Where Does the Money Go?

Every day in Georgia, we are working to improve the health of moms and babies through research, education, advocacy and community services. Your support helps fund these vital programs and resources in our state. Thank you for helping us improve the health of mothers and babies in Georgia!

- In an average week in Georgia, 375 babies are born premature. That’s nearly 20,000 babies born early every year.
- Between 1998 and 2008, the rate of infants born preterm in Georgia increased more than 15%.
- The rate of preterm birth in Georgia is 13.4%, higher than the National rate of 12.3%.

The mission of the March of Dimes is to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality.

Education

We provide awareness and information for the general public, targeting education for women of child bearing age as well as for healthcare professionals. Here are some examples of educational projects we fund in Georgia:

- **Stork’s Nest** - A cooperative project between the March of Dimes and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. that provides prenatal education and incentives for low-income pregnant women.

- **Project Alpha** - A collaborative project with March of Dimes and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. providing young males with education, motivation and skill-building on issues of responsibility, relationships, teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

- **Comenzado Bien** - Prenatal education for Hispanic women.

- **Perinatal Education** - Promoting healthy pregnancies by focusing on case management, prenatal education classes and prenatal appointment compliance.

- **CenteringPregnancy®** - Group prenatal care focused on empowering women to take control of their bodies, their pregnancies, and their families, and empowering health care providers to share their care-giving with their clients.

Advocacy

Our governmental and public affairs efforts are focused on both local and National issues that impact the health of pregnant women and babies. These are our 2011 legislative priorities:

- Maintain current Medicaid services to ensure prenatal care of all pregnant women
- Medicaid coverage of tobacco cessation for pregnant women
- Adding SCID as a core condition covered in the Newborn Screening Panel.
- Insurance coverage for medical foods and formulas

NICU Family Support®

In Georgia, we are proud to have two NICU Family Support programs in place, one at Atlanta Medical Center and the other at Savannah Memorial University Hospital. At these locations, a March of Dimes NICU Family Support specialist is there to provide information, comfort and help for families who experience the hospitalization of their baby.

We also provide kiosks in five Georgia hospitals which offer information and access to support web sites for families in the NICU. Information on what to expect during their stay in the NICU and when they go home can help families cope with the experience and stress of a baby’s stay in the hospital.
Research

In 2011, the March of Dimes awarded more than $1.6 million for multi-year research grants in Georgia. These funds are helping doctors at Emory University and Medical College of Georgia find the causes and treatment of birth defects, premature birth and low birth weight.

Community Grants

The goal of community awards is to identify and fund community-based programs addressing the health concerns of pregnant women and infants in the state of Georgia. In 2011, we invested approximately $202,000 towards local programs aimed at improving the health of babies and mothers across the state.

Chapter Grants

- Macon-Bibb County Health Department - Preconception & Interconception Education
- Southwest Public Health District: Due What's Best Too - CenteringPregnancy® Program
- Houston Healthcare: Caring for you Baby Before Birth - Stork's Nest Program
- Clayton County Board of Health: Making our Mothers Successful (M.O.M.S) - Outreach Program
- Southwest Public Health District - CenteringPregnancy® Program
- Family Connection Collaborative Lamar County: Improving Low Birthweight Outcomes - Preconception Education
- Phi Chi Zeta - Stork's Nest
- New Millennium OB-GYN: Centering Prenatal Care in Groups - CenteringPregnancy® Program

Community Awards

- Georgia Obstetrical and Gynecological Society: Study of Obstetric Distribution and Shortage Issues in Georgia
- Saint Joseph's Mercy Care Services, Inc.: Perinatal Education Program
- Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.: Project Alpha - Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Retreat
- Heart of Georgia Healthy Start Coalition, Inc: Better Health for Babies: Pregnancy Workshop and Community Education
- DeKalb Medical, NICU: The Period of PURPLE Crying (Education)
- Hope House, Inc.: Pregnancy Plus (Community Outreach)
- La Leche League of Dunwoody: Breastfeeding Resource Day Program
- Prevent Child Abuse Rockdale: Rockdale Positive Parenting (Education & Outreach)

Angel II

Angel II is a special mobile neonatal intensive care unit that stabilizes and transports sick and/or premature infants to hospitals. Angel II travels to Level I and Level II hospitals and, after a baby is stabilized there, transports them to a Level III or Level IV hospital. The March of Dimes provided the funding for this vital transport vehicle after Grady Hospital's two older vehicles were officially taken out of service in 2007. We currently have one March of Dimes Angel II ambulance that travels across the state to transport about two babies each day, or 570 babies a year. We are happy to announce that in 2010, the March of Dimes Georgia Chapter raised the funds necessary to purchase an additional Angel II Transport Unit. The new Angel II was introduced to service in December, 2011 and is already helping save babies’ lives across our state.

39 Weeks/Healthy Babies Are Worth the Wait

A baby born even a week or two early can have serious long term health problems. Scheduling your baby’s birth for non-medical reasons before 39 completed weeks of pregnancy can cause problems for mom and baby. Waiting for labor to begin on its own is the best way to prevent these health risks. The March of Dimes is raising awareness about the problems associated with scheduling a baby’s birth and reminding mothers that healthy babies are worth the wait.