THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER



Dear <<first name>>

Dr. Patricia Gabbe knew the statistics were bad, but she also knew she could do something about them. So she did.

In 2010, in Weinland Park, a neighborhood near The Ohio State University main campus, the infant mortality rate was 14 per 1,000. The overall rate in Columbus wasn't a lot better.

Gabbe, then a clinical professor of pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology at the university, knew many of these tragic losses were preventable. With Twinkle Schottke, an early childhood mental health specialist, Gabbe founded Moms2B, a support and education group, in 2010 with a grant from The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center.

The program worked. The mortality rate in Weinland Park has dropped five-fold, and the overall mortality rate in Franklin County is at a historic low, at less than 7 per 1,000. More than 2,500 participants have utilized Moms2B since its founding, and the results are clear. The program participants have babies at healthier birth weights, and those infants are more likely to be born at full term than women who are otherwise statistically similar but not in Moms2B. But more important are the human experiences and connections Moms2B has made possible.

(over, please)

The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center

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Takiyah, a mother of two, benefited from Moms2B programs with her third baby.

"This was the first time I had this kind of support," she says. "They checked up on me. I felt supported the whole time - it's an awesome experience." Takiyah also praised the community the group creates. "It's a safe space. You can ask whatever questions you have."

Moms2B offers weekly meetings at four sites in Columbus, as well as an online program. Mothers receive a hot meal, diapers and a grocery card at each session. Childcare is offered. Nurses with experience in labor, delivery and postpartum issues attend the sessions to offer assistance and answer questions.

"These women need people they can trust. We focus on a lot of teaching, a lot of support," says Dr. Gabbe.

Moms stay in the program throughout their pregnancies and through their infants' first years. At the final meeting, Mom and baby get a celebratory clap-out.

"The main goal is fighting infant mortality. The goal is to raise a happy, healthy baby and make sure mom is happy and healthy, too," Tabitha Hootman, Moms2B's director, says,



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To help educate expectant fathers on pregnancy, labor, delivery and childcare, Dads2B was founded in 2016.

Investments in infant and early childhood quality of life are not only compassionate, but they also make financial sense, with a four-to-nine-fold return on each dollar.

Moms2B's services are always in need. Their goals include expanding both Moms2B and Dads2B to more sites and building attendance.

Make a gift today to build better futures for Columbus infants and their families.



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