

JUNE 2021 EDITION

NEWSLINK

Exclusive
NewsLink
Story!

**GIVING DADS
THE SUPPORT
THEY NEED**

**CELEBRATING
NURSES WEEK**

**The Child First
COMMITMENT**

**LISTENING & LEARNING
WITH DONOR SUPPORT**

THE NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICE FOR



Nurse-Family
Partnership

Helping First-Time Parents Succeed®



THANK YOU NURSES!



CELEBRATING NATIONAL NURSES WEEK AND THE YEAR OF THE NURSE 2021

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted our lives in unprecedented ways, causing us to make tremendous sacrifices and changes to our normal routines. As a public health nursing workforce, NFP nurses are critical partners in slowing the COVID-19 pandemic and reducing COVID related morbidity and mortality.

With immense gratitude to all nurses we are celebrating National Nurses Week and the Year of the Nurse 2021! National Nurses Week takes place every year from May 6-12. May 12 is significant as it marks the revered Florence Nightingale's birthday. The American Nurses Association joined with the World Health Organization in extending the Year of the Nurse into 2021.

We continue to be inspired by the deep commitment demonstrated by NFP nurses to see this pandemic through without wavering on their support of families and communities. With their care, families create the foundation they need to build toward the brighter future they envision for themselves and their loved ones.

We have realized again and again the power of teamwork and the strength of the Nurse-Family Partnership network.

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THANK YOU
NURSES FOR YOUR
DEDICATION TO
NURSE-FAMILY
PARTNERSHIP AND
THE FAMILIES YOU
SERVE. YOU ARE
THE TRUE HEART OF
EVERYTHING WE DO.

KATE SIEGRIST, CHIEF NURSING OFFICER

2,400

NFP nurses
serving
families.

Total
families
served

58,523

1.8
million

total visits.

92%

of visits
delivered
through
telehealth.



MEET NFP NURSE TEQUIERA

NFP nurse TeQuiera will tell anyone within earshot that she has the best job in the world. She supports women and children in her community daily. “What’s not to love?” she says.

But TeQuiera didn’t always have a nursing career in mind. She discovered her calling in a more roundabout fashion. Originally an agricultural economics major in college and often fascinated by numbers more than people, she found her passion for nursing after a friend gave birth to a child with Down syndrome. TeQuiera watched her friend struggle to find support and necessary information and knew there had to be a way to help.

“It was like a wake-up call,” TeQuiera says. “I needed to help her and families like hers, so I switched majors.”

TeQuiera found herself on the labor and delivery track, but birth after birth, she felt like something was missing. While she helped mothers during one of the most important experiences of their lives, the relationship ended there. TeQuiera had more to offer.

“I came across a job listing for Nurse-Family Partnership and it was perfect. It included everything I was looking for,” TeQuiera says. As a nurse with Nurse-Family Partnership at the Houston County Health Department in Georgia, she is able to support moms one-on-one. She builds longer-lasting relationships and watches babies grow into babbling toddlers.

But that’s not all TeQuiera has accomplished in her six years as an NFP nurse. She also pursues another passion, directly supporting her home community.

[**READ MORE**](#)



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SUPPORT DURING A FATHER'S DEPLOYMENT

Little Maryn was 2 months old when her dad left for a 10-month deployment to Bahrain where being a father was reduced to often awkward conversations via video chat.

"I was really excited about having a child, but really nervous," said Jamal. "I didn't want to leave my wife alone in El Paso where we had no family and the only people we knew there were in the Army."

Along with all the challenges of becoming parents and learning to care for a new baby, Jamal and his wife, Gayle, needed to navigate a long, lonely separation that would require them to develop strong communication skills, high levels of trust, and patience – lots of patience.

Their Nurse-Family Partnership nurses, Valentina and Patti, from University Medical Center in El Paso, guided them through Gayle's pregnancy and the next two years when Jamal had to tiptoe back into Maryn's life, giving her the space she needed to get to know him as her dad.

"Valentina was our original NFP nurse," Jamal explained. "She was pregnant when we first got into the program, so she had to step back when her baby was born. Nurse Patti stepped in then and they were both great. They were very informative and supportive and assured us we were doing the right things."

