



Main Library, DeHoff Memorial Branch, East Canton Branch, Jackson Township Branch, Lake Community Branch, Madge Youtz Branch, North Branch, Perry Sippo Branch, Plain Community Branch, Sandy Valley Branch

715 Market Ave. N, Canton, OH 44702 – 330.452.0665

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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

June 9, 2015 (Canton, OH) – The Stark County District Library is offering safe sleep training and supplies to parents of newborns and expectant parents. The program, entitled Cribs for Kids Safe Sleep Training, 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 July 14, 2015 from noon through 3:00pm. Participants are not required to register and may stop into the library anytime between noon and 3:00 on July 14. All parents who meet the criteria of having a newborn or expecting a newborn will receive training and supplies. The program is a free service provided to the community.

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:

The [Stark County District Library](http://www.starklibrary.org) is a winner of the [National Medal](#) for library service, is one of the best 100 libraries in the U.S. according to the [HAPLR](#) rating, and is a [Library Journal 5 Star library](#). Its Main Library, nine Branch Libraries, and two Bookmobiles and two Kidmobiles serve 150,000 library card holders. More than 1.4 million people visit the Stark County District Library each year, holdings number 884,000 items, and annual circulation is 3.6 million items. The collection includes books, audio visual materials, and periodicals for all ages. In addition, the Library provides programs and classes for adults, teens, and children, computer and Internet access,

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a downloadable collection of books and music, genealogy services, traveling collections on Bookmobiles and Kidmobiles, as well as outreach services to shut-ins, nursing homes, and housing units. It is one of the nine largest library systems in the state of Ohio, serving 12 local school districts. For more information, call 330-452-0665 or visit <http://www.thesmartstore.org>.

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Stark County District Library: Inspire Ideas. Enriching lives. Creating Community.