



# Baby Blog

Summer 2011

## 2011 Annual Meeting

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## Connecting Women and Helping Babies

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## Board Member Spotlight: Jeff Barbacci

Jeff is a shareholder and director of audit with the firm of Thomas Howell Ferguson.

## Staff Profile: Denée Glenn

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When school is out, many children turn to the lazy, hazy days of summer. However, the girls of the S.T.R.O.N.G.E.R. summer program used these last few months to learn about career possibilities, thanks to some of the 25 Women You Need to Know identified by Tallahassee Democrat.

**Leon County Judge Judith Hawkins** hosted S.T.R.O.N.G.E.R. girls at the Leon County Courthouse Wednesday, July 20th from 9:30 to noon.

**Jeanne Dariotis, Northern Region Vice-President of Florida Blood Services** invited the S.T.R.O.N.G.E.R. girls for a tour of the Southeastern Community Blood Center on July 26th.

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# 2011 Annual Meeting

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Dr. Clark explained alarming trends and factors concerning the rising racial disparities in infant health outcomes, which has become a major issue on a national, state and local level. Infant health challenges include increasing prematurity/low birth weight, increasing high-risk pregnancies, preconception health, maintaining a quality perinatal system, and promoting safe sleep.

Following the discussion, a pre-recorded message featuring **Representative Alan Williams** encouraged leaders and lawmakers to become more aware of the problems surrounding infant mortality and to take action. Representative Williams believes that engaging the local churches is one of the necessary first steps, and is hoping the local clergy can be advocates for a cause that troubles almost everyone who studies it. This new initiative will be called Manger Ministries.

"We want them to be advocates, similar to what clergy have done with One Church, One Child with adoption programs," Williams said. "We want to use the structure of the church to get the word out, making sure mothers and fathers are doing everything they can to bring a healthy child into the world."

CAHSC would like to thank the Tallahassee Democrat for their coverage throughout the week, for highlighting infant mortality rates, and the coalition's joint efforts to reduce the numbers. Healthy Start continues to lead the way in fighting infant mortality.



*Dr. Cheryl Clark*



*Dr. Fran Close*



*Representative Alan Williams*

## **MANY THANKS!**

Our **Wall of Angels** at the CAHSC office is growing, thanks to wonderful supporters of Healthy Start. We want to express gratitude for the **Tallahassee Rotary Club, Jack and Jill of America, and Brian and Rebecca Armstrong.**

Your generous donations and dedication to Healthy Start will greatly help moms and babies in need of services.

# The Immediate Need . . .

## Connecting Women and Helping Babies

Capital Area Healthy Start commends the shining stars instrumental in achieving high prenatal screening rates. **North Florida Women's Care (NFWC) rates were 81% for the fiscal year of June 2010 – July 2011**, according to the Florida Department of Health's online report system. The benchmark is 77%, but the Coalition is challenging providers to aim higher than what's required of them.

To celebrate their achievement, a luncheon was catered in honor of the doctors and nurses at North Florida Womens Care (NFWC) on July 19th. Kristina Abernathy, Community Liaison of CAHSC, met with NFWC staff to discuss Healthy Start initiatives and to explain why Healthy Start screens are so critical to moms and babies. Providers had the opportunity to ask questions regarding the history of Healthy Start and the screens. In return, providers also offered insight as to how we can assist them in their quest to increase the rates. Both nurses and doctors were determined to find out how they could improve their rates.



*Dr. A. J. Brickler*



*Staff members of North Florida Women's Care enjoy lunch.*

In the Fall newsletter, a report card will be featured listing the OB/GYN offices with screening rates of 80% or higher. CAHSC commends each provider for their efforts, and looks forward to celebrating with them.

### **Manger Ministries Reaching Out to Faith-Based Community**

A tremendous round of applause goes out to Representative Alan Williams and Darrel Jones of Bethel AME for initiating Manger Ministries, a local project aimed at increasing the awareness among African American churches concerning racial disparity and infant mortality.



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## Board Member Spotlight: Jeff Barbacci

Jeff is a shareholder and director of audit with the firm of Thomas Howell Ferguson. He has been practicing as a public accountant since he graduated from Stetson University in 1992. For the last 15 years he has specialized in providing audit and consulting services to not-for-profit and government organizations. Jeff's experience includes traditional audit and accounting services, strategic planning, benchmarking, internal control and systems evaluation, compliance auditing, cost allocations and other management consulting services.



He also serves as a public speaker presenting on numerous topics associated with not-for-profit organizations. Most recently he co-authored an eight hour course entitled "CPAs Building Better Boards" for the FICPA. He has been with the CAHSC Board for approximately three years and is currently serving his second term as the Board Treasurer.

When Jeff is not working or volunteering he enjoys pretty much anything competitive. He especially enjoys golf and has recently taken up boating. Jeff and his wife Emily also enjoy going to their two son's baseball games, camping with the scouts and riding bikes.

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## Staff Profile: Denée Glenn

Denée Glenn, coordinator of the S.T.R.O.N.G.E.R. Girls Program, believes passion is what separates the exemplary from the mediocre. Denée is truly passionate about the success of the girls program. On August 5th, she closed out the second year of the program with a special morning for the girls where they enjoyed homemade breakfast and received back to school supplies. She is diligently at work preparing for the upcoming term with hopes of providing an even more exciting and enriching program. Denée visions a state-wide program where every girl in the state of Florida has the opportunity to become S.T.R.O.N.G.E.R.



# THANK YOU!

## Thanks to the Women of Club 25

### S.T.R.O.N.G.E.R. Girls Have Had Quite A Summer!

When school is out, many children turn to the lazy, hazy days of summer. However, the girls of the S.T.R.O.N.G.E.R. summer program used these last few months to learn about career possibilities, thanks to some of the 25 Women You Need to Know identified by the Tallahassee Democrat.

**Leon County Judge Judith Hawkins** hosted S.T.R.O.N.G.E.R. girls at the Leon County Courthouse on Wednesday, July 20th from 9:30 to noon. Their visit to the courthouse included a tour of the facility, observation of a court session, a mock trial and a lunch with Judge Hawkins. Many thanks to Judge Hawkins for giving our girls this wonderful opportunity.



*Judge Judith Hawkins with the girls*



*Witnesses prepare their testimony during mock trial*

**Jeanne Dariotis, Northern Region Vice-President of Florida Blood Services**, invited the S.T.R.O.N.G.E.R. girls for a tour of the Southeastern Community Blood Center on July 26th. As they strolled through the facility and learned about white blood cells, red blood cells, platelets, plasma and much more, it was evident this center was making a lasting impression with them. Ms. Dariotis and the SCBC staff should be commended for planning such an amazing adventure.



*Girls learn about blood pressure testing during blood bank tour*



*Jeanne Dariotis with the S.T.R.O.N.G.E.R. girls*