

PRESS RELEASE

July 15, 2003

**MASON COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
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TO: KMAS, KRXY, SHELTON-MASON COUNTY JOURNAL, THE OLYMPIAN, SHELTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, NORTH MASON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, CITY OF SHELTON, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, THE SUN

Re: Mason County Department of Health Services awarded March of Dimes Grant for Nurse-Family Partnership Program

First time parents have many challenges today and most lack extended family support and resources. This can have an impact on the health of the fetus and the parenting family. Mason County Department of Health Services is the recent recipient of a \$10,000 March of Dimes Grant to enhance the home visitation program that focuses on first time, low income, pregnant mothers and their babies.

March of Dimes has a mission to improve the health of babies by preventing prematurity, birth defects and infant mortality. The Nurse-Family Partnership Program helps women improve their prenatal health and pregnancy outcomes, children's health and development, and personal development through a home visitation program that partners a Public Health Nurse with the family.

The grant will assist the program in distributing educational packets to potential clients covering many health issues relevant to having a healthy pregnancy and birth including the use of folic acid by women who are planning to become pregnant. Grant funds will also be used to provide educational materials and supplies to enrolled participants, to further encourage clients engagement and benefit from the program.

For information contact: Steve Kutz, Health Services Director at 360-427-9670 Ext. 260.

Ron Henrickson, Mason County Administrator