COUNTY OF KANE





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Kane County Health Department's Kane Kares Program Celebrates Parent Graduates at Educational Event

(May 7, 2024) On March 9, 2024, the Kane County Health Department (KCHD) proudly hosted their Spring Educational Event dedicated to local parents enrolled in Kane Kares/Nurse-Family Partnership, a program that provides one-on-one nursing support to first-time parents at no charge. The event celebrated the graduation of parents who have participated in the program, marking a significant milestone in their commitment to enhancing family health and bonding.

At the event, Tamara Livingston, LCSW, I/ECMH-C, Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant, provided an in-depth presentation on the five critical areas of child development. Her expert guidance offered parents valuable insights into fostering their children's emotional, social, mental, and physical growth. Additionally, the event featured an important segment on poisoning prevention, equipping families with essential safety knowledge to protect their children from common household hazards.

The Kane Kares program, since its inception, has been at the forefront of supporting parental roles in child development with the goals of reducing rates of low birth weight, prematurity, and infant mortality, and promoting optimal well-child care and family bonding. Nurses match with families from pregnancy through age 2, making vital connections between new parents and community resources.

Michael Isaacson, KCHD Executive Director, expressed his enthusiasm for the program's success, stating, "The event was a celebration of family strength and the incredible journey parents have embarked on to ensure the best for their children. Every parent graduating from the Kane Kares program is not only better equipped to handle the challenges of parenting but also serves as a source of knowledge and support within their own communities."

The event not only recognized the achievements of the graduating parents but also reinforced the community's commitment to ongoing support and education for families. It highlighted the critical role of informed parenting in building stronger, healthier families across Kane County.

Kane Kares invites first-time parents to join this supportive network and get matched with a caring and knowledgeable KCHD nurse. The program remains dedicated to its mission of empowering parents and enhancing early childhood development, ensuring a brighter future for all children in the county.

For more information about the Kane Kares program, visit <u>Kane County Health Department's Kane Kares</u> webpage or call (224) 227-4476. Bilingual staff is available.