



For Immediate release

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March of Dimes Awards Grant to Preemies Today in Order to Improve the Health of Mothers and Babies throughout the DC Metropolitan Area and Baltimore Communities

(Springfield, VA, January 17, 2012)—The March of Dimes Maryland National Capital Area Chapter has awarded a grant to Preemies Today to support *Education to Reduce the Risk of Preterm Births for NICU Parents*, that is aimed at underserved maternal and child health needs in the Washington DC and Baltimore metropolitan areas. This project will create a culturally sensitive video that demonstrates methods families can use to decrease their risk for a subsequent preterm birth and improve health and development outcomes of their post-NICU graduate babies. It is known that mothers who delivery prematurely are at greater risk for subsequent premature births and children born prematurely are at higher risk for developmental delays.

“We will use this grant as seed money to meet our objective of providing mothers and babies with risk reduction education,” said Mary Beth Hazelgrove, Executive Director of Preemies Today. “We are grateful to those volunteers who support the March of Dimes by participation in events like March for Babies and who donate in other ways. That participation and those donations make this grant possible,” she said.

Preemies Today is a volunteer-based organization whose mission is to advocate for families experiencing the traumatic event of a premature birth. Founded in 2003, Preemies Today provides parent-to-parent support, educational lectures, NICU baby showers, NICU Care bags, and social opportunities for families affected by prematurity. For more information, visit the Preemies Today website at PreemiesToday.org.

The March of Dimes is a national voluntary health agency whose mission is to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature births and infant mortality. Founded in 1938, the March of Dimes funds research, community services, education, and advocacy to save babies and in 2003 launched a campaign to address the increasing rate of premature birth. For more information, visit the March of Dimes website at marchofdimes.com or its Spanish language website at nacersano.org.

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