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March of Dimes Awards Grant to Providence Hospital in order to Improve the Health of Mothers and Babies in Washington, DC

(Washington, DC, May 8, 2008)—The March of Dimes Maryland-National Capital Area Chapter has awarded a grant to Providence Hospital to support The Center for Life Centering Pregnancy Program, which is aimed at underserved maternal and child health needs here in the Greater Washington DC area. This program will increase the availability and quality of health care and/or prevention services for pregnant women.

The Centering Pregnancy model provides prenatal care to groups of up to 15 pregnant women including teens, sometimes as young as 13, with due dates within one month of each other. This total-care approach not only provides necessary prenatal medical care, evaluation, and monitoring, but also important educational information and emotional support. This model, led by a certified nurse midwife, takes the women out of the waiting room and places them in direct contact with the health care provider for two hours on each of ten visits.

Additionally, this funding will support a Centering Pregnancy and Parenting Association Workshop held in June 2008 at Providence Hospital for prenatal health care providers in the Washington, DC metropolitan area who are interested in learning more about this new option to improve health outcome for mothers and their babies.

This grant is one of many that the March of Dimes awards in pursuit of its mission to prevent birth defects and infant mortality.

“We will use the March of Dimes grant as seed money to meet our objective of providing mothers and babies with Centering Pregnancy,” said Debra Keith, CNM, Director of the Center for Life. “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.

Providence Hospital is a Catholic Health ministry committed to providing spiritually centered, holistic care, serving all persons with special attention to those who are poor and vulnerable. Providence

provides the services most needed by area residents including acute care, community health, short-term and long-term care, rehabilitation, and behavioral health. For more information, visit www.provhosp.org.

The March of Dimes is the leading nonprofit organization for pregnancy and baby health. With chapters nationwide and its premier event, March for Babies, the March of Dimes works to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality. For the latest resources and information, visit marchofdimes.com or nacersano.org.

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