State funding aids Goodwill with Nurse-Family Partnership expansion

The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH), Maternal and Child Health Division, has awarded $6.5M to Goodwill of Central & Southern Indiana to expand its Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) in 19 Indiana counties beginning in 2018.

Expanding the program will allow NFP to serve all but two of the 13 Indiana counties with the highest infant mortality rates. Infant mortality rates (IMR) are measured by the number of infants who die before their first birthday. Factors that influence IMR include inadequate prenatal care, smoking during pregnancy and unsafe sleep conditions.

The state funding will provide funds for three new teams of registered nurses and bring NFP services to 600 new families. Goodwill NFP is currently working with more than 600 families in Indiana.

NFP is a national, evidence-based model that supports mothers before and after their babies are born, until infants are two-years-old. It pairs first-time, low-income mothers with registered nurses who provide free, home visits that focus on healthy lifestyle, stress management, breastfeeding and life goals. Families are also connected with community resources that support the physical, mental and financial health of the entire family. This can range from helping a client go back to school to helping them find a job or housing.

Once children reach age two, mothers can then enroll in Goodwill’s NFP graduate program, which focuses on education and employment support for the mother.

GCSI is the only Goodwill in the country that includes NFP as part of its health outreach efforts. NFP Indiana, in collaboration with ISDH, has helped support nearly 2,300 families since it began in 2011.

The NFP expansion includes Bartholomew, Carroll, Clinton, Delaware, Grant, Hendricks, Henry, Howard, Johnson, Madison, Marion, Montgomery, Morgan, Randolph, Shelby, Tipton, Tippecanoe, Wayne and White counties. For more information contact nfp@goodwillindy.org or 317.524.3999.

Goodwill of Central and Southern Indiana serves 39 counties and employs 3,500 Hoosiers. Goodwill offers a variety of employment, education and health services geared toward helping individuals and families become economically self-sufficient. Learn more at goodwillindy.org or call 317.524.4313.

Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) currently serves more than 33,000 low-income moms in 42 states, the U.S. Virgin Islands and six Tribal communities. Since program replication began in 1996, it has worked with more than 269,000 families. Three decades of research show that NFP is successful in improving maternal health and birth outcomes, preventing child abuse, increasing children’s school readiness and reducing juvenile crime. Learn more at goodwillindy.org/nfp.

To combat unacceptable rates of infant mortality in Indiana, the Indiana State Department of Health, Maternal and Child Health Division, created the MCH MOMS Helpline that provides information and referral resources for expectant mothers and new parents. For more information call the MCH MOMS Helpline at 1-844-MCH-MOMS (1-844-624-6667) or visit https://mch.isdh.in.gov/MomsHelpLine. To learn more about ways to reduce Indiana’s infant mortality rate, visit the ISDH Labor of Love website at www.laboroflove.in.gov