



JOHN R. OISHEI

Children's Hospital



BUFFALO
FATHERHOOD
INITIATIVE

Wherever you are, we're with you.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Antoine Johnson, Program Manager

ajohnson@bppn.org | 716-884-6711 ext. 279

Celine Krzan, PR Consultant

celinekrzan@gmail.com | 716-908-8569

BUFFALO PRENATAL-PERINATAL NETWORK AND JOHN R. OISHEI CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL ANNOUNCE INAUGURAL FATHERHOOD PROGRAM FOR NEW DADS

BPPN'S Buffalo Fatherhood Initiative will partner with Oishei Children's Hospital to deliver educational programming soon-to-be dads launching this month

Buffalo, NY, March 24, 2021 – Buffalo Prenatal-Perinatal Network (BPPN) and Oishei Children's Hospital are pleased to announce the launch of the Fatherhood Training Program. BPPN'S Buffalo Fatherhood Initiative will partner with Oishei Children's Hospital to bring support and educational resources to new fathers.

This program is targeted at new and expectant fathers and will provide parenting education, support groups, and mentorship for these male caregivers. The training will instruct new dads on labor and delivery skills including tips on how to support their partner in labor as well as what to expect when the baby comes home. Fathers will be taught swaddling techniques, tips for bonding, how to help with breastfeeding, bathing best practices, and post-partum effects. The objective of this collaboration is to highlight the significant role fathers play in promoting the health of women and infants in the community.

“Far too often, men who are transitioning into fatherhood or fathering are overlooked and undervalued in the field of maternal and infant health,” stated Antoine Johnson, Program Manager of the Buffalo Fatherhood Initiative. “The Buffalo Fatherhood Initiative's collaboration with Oishei Children's Hospital is significant because it highlights the significance of fathers and the unique contribution that they make in supporting women and infants.”

When fathers are involved with their children from birth research shows that children reach developmental milestone earlier, form better friendships, do better at school, and can develop higher IQs. This program provides educational resources for dads and a safe place to learn. Fathers who go through the program will receive tools and resources like “dad bags” for overnight stays at the hospital during and after labor.

“We're delighted to partner with the Buffalo Perinatal-Prenatal Network and the Buffalo Fatherhood Initiative to establish the Fatherhood Training Program as a way to improve the health and well-being of children by empowering fathers to be active, informed and emotionally engaged parents and partners,” said Tami Paycheck, Women's Services Supervisor at Oishei Children's Hospital.

“We are thrilled to be teaming up with the remarkable John R. Oshiei Foundation to bring the community this necessary program for expectant fathers,” stated LuAnne Brown, CEO of Buffalo Prenatal-Perinatal Network. “Fathers are a critical part of healthy development for the child. We are proud to provide home based services to a population that follows them from prenatal to the postpartum period in the home and we can't wait to expand our education offering on the Oishei campus.”

You can learn more about Buffalo Prenatal-Perinatal Network and the Buffalo Fatherhood Initiative at their website www.bppn.org or contact Antoine Johnson at ajohnson@bppn.org to learn more about upcoming programs.

About Buffalo Prenatal Perinatal Network

Buffalo Prenatal-Perinatal Network, Inc. (BPPN) empowers women, fathers and families to take charge of bettering their family health and well-being by providing education, support, advocacy, and connection to resources and services in WNY.

The programs operated by BPPN focus on improving maternal and infant health outcomes for high need women and their families to help reduce racial and ethnic disparities in those outcomes and support and nurture parents. BPPN serves over 25 zip codes in high-risk, low-income neighborhoods on the East and West side of Buffalo, as well as, South Buffalo, Lackawanna and Cheektowaga. Our target populations are African-American and Hispanic women since they demonstrate the highest rates of low birth weight infants and infant mortality.

Programs operated by Buffalo Prenatal include a New York State Department of Health Maternal Infant Community Health Collaborative (MICHC), a Healthy Families New York Program (also known as the Buffalo Home Visiting Program) and the Nurturing Fathers Program (also known as Buffalo's Fatherhood Initiative).

About John R. Oishei Children's Hospital

John R. Oishei Children's Hospital is Western New York's regional center for comprehensive and state-of-the-art pediatric trauma, surgical and medical care, including neonatal, perinatal and obstetric services. Oishei Children's Hospital is the region's only Level I Pediatric Trauma Center, Level IV Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and state-designated Regional Perinatal Center. Highlighting its nationally recognized achievements in patient safety and quality, Oishei Children's Hospital was named a 'Top Children's Hospital' in 2018 and 2019 by The Leapfrog Group, an independent watchdog organization. As the only freestanding children's hospital in New York State and one of only 43 freestanding children's hospital in the United States, Oishei Children's Hospital enjoys a worldwide reputation for innovation and research while providing highly specialized care and treatment through a broad array of co-located outpatient services.