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## **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Research Points to Nurse-Family Partnership in Improving Life-Long Health**

Commentary in JAMA says 'time has come to act'

**DENVER, CO** – (June 3, 2009) - Nurse-Family Partnership®, a leading non-profit organization addressing the needs of low income, first-time parents and their children, welcomes CDC commentary in the current edition of the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) highlighting Nurse-Family Partnership as the most rigorously evaluated program that promotes safe, stable, and nurturing relationships and environments – which can improve children’s health over a lifetime and reduce the health disparities between advantaged and disadvantaged children. The commentary says “the time has come to act on scientific knowledge about preventing early exposure to adversity and promoting positive child development.”

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) commentary says adolescent and adult health is profoundly affected by early childhood experiences and can be improved through wise public investments in programs that promote raising infants and young children in healthy, safe, stable and nurturing surroundings. CDC research suggests that “early childhood exposure to adversity increases risks in developing poor physical and mental outcomes, and safe stable environments promote good health and development.” The authors note that a history of adverse exposures in early childhood has been associated with health problems such as obesity, diabetes, heart disease and sexually transmitted diseases. The commentary notes that “the United States faces increasing rates of chronic disease in youth and adults, thereby posing a serious threat to the collective social and economical well-being.”

“The research addressed in the CDC commentary supports the need to act on this scientific knowledge to help our children live full and healthy lives by preventing early exposure to adversity and promoting positive child development – especially in children from households with lower income and lower parental education,” said Thomas R. Jenkins, Jr., president and chief executive officer, Nurse Family Partnership. “The Obama Administration has separately called for an historic public investment in proven home visitation programs to serve low-income families, beginning in the 2010 fiscal year federal budget.

“Nurse-Family Partnership serves vulnerable families with the greatest risk of being exposed to adversities and we pride ourselves on over 30 years of research through randomized, control trials that show consistent results,”

Jenkins continued. “We are honored to be named by the CDC as one of two preventative interventions that could be implemented with high quality on a much larger scale with the proper public infrastructure in place.”

The full commentary “Creating a Healthier Future Through Early Interventions for Children” can be viewed in the June 3, 2009 issue of JAMA. The article is accompanied by a related CDC-funded paper: "Neuroscience, Molecular Biology, and the Childhood Roots of Health Disparities: Building a New Framework for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention," by Shonkoff, Boyce, and McEwen. To learn more about both, visit <http://jama.ama-assn.org/>.

Today, Nurse-Family Partnership serves more than 18,000 families in 28 states. It’s estimated that every year there are more than 600,000 eligible first-time mothers in the U.S. that would benefit from the program.

#### About Nurse-Family Partnership

The Nurse-Family Partnership National Service Office ([www.nursefamilypartnership.org](http://www.nursefamilypartnership.org)) is committed to producing enduring improvements in the health and well being of low-income, first-time parents and their children by helping communities implement and sustain an evidence-based program of home visiting by registered nurses. Nurse-Family Partnership is the most rigorously tested program of its kind. Randomized, controlled trials conducted over 30 years demonstrate multi-generational outcomes that benefit society economically and reduce long-term social service expenditures. Nurse-Family Partnership is headquartered in Denver, Colorado.

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