NYC NFP Celebrates Its Moms for Mother's Day 2017

As any new mother knows, parenting can be hard, tiring work. So in addition to providing regular home visits by nurses, NYC NFP’s program sites treat their clients to special events throughout the year—none of which is more special than Mother’s Day. Over the past month, five NYC NFP sites hosted events celebrating their clients’ new role as mothers.

NYC NFP’s Northern Queens site, run by Public Health Solutions under contract with the Health Department, held its Mother’s Day event at the Queens Zoo. Twenty-eight clients attended, along with friends and families, including four generations of one family. The group spent the afternoon visiting the various animals, and the children especially enjoyed the petting zoo. For some clients—and most of their children—this was the first time they had been to a zoo. Whether or not it was their first zoo experience, clients overwhelmingly loved their Mother’s Day celebration, and many said they were especially grateful for the opportunity to spend time outdoors, which, as new mothers, tends not to come along very often.

Brooklyn NFP, run by SCO Family of Services, also treated its clients and their children to a trip to the zoo. The day started with a discussion about the importance of self-care—the theme of the event—during which the nurses emphasized that parents need to take good care of themselves in order to be
emotionally and physically present for their children. To promote this, clients received a gift bag from Bath and Body Works and a pompom yarn key chain, handmade by nurse Carol Wei. The group then used their Cool Culture passes to visit the Prospect Park Zoo, where they enjoyed feeding the goats and sheep, watching the sea lion feeding show, and visiting a wide variety of animals, including a green iguana and hamadryas baboon. After the event, several clients called their nurses to thank them for a wonderful day, and said they were looking forward to their next Prospect Park outing: the site’s annual picnic on June 21st.

Thanks to a partnership with the New York Public Library’s Mott Haven branch, 22 clients of Bronx NFP—which is run under contract with the Health Department by Visiting Nurse Service of New York—along with a few lucky friends and family members, were treated to a very special celebration of their role as new mothers. The day included a healthy lunch (plus cupcakes baked by nurse Susan Spadafora); a storytelling/sing-along activity; a discussion on the importance of reading to a child’s development and how to choose age-appropriate books; gift bags that included colorful growth charts and books from the New York Public Library’s “ABC Read with Me” early literacy initiative; and a photo booth where clients could make their own decorative souvenirs. There was also a finger painting activity, during which a librarian demonstrated a technique to make it not just fun but beneficial to a child’s fine motor skill development and free from the danger of ingesting paint—as well as from the mess normally left behind. In addition, and back by popular demand, was the “Spa Corner,” where nurses pampered their clients with relaxing music, flameless candles, aroma therapy and massages using handheld massagers.

Seven-month-old Melody Hernandez gets a bit of finger-painting assistance from her mom (Bronx NFP client Michelle Hernandez).

Jamaica NFP’s annual Mother’s Day celebration brought out 29 clients, both pregnant and parenting, with a total of 30 infants and toddlers in tow. The mothers and mothers-to-be participated in an ice-breaker in which they shared two or three things they liked about being a mother or, for the pregnant clients, what they were most looking forward to about their new role. The participants then watched the video “World’s Toughest Job,” and engaged in a lively discussion about the issues consultant for the NYU/Lutheran Family Health Center in Sunset Park. She quickly impressed us with her abilities and the contributions she’s already made to our work.

Please join us in welcoming Annie on board and welcoming Clarissa to her new role with NYC NFP! We are lucky to have them as part of our team, and expect great things from them both! 

JOIN THE GROWING NYC NFP TEAM!

Do you or does someone you know want to be part of the NYC NFP team? NYC NFP is hiring, and is especially seeking bilingual nurses in the following languages: Spanish, Haitian Creole, French, Bengali and Russian.

All open positions are listed below. Please share the links with anyone who may be interested. Thank you!

