



# JEWISH RENAISSANCE MEDICAL CENTER, Inc.

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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **MARCH OF DIMES AWARDS THE JEWISH RENAISSANCE MEDICAL CENTER WITH GRANT TO SUPPORT CENTERING PREGNANCY INITIATIVE (CPI)**

**CEO:**

Robert J. Bodnar

**PERTH AMBOY, NJ** (February 17, 2017) - The Jewish Renaissance Medical Center (JRMC) was awarded by the March of Dimes NJ a \$28,000 grant to improve the extent, quality, and impact of its Centering Pregnancy Initiative.

Situated in JRMC's central facility in mid-town Perth Amboy and operating within the Women's Wellness Unit, the Centering Pregnancy Initiative (CPI) is an innovative 'group care' program that brings pregnant women together for their prenatal visits and provides them support and education as they navigate toward the safe delivery and health of their babies. Through health assessments, interactive learning, and community building, the CPI empowers their patients and solidifies the patient-provider relationships.<sup>1</sup>

"The March of Dimes is thrilled to partner with Jewish Renaissance Medical Center on this grant to reduce preterm birth rates in the Perth Amboy area," states Laurie Navin, the Maternal & Child Health Director for the March of Dimes-New Jersey Chapter. "This grant will provide intensive group care and supportive services that will help improve health, reduce stress, and encourage early and regular prenatal care. The social determinants of health are a vital piece of a family's overall health and we applaud their efforts to reduce those barriers."

<sup>1</sup> (2009). Retrieved December 7, 2016, from <https://www.centeringhealthcare.org/>

Benefits that make the Centering Pregnancy Initiative stand out include:

- Peer support and bonding made among the women in the program through the group care approach along with a more direct connection to JRMC's medical professionals
- Increase in the number of enrolled women having prenatal visits during their first trimester along with the increased intensity of care and treatment during their pre-partum period
- Individualized treatment plans to encourage compliance and retention while
- addressing social and economic barriers
- Patient Navigation to guide pregnant women comfortably through public benefits, including assistance in securing prenatal care products, baby clothing, baby food, and other essential items for participants and their unborn babies
- Collaborative care by connecting high-risk pregnancies with Maternal & Fetal Specialists within the Perth Amboy area and region

“The benefits from this grant will continue to support our mission in providing our expectant mothers with the comprehensive, personalized care, education, and support they need for themselves and for their babies”, states Linda Peloquin, RN, the Centering Pregnancy Program Coordinator, JRMC.

“The successful implementation of CPI along with this incredibly valuable partnership with the March of Dimes will increase the prenatal care rates of the pregnant women we care for and bridge the gap between the patients and the healthcare system by educating and supporting women through the process of pregnancy”, states Dr. Alan J. Goldsmith, PhD, President/Founder of JRMC.

### ***March of Dimes New Jersey***

Founded by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the mission of the March of Dimes is to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth, and infant mortality. The March of Dimes has strongly advocated this mission through dedicated education on healthy pregnancy, prenatal care, and providing support for families whose babies need specialized NICU care.

### ***About the Jewish Renaissance Medical Center***

As a faith-based, federally qualified health center, the Jewish Renaissance Medical Center is committed to delivering preventative and quality medical services to the underserved and the underserved. It offers a full range of health services including but not limited to dental health, women's wellness, nutrition, and pediatric care in the community and school-based health centers in Perth Amboy, and Newark, and Somerset County.