

## MEDIA RELEASE

### *Canton City Health Department*

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#### **For Immediate Release**

#### **Stark County THRIVE Announces Grants to Grassroots and Faith-based Non-Profits**

CANTON, OHIO – The Canton City Health Department on behalf of Stark County THRIVE announced today that two grants totaling \$70,000 over a two year period were awarded to local organizations as part of a competitive application and review process. These faith-based agencies will implement or expand programming to improve infant mortality and disparity rates focusing on African-American women of childbearing age and fathers residing in the zip codes most at-risk for poor birth outcomes.

*George Dunwoody Foundation, Canton* - \$20,000 to support programs for parents and caregivers with making healthy choices, parenting skills and mentorships for fathers to become better informed as to the needs of their child.

*Family Empowerment Ministries, Alliance* - \$50,000 to support post birth education on safe sleep, smoking cessation and connection to existing community resources including Certified Community Health Workers. Caregivers who successfully complete the series of education classes will receive diapers and baby wipes each month for a year.

Managed by the Canton City Health Department, Stark County THRIVE (Toward Health Resiliency for Infant Vitality and Equity) is a collaboration and partnership between Stark County residents, organizations, agencies, and businesses focused on preventing and reducing the rates of infant deaths and disparities in birth outcomes.

The overarching goal is that all Stark County babies will celebrate their first birthday.

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