

Save the Date

Child's Play  
Family Photos

Oct. 2, 3, 16 & 17  
Nov. 6, 7 & 26

at the  
Wellness  
Community



LOOK

for the next copy of the  
*Eye On* newsletter in  
*The News Journal!* The issue  
will appear as an insert  
in the paper this Fall.  
More details to follow!

YES!

I would like to receive my  
copy of *Eye On* via email!  
Send us an email at  
info@cffde.org or  
call 302-658-5177 x249.



# Eye on...



Offices in:

Wilmington ■ Newark ■ Claymont ■ Dover ■ Milford ■ Georgetown ■ Seaford

Officers

Edward W. Goate, Ph.D. President	Carol Gausz-Mandelberg Vice President	Patricia A. Gallagher, Esq. Treasurer	Gilbert S. Scarborough, III Assistant Treasurer	Gregg C. Sylvester, M.D. Secretary
-------------------------------------	--	--	--	---------------------------------------

Board

Aguida Atkinson, M.D.  
Sandra H. Autman  
Angela B. Case  
Mary Jo Chandler  
P. Clarkson Collins, Jr., Esq.  
Katy Connolly  
Nancy A. Doorey  
Ann Dunkelberger  
David J. J. Facciolo, Esq.  
George W. Forbes, III  
Muriel E. Gilman  
Hon. Mary M. Johnston  
Thomas F. Jones, Jr., FHFMA  
Edward Kaufman  
John W. Land  
Anthony J. Lewis  
Carl F. McMillan  
Thomas J. Mumford, Ph.D.

Tony Plohoros  
Iris Rosa  
John F. Schmutz, Esq.  
Vicky Schowe  
Arlene Smalls, MD  
Barbara F. Soulier

Honorary Board

Max S. Bell, Jr., Esq.  
Robert M. Brown  
Mrs. Walter D. Mertz  
Charles F. Richards, M.D.

Advisory Board

Francis J. Ackerman  
Joan McD. Connolly  
Ellen M. Cooper, Esq.  
Karen D. Doherty  
Gloria S. Fine

Megan T. Goeller  
Stephen M. Mockbee  
Elizabeth T.B. Pierson  
Lynn Herrick Sharp  
Joanne K. Sundheim, Esq.  
Mary E. Valiante

Past President's  
Emeritus Board

Carol Harlan Aastad  
Dr. Lozelle J. Deluz  
James H. Gilliam, Sr.  
Susan A. Herrman  
Stephen R. Permut, M.D.  
June Jenkins Peterson  
David B. Ripsom, Esq.  
A. Judson Wells, Ph.D.

Alvin Snyder, A.C.S.W.  
Executive Director  
Katherine L. Esterly, M.D.  
Medical Director

658-5177  
in New Castle County  
856-2388  
in Sussex County  
674-8384  
in Kent County

We're on the web:  
www.cffde.org



## The Resource Mothers Program



Spring 2004

Non-Profit  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Wilmington, DE  
Permit No. 1263

Strengthening Families  
Building Community  
2005 Baynard Boulevard  
Wilmington, DE 19802-3999



# According to the 2004 Kids Count Data Book, Delaware has the highest rate of infant mortality in our nation. The Resource Mothers Program can help...



Six-month-old Shawn is much too young to understand the fact that he has already beaten tremendous odds. But his mom, Neen Klotz, certainly understands. She fully appreciates that each new day with him is a gift.

When Klotz first learned she was pregnant, she was stunned. Already the mother of two teenage boys, the 39-year-old Milford resident had been told by doctors for years that she would be unable to have more children. Klotz reached her third trimester and, though excited about another baby, had not yet accessed prenatal care. She heard about the Resource Mothers

Program and was put on a respirator. He was transferred almost immediately to Christiana Medical Center. Powell quickly arranged emergency housing near the hospital, where the new mom could rest from surgery and still be close by to Shawn.