Jamaica NFP
Nurse Home Visitor

New Manhattan and Brooklyn NFP sites
Nurse Home Visitor

Targeted Citywide Initiative (TCI)
Nurse Home Visitor

Brooklyn NFP
Nurse Home Visitor
Visit the SCO Family of Services website and search for “Nurse Home Visitor.”

Northern Queens NFP
Nurse Home Visitor

Visit the Public Health Solutions website and search for “Nurse Home Visitor.”
it brought up. There were arts and crafts activities as well, including creating footprints of the children and adorning mirrors with affirmations and colorful decorations. Clients said that in addition to enjoying the activities, they appreciated the opportunity to share their experiences and learn from one another. Another big plus was the service provided by the nurses in the “Child Care Corner,” which gave clients a chance to participate fully in the day’s activities.

Jamaica NFP nurse Beatrice Adam (left) shows off the footprinting prowess of client Tomika Pierre and her daughter Kristina Stephenson.

Not to be outdone, Staten Island NFP, run by Richmond Home Need Services, held its annual Mother’s Day event at the Staten Island Children’s Museum on the grounds of Snug Harbor Cultural Center. Nine clients, six children, three dads and two grandmothers turned out for the day of socializing and arts and crafts, which included the site’s customary foot- and handprint keepsakes. Wakefern Food Corp. (Shoprite) provided refreshments and gift bags of baby items, and nurses created another gift for the moms: comfy socks and nail polish wrapped up to resemble cupcakes.

A few of Staten Island NFP’s Mother’s Day crafts: baby footprinting, sock “cupcake” gifts and the Many Hats of Motherhood.

Those attending also participated in the site’s unique “Many Hats of Motherhood” activity, in which clients write some of the many roles mothers plays on circles of colored paper, which are then used to decorate a hat (see photo above). Some of the fathers contributed as well. The 17-year-old dad of a 23-month-old son wrote: “Motherhood in my eyes is cherishing a baby with all the love they can (muster). Mothers wear millions of hats but Christopher’s mom is a superhero.”

For news and updates on NYC NFP, please follow Dr. George Askew, the Division of Family and Child Health’s Deputy Commissioner, at @DrGeorgeLAskew. And keep up on all the NYC Health Department’s news and program updates at @nycHealthy.

Keep up with NYC NFP and all of the Division of Family and Child Health on the “Our Littlest New Yorkers” Facebook page, where NYC parents and families are talking about the joys and challenges of raising young children. Visit it daily for tips, events, photos and more: www.facebook.com/LittlestNYers!

Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) is an evidence-based nationwide nurse home visiting program committed to improving the health, well-
We couldn’t have said it better ourselves. NYC NFP is pleased to celebrate our clients and all the mothers out there who are caregivers, nurturers, providers, teachers and, yes, superheroes to their children, families and other loved ones!

To join our mailing list, send an email with "subscribe" in the subject line to nycnfp@health.nyc.gov.

The New York City Nurse-Family Partnership is administered by the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, which contracts with the following agencies to provide services: Harlem Hospital Center, Public Health Solutions, Richmond Home Need Services, SCO Family of Services and Visiting Nurse Service of New York. The program is funded by New York City and State as well as with federal Medicaid, MIECHV (Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program) and TANF dollars. In addition, since 2003 it has received generous support from dedicated individual donors and private foundations, including the Altman Foundation, The Arthur Foundation, The Dunn Foundation, the Jonas Center for Nursing Excellence, the New York State Health Foundation, Newman’s Own Foundation, The Pinkerton Foundation, Robin Hood, the Samberg Family Foundation, Schwartz Cousins Fund, The Edith Glick Shoolman Children’s Foundation and Starr International Foundation. All private grants for NYC NFP are managed by the Fund for Public Health in New York, a nonprofit organization that works with the NYC Health Department to develop innovative, valuable and lasting public-private partnerships that increase the agency’s capacity and reach.

NYC Nurse-Family Partnership | Call 311 | nycnfp@health.nyc.gov