



JOHN R. KASICH

GOVERNOR • STATE OF OHIO

Communication Department

August 20, 2015

Laura Jones, (614) 420-6946, Laura.Jones@governor.ohio.gov

OHIO FIRST LADY VISITS MOMS PARTICIPATING IN HEALTHY BABY PROGRAM

Moms2B helps at-risk moms have healthy pregnancies

COLUMBUS – Ohio First Lady Karen W. Kasich visited yesterday with new and expectant moms who are part of the [Moms2B](#) program in Weinland Park on Columbus' near north side. Each week, Moms2B provides support and information sessions to women from four high-risk neighborhoods, equipping them with the tools they need to give their babies the best start in life.

More than a dozen moms greeted Mrs. Kasich at Grace Missionary Baptist Church along with Moms2B Founder and Executive Director Dr. Patricia Gabbe and Program Director Twinkle Schottke.

“It’s a joy to see these moms empowered to have healthy pregnancies and healthy babies, which is what this organization is all about,” said First Lady Kasich. “The love and commitment of Moms2B is making a difference not only in the lives of these moms and their infants, but also in their communities a whole.”



The First Lady, a champion of good nutrition, oversaw the delivery of three crates of fresh fruits and vegetables from the Governor’s Residence Garden. For the last several years, produce raised in the Residence garden has been provided to Moms2B on a weekly basis for use in lunches and take-home packages.

“We are grateful for First Lady Karen Kasich’s continuing efforts to raise awareness of ways to lower infant mortality here and throughout Ohio,” said Dr. Gabbe. “Our moms have heard the messages of our program and are changing important behaviors, like increasing breastfeeding, reducing smoking, and making healthful food choices.”

According to Dr. Gabbe, Weinland Park was selected as the first Moms2B site because of the area’s high rate of infant deaths.

“That rate is now significantly lower thanks to the commitment of the women who come here,” Dr. Gabbe said. “By working together, and listening to each other, we are able to address the many challenges our moms face so that more babies are reaching their first birthdays.”

In addition to Weinland Park, [Moms2B](#) operates in three other locations: John Maloney Columbus Neighborhood Health Center (south end); Community Health Resource Center at Mount Carmel West Hospital (west side); and The Wallace Auditorium at The Ohio State University East Hospital (east side).

Governor John Kasich has made reducing infant mortality in Ohio a top priority, implementing over the past few years a number of initiatives that tackle this serious issue. Statewide, and in Columbus, data shows African American babies die at a higher rate than white babies. According to 2013 data, while Ohio experienced a modest overall decline in infant deaths, the mortality rates are still high as compared to the rest of the country.

Learn more about First Lady Karen W. Kasich and her initiatives at firstlady.ohio.gov