Jamal and Gayle were "adamant about parenting consciously," Jamal said, "but we didn't have the tools to really do that." Valentina and Patti gave them the support they needed to be the kind of confident parents they had envisioned.

But it wasn't without a few hiccups.

When Maryn arrived, Jamal said, Gayle experienced a common problem with breastfeeding.

"She had trouble with Maryn latching and she would get discouraged," he said.

The nurses gave Gayle the advice she needed to solve the problem and taught Jamal how to be supportive and how to participate in the process so he could develop a bond with the new baby before he left for Bahrain.

They also helped him understand how to be an active partner from a distance.

"I was pretty strong on how I thought things should go," Jamal said, "and they had to sit me down and get me to understand that Gayle was going to be the present parent and I had to allow her to take the lead.

"Even though we would have frequent video chats and I would still be very much involved, they had a conversation with me beforehand so that I would understand she was going to have to adjust things along the way and I would have to be OK with it."

Jamal said it was hard and, though Gayle "put on a good front," he now knows how difficult it was for her.

"She didn't want me worrying," he said, "but I got a lot of insight about her feelings on the backside after I got home."

Sometimes when they were on video chats and Maryn would be crying, Jamal said he would overreact.

"I'd say, 'What's going on? Why is she crying? Do something.' And me being all worked up was contributing to her stress. I had good intentions, but I wasn't very helpful."

Then, when he got home, Jamal said he felt like an outsider.

"I wanted to reassert myself into the family, but I didn't know how to do it.

"Nurse Patti had to show me the things I needed to do to be supportive and it helped immensely," he said. "I had been gone for 10 months, essentially Maryn's first year. I hadn't been part of any of it. She had a natural bond with Gayle; she wanted to go to her mom. I had to take a step back and slowly work my way into her life.

"It was definitely frustrating."

And there were a lot of other stresses in Jamal's life at that time. He was working to transition to civilian life, going to school and training for a new job, so he was not as relaxed and available as he would have liked.

"It probably took until about age 2 for Maryn to bond with me," he said. "That's when she really started warming up to me."

Now, Jamal and Gayle live in Nashville, Tenn., with 6-year-old Maryn and their son, James, who is 2. Jamal is a Porsche technician and Gayle is a former parent ambassador for Nurse-Family Partnership, where she engaged with policymakers to make them aware of the program and how it benefits families and communities across the country.

"Maryn is super sweet, a rule-follower, who's always trying to keep her brother and her classmates in line," Jamal said.

"James, well, James is a little on the rowdy side."

Jamal said it has been great to go through "the whole parenting thing" with James without being separated.

"We have great teamwork. I'm really proud of that. And we've both been able to show the kids the love they deserve.

"We just bought a house and got a dog," he said. "It's about as close to perfect as you could imagine."

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NURSE PATTI HAD TO SHOW ME THE THINGS I NEEDED TO DO TO BE SUPPORTIVE AND IT HELPED IMMENSELY. I HAD BEEN GONE FOR 10 MONTHS, ESSENTIALLY MARYN'S FIRST YEAR.

NFP DAD JAMAL

THE CHILD FIRST DIFFERENCE



CHILD FIRST COMMITS TO PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Child First is a national, evidence-based two-generation model that provides infant and early childhood mental health services to young children and families who would benefit from our intensive, home-based program. Child First supports families and caregivers in finding their strengths so that their innate capacity to have nurturing, consistent and responsive relationships with their children can be developed and sustained. Families work collaboratively with a Child First Team, comprised of a Clinician, who has an infant and early childhood mental

health background and a Care Coordinator, who is knowledgeable of community supports. Both

members of the Team often have experience in home visiting prior to joining Child First. As part of Child First's training they engage in an intensive multi-step educational series and reflective supervision to implement the Child First model. To additionally enhance expertise when working with families, Child First affirms the process of infant and early childhood mental health (IMH/ECMH) endorsement.

IMH/ECMH endorsement (Endorsement) requires that professionals within this specialized workforce demonstrate skills and educational experience across multiple domains. Endorsement offers an opportunity to recognize the distinct skillset required to work with pregnant women, infants and young children and their caregivers.



Endorsement also acknowledges that the professionals appreciate and implement best practice in their work.

