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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AUGUST IS BREASTFEEDING AWARENESS MONTH

Fourth Annual Workplace Lactation Support Awards Presented at Celebration August 12th

YPSILANTI, Mich., – August is Breastfeeding awareness month. The Washtenaw County Breastfeeding Coalition presents an awards ceremony and Breastfeeding Awareness Month Celebration on August 12th at the Washtenaw County Public Health Department main floor conference room. Public Health is located at 555 Towner Street in Ypsilanti. The 2011 Workplace Lactation Support Awards will be presented starting at 9:00 am.

Awards Ceremony and Celebration

9:00 am Workplace Lactation Support Awards Ceremony
12:00 pm “Breastfeeding from the Public Health Perspective”
Information Open House for County Employees
1:30 pm “Care for Moms” Ice-cream Social and Educational Event for
Expectant Moms, Dads, Grandparents and Support Persons.
Includes booths and exhibits.



“As natural as breastfeeding is, it doesn’t always happen naturally for many moms and babies. If we can provide and encourage support for breastfeeding moms in our community, we can improve the health of both mothers and children now and in the future,” says Monique Reeves, MD, MPH, Washtenaw County Public Health Medical Director.

Scientific evidence reveals that babies who are not breastfed suffer more acute infectious diseases, including respiratory and gastrointestinal infections. According to the American

Academy of Pediatrics, studies also suggest that babies who are not breastfed are at higher risk for sudden infant death syndrome and serious chronic illnesses later in life, including asthma, diabetes, leukemia and some forms of lymphoma.

All major medical authorities recommend that babies get no other food or drink other than human milk for their first six months and continue to breastfeed for at least the first one to two years of life. However, only 12% of U.S. mothers are exclusively breastfeeding with no supplementation at six months, and only 21% are still breastfeeding in any amount at one year.

Anyone seeking information on breastfeeding or seeking help with workplace lactation support is encouraged to contact Gayathri Akella, MS, RD, CLE, IBCLC, Washtenaw County Breastfeeding Coordinator and Washtenaw County Breastfeeding Coalition (WCBC) Co-Chair at (734) 544-6794 or akellag@ewashtenaw.org and Keleigh Lee, WCBC Co-Chair at (734) 218-0348 or kellmlee@gmail.com. Visit the WCBC website at <http://www.washtenawbfcoalition.org/>.

Washtenaw County Public Health promotes health and works to prevent disease or injury in our community. Visit us online at <http://publichealth.ewashtenaw.org>.

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