Hello,

I am Pam Albers, Director of Help Me Grow Brighter Futures.  We provide Home Visiting and Early Intervention service in Montgomery County.  Our programs are located under one roof, allowing us to coordinate and reduce the risk of service duplication.  We can match families with the best possible program for the needs that they have.  We offer:

* Nurse Family Partnership: helping first-time moms
* Healthy Families America: social and emotional support for families to age 3
* Early Head Start: Parents as Teachers to age 3
* Early Intervention: children with developmental concerns to age 3

These services are a comprehensive range of home visiting services prenatal to age 3.  Our goal is that every expectant mother who needs support be served and offered home visiting during pregnancy before the 28th week through infancy, child development, and family development.

It is critical that services are Evidence-Based programs with proven results.  Characteristics that help achieve success in these models include:

* + Significant impact on factors that affect infant mortality, such as preterm births
  + Professional care providers
  + Careful documentation and evaluation
  + Quality evaluations showing long-term benefit

Programs like ours are all over our great state.  We have continuous support from hospitals, physicians, and pregnancy centers.  The Ohio Department of Health and the Ohio Department of Medicaid have been strong supporters of the growth and improvement in our move to Evidence - Based models and gaining outcomes that change the lives of families.

As an evidence based, and proven program with more than 20 years of research, implementation by exceptional home visiting agencies and partners with dedicated nurses and teachers serving high need families is one of the best investments a state can make in making a difference for children and families in Ohio.

One of our clients, Tierra, a Dayton, Ohio mom said it best, **“**When people hear [the word] nurse, they think, “Oh, I’ve got the doctors. I’ll see a nurse.” No, not that type of nurse. It’s not just medical. She is there for everything, any and everything, personal advice, medical advice, all of it. Valerie (one of our nurse home visitors) also helped me with looking for different schools to go to, which [one] was best for me. She helped with studying skills, how to study and parent at the same time. Now, I have my associate’s degree in health information management. And I’m studying now to take my RHIT [Registered Health Information Technician credential], so I can be a registered technician. And I’m at UC [University of Cincinnati] online for my bachelor’s degree.”

**Thank you for your time and for the opportunity to share the story of Ohio’s most tenacious mothers, babies and staff.**

Pam Albers. RN, MS,

Director

Help Me Grow Brighter Futures

Nurse Family Partnership

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