



## Chapter Welcomes New State Director of Program Services

The March of Dimes Connecticut Chapter is pleased to announce that Jordana Frost has been named State Director of Program Services. Frost began September 1st and will lead local programs, community grants and educational services throughout the state. She replaces Erin Jones, who was recently promoted to Regional Director of Program Services for the March of Dimes Northeast Region.



Frost holds a Master's in Public Health with a focus on Maternal and Child Health from the University of South Florida and is currently a doctoral candidate at Boston University where she is specializing in perinatal health inequities and perinatal health services. She comes to March of Dimes with over 14 years of professional experience in leading successful projects, programs, and diverse partnerships domestically, as well as abroad. Most recently, as a planning committee member of the Connecticut Maternal and Child Health Coalition, she was instrumental in leading the coalition's highly participatory process that culminated in the development of the State Plan to Improve Birth Outcomes.

In her spare time, Frost teaches graduate-level maternal and child health classes at Boston University School of Public Health and practices as a childbirth doula, partnering with clinical providers to help families achieve optimal intrapartum care and birth outcomes. Frost lives in Mansfield with her husband and two children.

Please give her a warm March of Dimes welcome at 860-815-9352 or [jfrost@marchofdimes.org](mailto:jfrost@marchofdimes.org).

## Upcoming Events 2015

### Signature Chefs Auction

Thursday, October 15  
The Riverview, Simsbury

### Elm City Legends

Thursday, October 29  
Omni Hotel, New Haven

### World Prematurity Day

Tuesday, November 17

### Real Estate Award Breakfast

Thursday, December 3  
The Hilton, Stamford



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## Grant Funding Now Available

At a time when healthcare is being redesigned from every which way, providers, health care administrators, and payers are looking for innovative ways to deliver effective, high quality, high value care that is responsive to the needs of patients and supportive of the structural constraints in which providers practice on a daily basis.

[CenteringPregnancy](#) is an evidence-based model of prenatal care that has been documented to improve birth outcomes, including low birth weight, while enhancing the experience of care for mothers and their loved ones. By engaging women who, are due at similar times, in a group that meets at regular times throughout their pregnancy, prenatal care becomes more holistic and encompasses in-depth education and valuable social support, in addition to individualized competent clinical care. Centering Pregnancy mothers report higher levels of prenatal knowledge, experience lower cesarean rates, breastfeed for longer, and are highly satisfied with their care.



Many sites implementing Centering Pregnancy are now exploring the opportunity to offer [CenteringParenting](#) as a way to more efficiently and effectively care for the mother-baby dyad during the first year postpartum. The [US Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality \(AHRQ\)](#) has included both models in their online Innovation Exchange Center which features healthcare innovations that improve quality and reduce disparities.

Thanks to the generous support of the Anthem Foundation, the Chapter will continue its partnership with the Hospital of Central Connecticut's CenteringPregnancy program through June 2016 and is now looking for a second site to implement CenteringPregnancy-related activities during the year 2016. **The details and timeline of the new CenteringPregnancy Request for Proposal (RFP) can be found [here](#).**

"We are grateful for the continued support of the Anthem Foundation, which has been a long-standing partner in our mission to improve birth outcomes through systems changes that positively transform the way prenatal care is delivered," said Jordana Frost, State Director of Program Services for the Connecticut Chapter.

In an effort to further explore the CenteringPregnancy model, interested parties are invited to attend the [Northeast Centering Symposium](#) on November 12, 2015 in Waltham, MA where representatives from the March of Dimes and Centering Healthcare Institute will be in attendance and looking forward to engaging with potential grantees. Participants will also be able to meet with colleagues from other sites who are currently implementing the model.

For more information please contact [Jordana Frost](#) at (860) 815-9352.

## You Are Not Alone

October is Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month. Too many families endure the unimaginable pain of loss. For those who have experienced a loss, you may be overwhelmed by your feelings. Know that you are not alone in your grief and that the March of Dimes is here to help.

If you or someone you know is grieving, know that we have [information](#) that can help you and your family understand your feelings and learn how to ask for help. You can also connect with others at [Share Your Story](#).

On October 15<sup>th</sup>, Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day, we invite everyone to light a candle at 7pm in honor of your precious babies.



