

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Stark County District Library offering infant sleep training and supplies in collaboration with THRIVE

May 5, 2016 (Canton, Ohio) – Stark County District Library is offering safe sleep training and supplies to parents of newborns and expectant parents. The Cribs for Kids Safe Sleep Training program is addressing the issue of high infant mortality in the United States and in the Stark County area.

Cribs for Kids Safe Sleep Training will be offered at the Main Library on Thursday, June 2, 2016 from noon through 3:00pm. Participants are not required to register and may stop into the library anytime between noon and 3:00 on June 2. To qualify for a free kit, parents or caretakers must be at least 32 weeks pregnant or have a child under one year old. Recipients must also be eligible for WIC, in need of a safe place for an infant to sleep, and willing to receive a follow-up one month later. The program is a free service provided to the community through the THRIVE collaborative.

Participants will be trained on how to reduce the risk of SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) and will also receive a Safe Sleep Kit, which includes a safe sleep sack, a book and DVD on the topic, and a Pack 'n Play. The Safe Sleep Kit includes items that public health officials have deemed to be effective in preventing SIDS.

Training and supplies are provided through the Stark County THRIVE Collaborative. THRIVE stands for Toward Health Resilience for Infant Vitality and Equity. The THRIVE collaborative includes a diverse membership from government, social services, mental health, non-profit agencies, and the community, committed to solving the infant mortality problem in Stark County. Recently released figures indicate that Ohio has one of the worst overall infant mortality rates in the nation, and the worst African-American infant mortality rate. Stark County has one of the highest overall and black infant mortality rates in Ohio, and while Ohio is improving, it is falling behind the rest of the country. The goal of THRIVE is to reduce the overall infant mortality rate in Stark County and eliminate any disparity in infant mortality rates due to race.

ABOUT THE LIBRARY

One of the 8 largest library systems in Ohio – and the county's oldest library -- Stark County District Library serves the community through 10 locations, six mobile libraries, and a 24/7 digital branch.

A 2009 winner of the prestigious National Medal for library service, the Library serves over 100,000 active cardholders, annually circulating 3.5 million items from its 1.2 million item collection and providing access to an additional 66 million items from lending networks throughout Ohio. Each year the library presents nearly 8,000 programs for 170,000 attendees and provides 280,000 computer sessions on the publicly available computers found in each branch.

Today, as it reimagines itself as The Smart Store, where everything is free[®], the Library is emerging as a national thought-leader with innovations such as its “no overdue fines” policy, the recently launched BikeSmart bike sharing network, and the Start Smart School Partnership.

For more information, call 330.452.0665 or visit <http://www.starklibrary.org>.

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