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March of Dimes Awards Grant to Jericho Road Community Health Center's Priscilla Project

Buffalo, NY, February 6, 2015—March of Dimes has awarded a grant of \$36,050 to Jericho Road Community Health Center (JRCHC) to support the Priscilla Project, a program that provides care and support to refugee women in Buffalo giving birth in the United States for the first time. This grant marks the first time that March of Dimes has awarded to JRCHC.

“We are honored that March of Dimes has awarded us with this grant,” said Anna Ireland, Chief Program Officer at JRCHC, “since it will allow us to expand and improve quality of care to some of the most vulnerable and underserved communities in Buffalo.”

The grant will help the Priscilla Project pursue certification to become identified as a national best practice model by the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs' Innovation Station. The grant will also provide salary support for part-time, multilingual doulas, who are indispensable in the success of the Priscilla Project towards providing quality care and support for refugee women.

“Through this grant,” said Ireland, “we are able to take steps towards meeting one of our long-term program goals through becoming certified through the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs. We are also expanding our services to meet the needs of our growing client base. We couldn't be happier than to partner with the March of Dimes to meet these needs.”

The Priscilla Project, a program of JRCHC, serves low-income refugee women who are disproportionately at-risk for birth complications. Refugee women are often linguistically and culturally isolated and many live in poverty, which can negatively impact their access to prenatal care. The Priscilla Project relieves these disparities by partnering high-risk refugee women with volunteer mentors who assist these women through their pregnancy until three-months post-delivery. Additionally, each refugee woman in the project is paired with a trained, bilingual, culturally representative doula. Through the Priscilla Project, women also receive classes in

their primary language on topics such as prenatal nutrition, breastfeeding, what to expect at United States' hospitals, and classes on early care for their babies. A final result of this project is that refugee women not only gain access to health education and prenatal care, but also a network of support through participation with other women in the program.

The March of Dimes is the leading nonprofit organization for pregnancy and baby health. For more than 75 years, moms and babies have benefited from March of Dimes research, education, vaccines, and breakthroughs.

JRCHC provides a culturally sensitive medical home, especially for refugee and low-income community members, facilitating wellness and self-sufficiency by addressing health, education, economic, and spiritual barriers in order to demonstrate Jesus' unconditional love for the whole person.

See more information about JRCHC's work in Buffalo at www.jrchc.org.

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