



New Mobile Pantry Providing Essential Supplies to Duval County Families

Coalition Unveils Its Hey, Mama Mobile Pantry to Address Unmet Needs

Jacksonville, Fla. (May 10, 2023) – The Hey, Mama Mobile Pantry will soon be making appearances in several areas of Jacksonville to provide baby supplies, self-care products, health and nutrition education, and other items to Duval County families.

Funded by the City of Jacksonville, the mobile pantry is a nine-passenger van equipped with diapers and wipes, formula, baby food, men’s and women’s toiletries and pregnancy tests. Many of these supplies were donated by the Jacksonville Women Lawyers Association and Nemours Children’s Health. A health educator and nursing students will be on board, as well as Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition (NEFHSC) staff members who will administer postpartum depression screenings and provide referrals for community resources including housing, rental assistance, well-baby care and stress management.

“Mobile delivery of important resources has been gaining momentum across the U.S. and we’re excited to have the opportunity to help further address health disparities in Duval County thanks to our city council members,” said NEFHSC CEO Faye Johnson. “Meeting people where they live and work, sometimes in areas without adequate access to certain resources, means engaging with those who may not know organizations like ours are here to help navigate new parenthood, and life in general.”

The Hey, Mama Mobile Pantry, adorned with illustrations of a family and babies, was unveiled today at James Weldon Johnson Park where city and civic leaders and the NEFHSC CEO discussed the importance of community-minded solutions to address the county’s high infant mortality. The event also included spoken word and hip hop artist, Che Forreign, who performed her original work, “Rise,” developed for the “Hey, Mama” social marketing campaign.

The mobile unit is one of several community outreach efforts NEFHSC is spearheading to help diminish stress by meeting individuals’ needs where they work and live. The intent is to encourage more pregnant women, new mothers, their spouses/partners and other family members to enroll in free community programs and services designed to give their babies the healthiest start possible in life. The mobile pantry’s schedule is available on the [NEFHSC calendar of events](#); its first community appearance is today at the Northwest Jacksonville Community Development Corp. at 3416 Moncrief Rd.

“Access to care has increased in recent years through the Affordable Care Act but we still have barriers that continue to persist that negatively affect birth outcomes, especially in resource-limited areas,” Johnson said. “We’re working with our city leaders, employers and other community organizations to make sustainable changes so more families can live their best lives raising happy, healthy children.”

The Hey, Mama Mobile Pantry joins the estimated 2,000 mobile units (including health care clinics) operating across the U.S. that serve approximately 7 million at-risk people each year.

About the Northeast Florida Healthy Start Coalition

The NEFHSC leads the community effort to reduce infant death and improve the health of children, childbearing women, fathers and their families in Northeast Florida. For more information, view [our media](#)



www.hey-mama.org or contact Lisa Luther at lisa@createaruckus.com or 904.536.9957.

751 Oak St. Suite 610 • Jacksonville, FL 32204 • (904) 723-5422 p
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