Endorsement is a national initiative, promoted through the Alliance for the Advancement of Infant Mental Health (Alliance). The Alliance is a global organization dedicated to enhancing best practices in the care of children ages birth to six years. In partnership with statewide infant mental health associations, the Alliance backs the Endorsement process because “growing evidence indicates that endorsed professionals are better prepared to support the foundational early development of babies and young children, in the context of their caregiving relationships.” Visit www.allianceaimh.org for more information.

To elevate the Endorsement process for all professionals trained in the Child First model, we have partnered with the Alliance to develop a co-branded crosswalk across Child First educational opportunities and the Competency Guidelines for the Endorsement for Culturally Sensitive, Relationship-Focused Practice Promoting Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Endorsement®. This crosswalk provides a simple guide that will allow the Child First trained staff to apply for various levels of Endorsement in a manner that is streamlined and efficient.

Endorsement spans four categories, ranging from an Associate Level (appropriate for any academic degree and a minimum of two years of work experience in infant and early childhood work) all the way to a Mentor Level (appropriate for leaders in policy, research and/or clinical in infant or early childhood mental health who have experience providing reflective supervision for at least three years). To learn more about the four pathways to endorsement for [Infant Mental Health Endorsement](#) and for [Early Childhood Mental Health Endorsement](#).

Enhancing the infant and early childhood workforce is critical across our network. The Child First and Alliance Endorsement

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GROWING EVIDENCE INDICATES THAT ENDORSED PROFESSIONALS ARE BETTER PREPARED TO SUPPORT THE FOUNDATIONAL EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF BABIES AND YOUNG CHILDREN, IN THE CONTEXT OF THEIR CAREGIVING RELATIONSHIPS.

ALLIANCE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF INFANT MENTAL HEALTH

Crosswalk is one way to aid in the advancement of professionals in the Child First network by making the process of achieving these credentials more accessible. It is essential that this cross-sector workforce is infant and early childhood mental health informed, and the Endorsement process is an excellent way to uphold this endeavor. Child First is proud to partner with the Alliance on this initiative to reduce possible barriers to the Endorsement. As we continue to engage in national expansion, collaborative processes like this one will be one way that Child First will help to advocate for the infant and early childhood workforce across the country.



MOMNIBUS ACT



ADDRESSING THE MATERNAL HEALTH CRISIS

The NSO is a proud supporter of the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021, a set of 12 bills in Congress that build on existing legislation to comprehensively address every dimension of the maternal health crisis in America. **The Momnibus Act addresses disparities for Black women who disproportionately experience negative maternal health outcomes, and also ensures that all moms benefit from the investments made to ensure pregnant and postpartum women have the care and support they need and deserve.**

Led by the Congressional Black Maternal Health Caucus, these 12 bills propose critical investments in maternal health including:

**SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH LIKE HOUSING AND NUTRITION
GROWTH AND DIVERSIFICATION IN THE PERINATAL WORKFORCE
SUPPORT FOR MOMS WITH MATERNAL MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS
IMPROVED DATA COLLECTION TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE CAUSES**

Most recently the first bill, H.R. 958, the Protecting Moms Who Served Act, was passed by the House of Representatives with unanimous bipartisan support.

To tell your Members of Congress you support this legislation and moms who have served, take action today and share the action link with your networks.

TAKE ACTION TODAY



Annual Report 2020



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2020 NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT

It is with great pride that we share with you the all-digital 2020 Annual Report for NFP. This report reflects a year of immense challenges and incredible resilience from our dedicated supporters, network partners and staff.

The accomplishments and wins of the past year would not have been possible without supporters who choose to walk alongside NFP – we cannot do this work without you. The role that you play is an integral part of Nurse-Family Partnership’s success. With your help, we served more than 58,000 families and provided over 1.8 million visits.

Please read the report to learn more about the lives that you have helped change.

