



## *Spring Newsletter*

The Healthy Start Community Coalition of Okaloosa and Walton Counties is part of a state-wide system of coalitions, empowered on the local level, to provide services to pregnant women and their babies, based on the need and the resources of the community.

The Healthy Start Coalition is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization led by a volunteer board of directors.

[Visit Our Website](#)

**In 2016-2017, Healthy Start served 1,718 women throughout Okaloosa and Walton Counties!**



### *New Employees*

#### **Denise Creech, Quality Assurance**

Originally from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Denise has more than 10 years of experience in the non-profit sector and many years in the field of special education.

Denise has a certificate in Public Administration from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee School of Continuing Education, an Associate Degree in Supervision Management from the Milwaukee Area Technical College, as well as a Bachelor of Science degree in Management from the Cardinal Stritch University.



Denise loves to travel and hopes to visit Amsterdam in a few years. These days, she spends a lot of time at the beach and visiting her family in nearby Dothan, Alabama. In her free time, Denise enjoys spending time with her daughters, as well as other family and friends. She is a big Green Bay Packer fan and a true cheese head! Denise says she enjoys being a part of a team that has such a positive impact on her community and looks forward to collaborating with community partners to ensure healthy babies are born to healthy mothers.

## **Teresa Hedderly, Projects & Design Intern**

Teresa is working as an intern with Healthy Start as a fulfillment of her Bachelor of Science in Health Education from the University of Florida. During her time with Healthy Start, Teresa has done a great job in refreshing the coalition's resource directory, assisting with the implementation of a new component to the coalition's safe sleep program, and has provided support to various tasks throughout the quarter.



Previously, Teresa was employed as an Event Coordinator in her hometown of Las Vegas, Nevada. She enjoys spending my time with her spouse and daughters, staying active by playing sports and exploring the outdoors, and volunteering with different community agencies.

Teresa says she is impressed by the Okaloosa-Walton community and has enjoyed learning about the impact that Healthy Start and other local agencies have on building a strong, healthy community.

***Please [click here](#) to view our 2018 Okaloosa County Resource Directory.***

***Please [click here](#) to view our 2018 Walton County Resource Directory***

***If you would like to obtain print copies, please [click here](#) to send a request to our Community Liaison.***

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## ***Ribbon Cutting Celebration***

Healthy Start welcomed several partners and members of the community to join in celebrating the coalition's new office! On Tuesday, April 3rd, guests enjoyed tasty appetizers, a word from Ardelle Bush, Executive Director, and a grand tour of the new office.

**Thank you to all who came to celebrate, and a special thanks to the Greater Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce!**



## *Spring Has Sprung*

Easter, Earth Day, Mother's Day; so many special things to celebrate in Spring! To celebrate Earth Day, try this cute planting activity. It's a great way to teach a child to care for the environment and learn how flowers grow.

**What You Need:** Small pot or recycled can, soil, flower seeds, a popsicle stick, glue, scissors and recycled cardboard.

Add a sweet poem and make it a gift to mom to thank her for all she does.

Moms love flowers!



**[Click here](#) for the full directions and more Earth Day ideas!**



## *Top 3 Provider Screening Rates*

The following Prenatal OB's have the highest percentages of women-screened by the Healthy Start Prenatal Health Risk Screening form.

This form determines whether or not a woman is at risk of a poor-birth outcome.

**Dr. Tidwell - 95.12% | Dr. Cabrera - 93.65% | Dr. Hamby - 93.08%**

**Thank you to ALL of our providers throughout Okaloosa and Walton Counties for completing the Healthy Start Screening Process!**

## *Safe Sleep Models*

Our 3 Safe Sleep Crib Models are now permanently on display in the WIC offices at our local Health Departments. We want to thank all of our community partners in Okaloosa & Walton counties who have hosted a display. Please continue to spread safe sleep messages to everyone who may care for infants and children.

The easiest way to teach others what a safe sleep environment is, is to remember the ABC's of Safe Sleep.

### **ALONE, BACK, CRIB**

Please [click here](#) for more information.



***We want to thank our state legislators for voting against the proposed funding-cuts. This decision protects the community and the essential services Healthy Start provides to ensure healthy babies are born to healthy mothers.***



A big "thank you" to Trinity Signs, LLC for donating \$750.00 in vibrant signage for the coalition's new office!

***The World's Greatest Baby Shower has been rescheduled for February 28th, 2019. See you there!***



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