



Press Release

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For Immediate Release

MHALC receives financial support from philanthropic organizations; local business

Mental Health America of Lake County (MHALC) has received donations from two philanthropic organizations in support of vulnerable families. In addition, two corporate entities recently held staff-driven donation drives to support the work of the agency.

The Service League of Northwest Indiana provided a donation in the amount of \$4,000 to benefit the organization's Empowering Teens as Parents program. The program is designed to provide intensive one-on-one support to empower young families with children ages 0-5 to overcome significant barriers to family wellness and personal achievement. Credentialed parent educators work with teens to increase parent knowledge about child health and development, promote healthy behaviors for improved pregnancy outcomes, and to prevent subsequent pregnancies.

The Kappa, Kappa, Kappa, Gamma Nu Hammond chapter provided a donation in the amount \$450 for the purchase of diaper vouchers. The vouchers will be used in conjunction with MHALC's Baby & Me Tobacco Free nationally-recognized, incentive-based smoking cessation program designed to encourage and support pregnant women to quit smoking prior to delivery of their new baby and to remain smoke free reducing the damaging effects of secondhand smoke resulting in healthier mothers, healthier babies, and healthier families. Baby & Me Tobacco Free program,

In addition, two local businesses, St. Catherine Hospital and First Merchants Bank both hosted a jeans/casual day for staff who made a monetary donation to the organization. The St. Catherine event was sponsored by the St. Catherine Hospital Auxiliary.

"Effective interventions can enhance the quality of life for the region's neediest people," said Renae Vania Tomczak, MHALC's president & CEO. "At Mental Health America of Lake County we dedicate ourselves to transforming our communities through proven programs that educate, empower, and strengthen the way families function for life. These donors believe in the work we do and we are humbled by their generosity."

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