2020 NFP ANNUAL REPORT

Phones for Families Impact Numbers



3,800

PHONES REQUESTED/RECEIVED



25,721

VISITS CONDUCTED USING THE PHONE



10

MONTHS THAT PHONE SERVICE WAS AVAILABLE (APRIL 2020 - JAN 31)



92%

PERCENTAGE OF VISITS DELIVERED THROUGH TELEHEALTH SINCE MARCH 2020

Based on a program satisfaction survey among NFP clients:

90%

reported that the phone helped them a lot or a great deal to stay connected to their nurse

76%

reported the phone as very helpful or essential in getting the services or information they needed



OVER

1.8 Million

TOTAL VISITS



23,086

NUMBER OF NEW FAMILIES ENROLLED

LISTENING AND LEARNING WITH DONOR SUPPORT

One of Nurse-Family Partnership's core organizational values is to actively listen to our families and network. Fund for Shared Insight is NFP's steadfast supporter in making feedback research a core priority and in funding the NSO's work in this area. Fund for Shared Insight is a national funder collaborative working to improve philanthropy by promoting ways for foundations and nonprofits to listen and respond to the people and communities at the heart of their work. "NFP has been a national leader in demonstrating the power of high-quality feedback loops to help organizations learn and improve, and we are grateful for our partnership" said Melinda Tuan, managing director, Fund for Shared Insight.

In 2016, NFP received a Listen4Good grant, a signature initiative of Fund for Shared Insight. This grant provided infrastructure, resources and tools to directly collect satisfaction data from NFP clients. The NSO developed and administered an anonymous survey via text message to randomly selected NFP clients during pregnancy, infancy and toddler phases. Each survey included questions such as "how likely are you to recommend Nurse-Family Partnership to a friend or family member?" and "how often do staff at the Nurse-Family Partnership program treat you with respect?"

More than 3,800 clients responded to the initial surveys about their experiences with NFP which provided key insights on how NFP could

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OUR COLLABORATION WITH FUND FOR SHARED INSIGHT HELPED US LISTEN TO CLIENTS IN NEW AND MORE EFFECTIVE WAYS TO CONTINUOUSLY LEARN AND IMPROVE. THEY ARE THE DEFINITION OF AN OUTSTANDING PHILANTHROPIC PARTNER AND WE ARE VERY APPRECIATIVE OF THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE FAMILIES WE SERVE.

ALEXA CARES, NFP FEEDBACK MANAGER

improve its program. Key findings included that clients wanted more flexibility around their visit scheduling with their nurses; more group activities; more opportunities to meet other clients; and more information about community resources. The NSO synthesized and analyzed the data and provided network partners with strategies to address clients' feedback.

Based upon the successes, challenges and learnings from this first grant, NFP was awarded a second feedback research grant from Fund for Shared Insight in 2019

Fund for
Shared Insight

to further advance our work. One major difference from the first survey is that the data are non-anonymous which means the NSO can better recognize response trends. The NSO can also learn more about whether asking for feedback has an impact on clients' engagement and therefore their program outcomes. Gathering feedback in real-time also provides the opportunity to apply what is learned at the agency and network levels.

In June 2020, the NSO began piloting this comprehensive system for collecting client feedback with 29 sites, and we are preparing to expand the project to include an additional 60 sites in summer 2021. The scope of our work will now further expand with additional support from Fund for Shared Insight. A new grant award will provide the NSO with consultation from a data equity consultant called We All Count to ensure that we apply an equity lens to our survey instrument and analysis. To that end, the NSO will assess disparities in client satisfaction and explore the relationship between client-nurse racial concordance and client satisfaction.

Donor Spotlight

~5,000

CLIENTS HAVE RESPONDED TO THE RECENT CLIENT SURVEYS ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCES WITH NFP

RESPONSES TO “WHAT COULD NFP DO BETTER?”

“I understand Covid guidelines, but I really miss my nurse and the in-home visits. My nurse is very nice and attentive. She helps me feel like someone really cares and is listening. NFP is great and I appreciate everything you all have done for me and my baby.”

“I would love if they could extend the program to at least five years of age!”

“I feel that Nurse-Family Partnership was the best thing for a new mom like myself and I would (and have) recommend Nurse-Family Partnership to other family and friends.”



RESULTS FOR AMERICA'S ECONOMIC MOBILITY CASE STUDY

In May, Nurse-Family Partnership was honored to be featured in a case study in Results for America's new Economic Mobility Catalog, showcasing evidence-based practices and programs proven to impact economic mobility outcomes and drive change among families and communities.