The Resource Mothers, a program formerly of the Perinatal Association of Delaware, became part of Children & Families when the agencies merged last May. The program assists at-risk pregnant women statewide get the prenatal care and support they need to ensure a healthy baby. This includes transportation to medical appointments, referrals to social services, as well as education on parenting, nutrition and healthy lifestyles. Staff, known as Resource Mothers, provide 24/7, on-call support during the pregnancy that continues until the child is one year old.

"A Resource Mother provides mentoring each step of the way. Some of them have been in similar situations as the women they now help. As a result, staff can better identify with clients and this allows a trusting relationship to form," says Mariann Powell, RN, Program Coordinator. "We try to make sure whatever needs to be done gets done so women have healthy babies. We educate mothers on everything from proper nutrition and the dangers of smoking to preparing for delivery to child development. We encourage them to take care of themselves so they will be able to provide the best care to their baby."

As the pregnancy progressed, Klotz developed toxemia (pre-eclampsia), one of many life-threatening factors. Her blood pressure rose, resulting in less oxygen to Shawn's brain. Doctors at Milford Memorial Hospital were forced to deliver the baby pre-term by cesarean section at 37 weeks. At just 5 lb., 4 oz., Shawn battled breathing problems and

services during pregnancy and, after the baby is born, make sure the family has a medical home to receive proper immunizations and follow up care. "It's a team effort with the community throughout the entire process," explains Powell. Services are offered free of charge due to funding by the United Way of Delaware, grants from the State as well as private and corporate contributions. In 2003, 437 mothers and 327 babies received services. The infant mortality rate was 1%. Babies involved in the program had a higher immunization rate than the general population.

Although some women come to the Resources Mothers Program through word-of-mouth, many are referred by doctors, police, shelters, Public Health, social service agencies, clinics, or hospitals. The program targets at-risk pregnant women regardless of age or number of children.

Resource Mothers, many of whom are bilingual, help women access community

services during pregnancy and, after the baby is born, make sure the family has a medical home to receive proper immunizations and follow up care. "It's a team effort with the community throughout the entire process," explains Powell. Services are offered free of charge due to funding by the United Way of Delaware, grants from the State as well as private and corporate contributions. In 2003, 437 mothers and 327 babies received services. The infant mortality rate was 1%. Babies involved in the program had a higher immunization rate than the general population.

Effective prenatal care significantly lowers the likelihood of having a baby with low birth weight, a condition that can lead to long-term health problems and even infant death. Factors that often contribute to low birth weight include smoking or substance abuse during pregnancy, low maternal weight gain, lack of prenatal care, age of the mother, and overall poor maternal health.\*

With challenges in the past, Klotz is now focused on a healthy future for her son. Shawn is strong at 18 lbs. "We call him the miracle baby," she says. "I could not have gotten this far without [Resource Mothers]. To have just walked in there one day not knowing what was going to happen and now to have Shawn — I feel grateful and blessed."

Infant Mortality Rate (Deaths to infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births)	
U.S.	6.8
Delaware	10.7
New Castle County	9.1
Wilmington	14.0
Kent County	9.0
Sussex County	8.7



### How You Can Help

- Make a monetary donation to Children & Families First
- Organize a diaper drive
- Donate new infant clothes, blankets, cribs and car seats
- Donate a minivan or car in good condition

For more information about the Resource Mothers Program, call:

**654-1088**  
New Castle County

**422-8013**  
Kent/Sussex Counties



Neen Klotz with son Shawn

Program through word-of-mouth and approached them for assistance.

"I think I had the word 'Help!' written all over me when I walked in," remembers Klotz. "I was scared and desperate." Staff immediately arranged medical appointments and began the process of planning for a new baby. "I came in empty-handed, but left with diapers, baby clothes, formula, and referrals to places like WIC (Women, Infants, and Children Program)," she says.



### Mark Your Calendars!

"The Perfect Gift" Sponsored by The Christmas Shop Foundation

Opening Night Party - November 8

General Shopping Days - November 9, 10, 11

A portion of the proceeds will purchase a new van for The Resource Mothers Program!

Thank you!

\*Source: Kids Count in Delaware, Fact Book 2004.