

march of dimes®

e-news

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Every American child is touched by the March of Dimes in the first days of life.

March of Dimes Supporters Helped House Bill 883 Become Law

On July 5, 2008, Pennsylvania Governor signed HB 883 into law, authorizing all 145,000 babies born in Pennsylvania every year be screened for 29 “core” treatable conditions as recommended by the American College of Medical Genetics and endorsed by the March of Dimes and the American Academy of Pediatrics. Until passage of this legislation, Pennsylvania lagged behind all other states and the District of Columbia in the number of required newborn conditions screened for after birth.

Newborn screening involves a simple blood test taken before the baby is discharged from the hospital and is done to detect certain rare disorders before any symptoms begin. Failure to diagnose and treat these disorders leaves newborns at risk for brain damage, coma, or even death, while treatment can be as simple as a change in diet. The Department of Health estimates that the average lifetime medical costs for a single child whose conditions are left untreated can exceed \$1 million.

Without March of Dimes advocacy efforts, Pennsylvania babies may have continued to be at risk.

March of Dimes in the Summertime

The March of Dimes hopes each and everyone of you are enjoying the summer! With festivals, picnic gatherings, vacations, and lots of great outdoor recreational activities, we know you are keeping busy! So are we! Since March for Babies season, we have been hard-at-work gearing up for our special events season.

Here are some more exciting new updates:

- The March of Dimes launched a new online resource for expectant and new moms at marchofdimes.com/newsmomsneed.
- The Folic Acid for a Healthy Pregnancy seal is appearing on products enriched in folic acid at your local grocery store! Look for our logo on bread and pasta!
- On July 21, March of Dimes National Ambassador, 6-year-old Catharine Aboulhoda of Allentown, PA, met the President of the United States of America.

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Mark Your Calendar

Wednesday, August 6

Come to the Sloppy Duck Saloon between 5:30 pm and 7:30 pm for celebrity bartending, live music, and an auction...all to help kick off the 5th Annual Rubber Duck Regatta! Be one of the first to purchase your \$5 chance to win a hot tub and other terrific prizes and take home your 2008 collector's Superhero Duck!

Saturday, August 23

Bring the summer to a close with a splash at Paddle Erie '08! Canoeists and kayakers will brave the beautiful Lake Erie Bay during an 8:00 am advanced course or 10:00 am beginner course before assembling for lunch back at the Lagoon Boat Launch on Presque Isle State Park. Participants can register online at marchofdimes.com/pennsylvania and must raise a minimum of \$50 for the March of Dimes.

Monday, August 25

Swing the day away at the Erie Otters golf tournament at Whispering Woods! In conjunction with their education foundation, the March of Dimes will be sharing the proceeds of this foursome, scramble-style tourney. For more information, click to marchofdimes.com/pennsylvania.

Tuesday, September 16

Community and business leaders will be going behind bars for babies! Between the hours of 8:00 am and 8:00 pm, each volunteer jailbird will spend an hour at the new Hilton Garden Inn, making phone calls to friends and family to raise bail in the form of pledges to the March of Dimes. Participants can register and fundraise online at marchofdimes.com/jail, or to enter the Witness Protection Program and whistle blow on someone you know who has a big heart for babies, call Lisa at (814) 833-4941.

Thursday, October 16

Come see what all the quack is about at the 5th Annual Rubber Duck Regatta at Splash Lagoon. At 7:00 pm, thousands of yellow rubber ducks will race down the Big Kahuna, and the first five will award the winners of the raffle prizes in superhero-fashion!

Monday, November 3

Pay homage to the Erie area's finest culinary experts at the 15th Annual Signature Chefs Auction. Enjoy mingling with other guests and sampling local flavor while bidding on Silent Auction packages from 5:30 pm—7:00 pm, then join the crowd inside the banquet room at the Ambassador Banquet & Conference Center for a sit-down program and Live Auction. Reserve your seats online at marchofdimes.com/pennsylvania.

Monday, November 10

Can't get enough of the scrumptious cuisine or once-in-a-lifetime auction packages? Join Titusville's 9th Annual Signature Chefs Auction at Cross Creek Resort.

Volunteer Opportunities

- ✓ Committee members are wanted for special event planning! If you would like to join the Rubber Duck Regatta or Signature Chefs Auction committees, please call us at (814) 833-4941.
- ✓ The division's board of directors is growing! To learn more or to interview for this volunteer role, please send a resume to Diane at dsickles@marchofdimes.com.
- ✓ Does your business or organization want to sell raffle tickets and the superhero ducks? To make arrangements, contact Jessica at jolmstead@marchofdimes.com.
- ✓ Can you volunteer to solicit for duck sales during a local festival or outside a local permissible establishment for a few hours this summer/fall? To view a schedule, contact Jessica at jolmstead@marchofdimes.com.
- ✓ Do you want to help the staff in the office complete periodic tasks or projects? Call Barbara at (814) 833-4941, and share your qualifications and interests!
- ✓ Are you a mission parent who would like to help the March of Dimes start a mission family program / support group in Northwest Pennsylvania? Call Laura at (814) 833-4941.
- ✓ Do you know a youth who would like to get involved or help get his/her school involved? Call Laura at (814) 833-4941.

Staff News

- ✓ Congratulations to Diane Sickles, Division Director, who is expecting her first grandchildren—twins!
- ✓ Laura King, Community Director, attended the national March of Dimes staff conference in Phoenix, Arizona.
- ✓ Jessica Armant, Community Director, tempted fate and won by skydiving for the first time.

Division Celebrates March for Babies '08 Success, Surges Ahead to '09 Planning

At the March of Dimes, our largest fundraising event, March for Babies, is a focus 12 months out of the year. The Northwest Pennsylvania division hosts twelve event sites in the month of April, and rallies together thousands of supporters, volunteers, and donors for one cause: stronger, healthier babies.

In 2008, the division exceeded its March for Babies budgeted goal with a 14 percent increase from 2007, raising a total of \$520,000! Thank you to everyone who made the first March for Babies a successful fundraising campaign!

With the 2008 event wrapping up with plaque deliveries and thank you parties, planning for the 2009 event is already in motion. Volunteer leadership is being recruited and corporate sponsorship is being secured. It is our hope that 2009 proves even more successful, so we can take an even bigger step toward the day every family knows the joy of a healthy baby.

Let the countdown begin! Less than seven months until we March for Babies! Stay tuned for more details!

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marchofdimes.com/pennsylvania



One day all babies will be born healthy. We need to walk to get there.

Jumpstart Your March for Babies '09 Fundraising Today

Do you want your March for Babies fundraising to reach new heights in 2009? It's never too early to start raising funds to help give every baby a healthy start. Here are some fun ways to collect donations during the summer and fall months to help your campaign next year:

1. Plan a car wash
2. Host a yard/garage sale
3. Organize a golf scramble, 5K run, or bike event
4. Host a spaghetti dinner or soup sale
5. Plan a pumpkin pie bake sale
6. Host a hunter's breakfast
7. Ask your favorite independent sales consultant to run a fundraiser party (i.e., PartyLite, Home Interiors)
8. Host a holiday craft fair
9. Begin collecting your change after every purchase

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