

# Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center receives Perinatal, Infant Community Health Grant

Five-year annual grant will total \$1.9 million

Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center was awarded a Perinatal and Infant Community Health Collaborative annual grant of \$392,840 for the anticipated contract period of July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2027, a full contracted award amount of \$1.9 million.

The awarded grant, from the New York State Department of Health, is a continuation of existing funding and will directly support Memorial's P3 Center for Teens, Moms & Kids, a case management program for pregnant women and their children.

A press release stated, "Community Health Workers will continue to work with up to 25 families/individuals, a population that

includes women and birthing persons with the largest risk factors related to social determinants of health. These include Medicaid recipients, the uninsured, those who have not had adequate access to medical professionals, those living near or below the poverty line, those experiencing violence in their homes or neighborhoods, teen parents, and those lacking social and structural supports."

"The P3 Center has a dedicated team of Community Health Workers who meet families right in their homes to help them create and achieve their goals, particularly those related to health, child development, and overall wellness," said Eileen Wrobel, maternal and

infant health initiative coordinator for P3 Center for Teens, Moms & Kids.

Once identified, the individual will be encouraged to enroll with P3, at which time CHWs will work with clients to establish an action plan with specific steps to identify and meet their individual needs, specifically in relation to perinatal and infant health, but

also in relation to housing, mental health, employment and other social determinants of health. Those enrolled in the program can be

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*Eileen Wrobel*

preconception, pregnant or parenting.

The hospital noted, "Ultimately, the client will build a support system, self-sufficiency, and maintain their own and their baby's health."

Niagara County residents are eligible, and self-referrals are also received in addition to referrals from other service providers such

as Department of Social Services, OBGYN providers, and the Child Advocacy Center of Niagara.

Support groups and special

events are also offered and include young parent groups, baby showers, and a community festival. In addition to client-centered focal points, P3 will build, promote and facilitate a community action board within Niagara County.

"We truly appreciate this funding, which will allow us to continue these individualized services, while expanding our reach by creating a community action board to identify and address needs on the community level," Wrobel said.

For more information on the P3 Center for Teens, Moms & Kids, call 716-278-4423 or visit [nfmcc.org](http://nfmcc.org).

## Child Abuse Prevention Month at NFMCC

In recognition of National Child Abuse Prevention Month, the Child Advocacy Center of Niagara, along with Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center staff, wore blue on Tuesday to show support for the essential work needed to ensure a safe future for all children.

In addition, staff is invited to join the CAC in raising awareness throughout the month by donating items toward the center's "Family Fun Night" gift bags, which are distributed to children visiting the center.

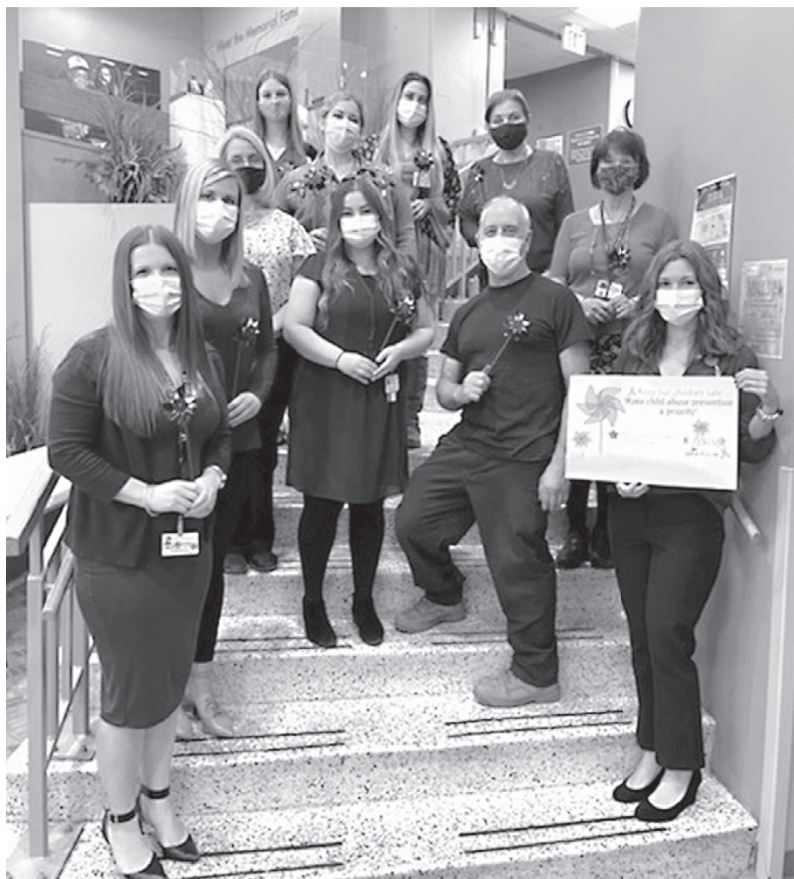
The fifth annual "Walk to End Child Abuse" will take place on April 28 at the Hyde Park Ice Pavilion. This free community event will start at 4:30 p.m., and features real life superheroes, Bikers Against Child Abuse, community resources and kid crafts. Later on, in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month, Niagara Falls will be lit blue at approximately 10 p.m.

Last year, the Niagara Department of Social Services investigated more than 3,700 reports of child abuse and maltreatment – about 10 reports every day.

"Reports of child abuse and maltreatment continue to increase locally. Community awareness and support is crucial in preventing abuse and reducing trauma for the children in our county," said Shelley Hitzel, executive director of the Child Advocacy Center of Niagara.

Memorial stated, "Nationally, 1 in 10 children will be sexually abused by their 18th birthday. According to the Child Maltreatment Report that came out in 2019, there were 656,000 victims of child abuse and neglect in 2019."

Hitzel said, "We ask you to join



us, not just during April's Child Abuse Prevention Month, but all year long because, together, we can truly make a difference in the lives of children."

The Child Advocacy Center of Niagara, a service of Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center, is a countywide resource providing a place for a multidisciplinary team of law enforcement, social services, prosecution, and medical and mental health personnel

to investigate allegations of child abuse in a child-friendly environment. In addition to working with child victims, the CAC also provides support services, advocacy, crisis intervention, safety planning and referrals to victims of domestic violence.

Pictured are staffers from Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center dressed in blue in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month.

## Easter Bunny visits Mount St. Mary's

The St. Francis Guild and board of associates of Mount St. Mary's Hospital recently coordinated an Easter egg hunt on the hospital campus for Mount St. Mary's associates and their families. The event included a hunt for eggs, visit from the Easter Bunny, petting zoo and prizes for all attendees.

Pictured in the photo, from left, are the Easter Bunny; Brody Krisnosky, son of Mount St. Mary's registered nurse care manager Michele Krisnosky; and Nalina Madonia, granddaughter of Angela Ciralo-Kostuk, the hospital's laboratory manager. (Submitted photo)

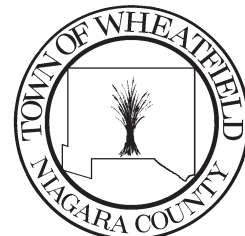


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### Town of Wheatfield Home Defense and Gun Safety



An informative and comprehensive talk gun safety in and out of the house. April 27, 2022 from 6:30-9:00pm at the Town of Wheatfield Community Center, 2790 Church Road. NYS Law general gun safety, a question and answer period, and a simulation demonstration. Constable Department and a NYS firearms instructor. Must be 21+ to attend and pre-registration is required by calling Town Hall at 694-6680 or 694-6441.

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