The case study features NFP of Central Alabama, based at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Nursing. Currently reaching more than 150 families, NFP of Central Alabama has been serving Jefferson County and surrounding areas since 2017 and benefits from widespread community support and diverse funding streams to support its implementation.

A special thank you to our partners in Birmingham for taking part in this case study and to Results for America for highlighting NFP's work and impact on economic mobility in this way.

[LEARN MORE](#)

WELCOMING TWO NEW NETWORK PARTNERS

The National Service Office for Nurse-Family Partnership and Child First is proud to welcome two new partners to our national network.

Neighborhood Health is a Federally Qualified Health Center with 10 clinic locations in Middle TN, offering comprehensive medical, dental and behavioral health services. Neighborhood Health will serve Davidson County in Nashville, TN.

Mary's Center is a Federally Qualified Health Center that has been serving the DC metro area for over 30 years. They provide Medical, Dental, Behavioral Health, Social and Educational services. Mary's Center will serve the District of Columbia. It is expected to begin enrolling clients this month.



neighborhood
health



Mary's Center
Quality healthcare. Stronger communities.

IN HER OWN WORDS



How I got connected with NFP...



GETTING CONNECTED WITH AN NFP NURSE

Tori found out about Nurse-Family Partnership while waiting for her WIC appointment. She was isolated and with an abusive partner. With the support of her NFP nurse, she was able to move forward for her and her daughter. Tori is a proud graduate of NFP and currently serves as an NFP Parent Ambassador.

With their very own free Nurse-Family Partnership personal nurse, moms get the support, advice and information they need during their pregnancy and when their baby arrives.

Becoming a mom for the first-time can be a lot to handle, and having an expert nurse to help families on their journey can make a huge difference. Over 340,000 first-time moms have enjoyed the benefits of having an NFP nurse.

Do you know a mom in need? Have them contact us to learn more, or so we can get them connected with a personal nurse.

“ ”

I NEED HELP. I'M ALONE. IT WAS REALLY HARD. I GOT PREGNANT WHEN I WAS 22. MY DAUGHTER'S DAD WAS VERY ABUSIVE AND CONTROLLING.

