory@healthystartjmt.org](mailto:resourcedirectory@healthystartjmt.org) with any suggestions, and feel free to include any images you would like to have placed in your listing, along with any corrections or updates.

Since Healthy Start serves as a point of entry when we conduct our state mandated postpartum survey, the goal of our directory is to better promote the provider network, which represents the supporting services that are needed by our families.





## Healthy Families Hosts Pinwheels for Prevention to Eliminate Child Abuse

One child is too many ...

Pinwheels for Prevention is designed to increase awareness of child abuse prevention efforts throughout Florida by highlighting programs and activities that promote healthy child development and prevention of child abuse. The campaign, which is held during Child Abuse Prevention Month, is coordinated by Prevent Child Abuse (PCA) Florida, the Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida, and the Florida Department of Children and Families, and was created to heighten awareness of the proven ideas that child abuse is preventable.



*The local Healthy Families team displays pinwheels to show their commitment to childhood health and safety. Pictured in historic Greenville, left to right, are Tonya Bell (FAW/CCHW), Tonya Cason (FSW), Elizabeth Gooden (FSW), Cynthia Monroe-Harris (FSW), Candida Akins (FAW), and Program Manager Rebecca Severin.*

*Celebrating* **25** years  
SERVING MOMS & BABIES

**Healthy Start**  
**25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

**April 25 • 9:30 a.m.**

**Jefferson County R.J. Bailer Public Library**  
**375 South Water Street • Monticello, Fla. 32344**