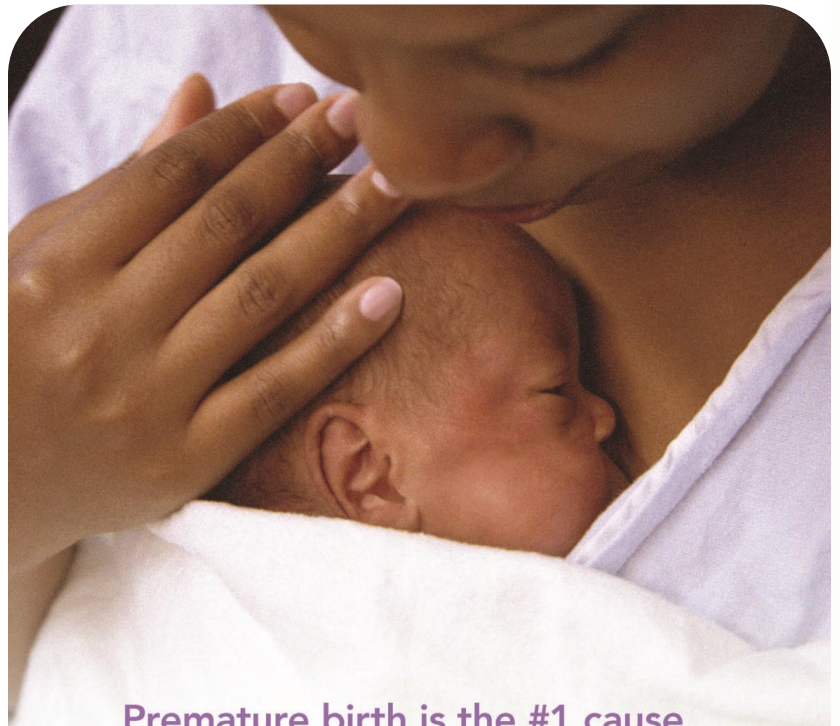
## How Can You Make a Difference This November?

November is Prematurity Awareness Month®, and we urge you to help spread the word so that more moms can have full-term pregnancies and healthy babies.

Premature birth is a serious global problem affecting every nation, including our own. Here in the United States, about 380,000 babies are born too soon; worldwide, the number grows to a staggering 15 million. Nearly 1 million babies die, but thousands of these deaths could be prevented with low-cost solutions, including Kangaroo Care.

Here are various ways you can help on November 17 — World Prematurity Day — and throughout the month of November:

- Visit our [web site](#) to show your support and get the latest World Prematurity Day updates.
- Share messages with your friends on social media, including on the [official World Prematurity Day Facebook page](#)
- Sign up for [Advocacy Alerts](#)
- Make a [donation](#)



**Premature birth is the #1 cause of death in children under 5.**

**World Prematurity Day | November 17**

**In support of Every Woman Every Child**

Every year, 15 million babies are born too soon, and more than a million die. Let's work together to improve care and find ways to prevent premature birth.

[facebook.com/worldprematurityday](https://facebook.com/worldprematurityday)



## 350 Guests to Take Culinary Excursion in Simsbury

On Thursday, October 15, more than 350 guests will take a culinary excursion featuring some of the best restaurants and beverage vendors from Greater Hartford, all for a great cause – stronger, healthier babies. Area chefs will come together for the 19<sup>th</sup> annual Signature Chefs Auction, an incredible evening to benefit the March of Dimes at The Riverview in Simsbury.

Guests will enjoy selections from: Bear's Smokehouse Barbecue, Bobby V's Restaurant and Sports Bar, Cake Gypsy, Craft Beer Cellar, Grants Restaurant and Bar, Kenwood Catering, Millwright's, NIXS, Nora Cupcake Company, Olde Burnside Brewing Company, Omar Coffee, Rizzuto's Italian Restaurant and Bar, Salute, Tangiers International Market, Hartford Distributors and Union Street Tavern.

Guests will also bid on a unique assortment of live and silent auction packages including experiences with the chefs, entertainment and travel, and contribute to the very special Fund the Mission campaign. The festivities will be hosted by Heidi Voight and Todd Piro of NBC Connecticut and live entertainment will be provided by John Smayda of Southington.

A limited number of tickets to Signature Chefs Auction remain for \$150 per person. To reserve your seat or to make a donation, visit [signaturechefs.org/hartford](http://signaturechefs.org/hartford).

The March of Dimes thanks sponsors Image Marketing Consultants, Aetna, Connecticut Children's Medical Center, Hartford Hospital, Pullman and Comley, Capital Bankcard, Hoffman Auto Group, Powerstation Events, NBC Connecticut, Yelp Hartford and Stifel Marcin Advertising, Marketing and Design for their support.



## Thank You for Supporting Signature Chefs Fairfield

On September 24, 100 guests enjoyed an evening of Fairfield County cuisine, live entertainment by Fairfield-based band "Just Off Madison, and supported the mission with bids during silent and live auctions. Ambassador Kristina Manganiello inspired the crowd with her family's prematurity journey and led a successful Fund the Mission initiative.

Photos are now online on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com). If you were our guest, tag yourself and share!