TORI VALDEZ, NFP GRADUATE

CALL OR TEXT (844) 637-6667
NFPMOMS.ORG

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

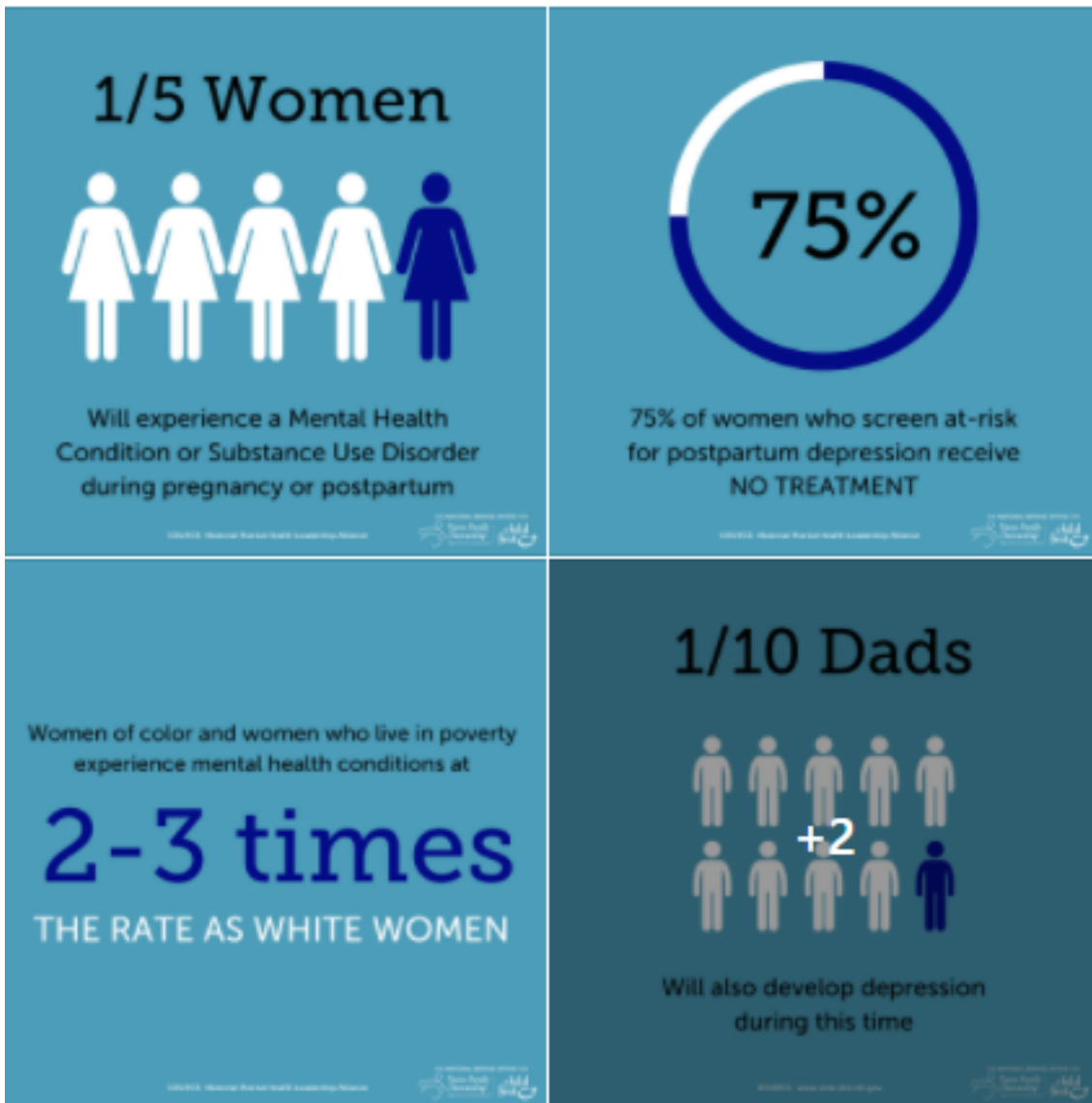


Child First

May 5 at 1:01 PM · 🌐

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Today is World Maternal Mental Health Day. As many as 1 in 5 new mothers experience some type of perinatal mood and anxiety disorder. These illnesses often go unnoticed and untreated, often with damaging and long-term consequences to both mother and child. Evidence-based interventions that target maternal mental health, like Child First, support and empower women to connect to resources and personal capabilities that can enhance resilience to difficult life circumstances, ove... See More



👍❤️ 3

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share

PLEASE LIKE & FOLLOW OUR SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS & HELP US SPREAD THE WORD!





MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO, FRANK DAIDONE

Dear friends of the NSO,

Happy summer to all! At the National Service Office for Nurse-Family Partnership and Child First, we have much to look forward to and celebrate this summer. As you read in this issue of Newslink, last month we once again celebrated our nursing workforce during National Nurses Week, uplifting the voices and experiences of nurses as they continue to work with urgency and compassion in serving their communities. The merger between Child First and Nurse-Family Partnership continues to progress, paving the way for greater impact for families and communities as our two evidence-based programs join forces as a united organization. We have welcomed new Network Partners to our community in Tennessee and Washington, DC, expanding our footprint and impact for families across the country. And as vaccines continue to be distributed across the country, we look forward to finally seeing a return to in-person visits between our home

visitors and families, after more than a year of relying on virtual connection during the pandemic.

Finally, as we approach Father's Day, I want to extend my own well wishes to all the fathers and fathers-to-be out there. In our work, we often focus on the relationship between mom, child and home visitor, but we also recognize and celebrate the important role that our NFP and Child First dads – dads like Daniel and Marvin – play in giving love and support to their families, children and partners. As a father of two wonderful young women, I understand the commitment needed to be there for your children and families. I also know the feeling of love they've brought to my life. There is no greater gift than the love of one's family. Happy Father's Day from the National Service Office!

YOUR GENEROSITY creates a ripple effect...

**because YOU bring proven programs into the lives of families.
Let's continue the impact together.**

Give today!



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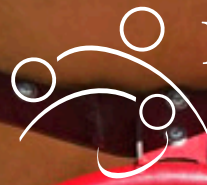
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Helping First-Time Parents Succeed®

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