



United Way for the
Greater New Orleans Area



For Immediate Release

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Women's Leadership Council Advocates for Nurse-Family Partnership State Legislators and Collaborators Participate

- Who:** United Way for the Greater New Orleans Area's Women's Leadership Council
St. Charles Surgical Hospital – *Presenting Sponsor*
Senator Ben Nevers – *Child Poverty Prevention Council*
Senator Sharon Winston-Broome – *President Pro Tempore*
Dr. Geoff Nagle – *Tulane Institute of Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health*
Kim Williams – *Nurse-Family Partnership*
- What:** Luncheon to advocate for the state-wide expansion of the Nurse-Family Partnership with Collaborative Partners: LANO, Every Child Matters, Success By 6 and the Louisiana Association of United Ways
- When:** **Wednesday, June 10, 2009**
12 p.m.
- Where:** **Louisiana's Old State Capitol**
100 North Blvd.
Baton Rouge, LA 70801
- Why:** The Nurse-Family Partnership is a key program that addresses family support, health, education, social-emotional development and parenting education. Our agenda is to expand the funding of the Nurse-Family Partnership by \$2.5 million, which will provide assistance for 50% of all eligible families in Louisiana.

The Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) program serves first-time mothers who are below 200% of the poverty level, beginning in pregnancy and continuing until the baby reaches two years of age. A decrease in preterm births will significantly reduce Medicaid costs, reduce Louisiana's high infant mortality rate and improve the lives of children who would otherwise have been premature.

NFP is currently serving only 15% of all eligible families. NFP has demonstrated significant reductions in child abuse and neglect, emergency room visits for childhood injuries, maternal and juvenile arrests, and an increase in workforce participation and improved child learning measures. The BEST course of action is to prevent the abuse from ever occurring. The Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) Home Visiting Program is the most effective model of child abuse prevention and has been rigorously evaluated using randomized controlled trials, the highest level of program evaluation.

About the Women's Leadership Council:

Founded in 2002, the Women's Leadership Council consists of more than 900 members who have worked to change the lives of women and the face of child care services in the Greater New Orleans Area, collectively investing more than \$1 million in quality child care to ensure that all children are ready to learn when they enter school. The WLC is committed to making certain that issues important to women are being adequately addressed and funded.

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