

## THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS FOR SUPPORTING GLOBAL GRANT 1980712!

Global Grant 1980712, Group Prenatal Care Training for Indigenous Women, officially launched in Fargo on September 17. Over 100 people attended the event, including health professionals, sponsors, Rotarians from 10 clubs, the current District 5580 District Governor, sponsors, March of Dimes national staff, and community members. Community members--including another site who serves native women-- drove many hours just to attend the celebration and meet others developing group prenatal care programs.

The evening began with a 'smudge', a native tradition to cleanse the body. Willard Yellowbird, a spiritual leader in the Fargo Moorhead community, offered the smudge to all participants at the event. A poster session followed, which allowed participants to learn about each other's programs. Several program representatives drove many hours just to attend this portion of the evening and connect with other native health programs and we saw phone numbers and business cards quickly exchanging hands at the posters!

Next, participants enjoyed a meal and multiple program partners took to the stage to discuss their part in the group prenatal care program. Each of the five health care sites introduced themselves and why they are excited about group prenatal care for their pregnant women. The evening concluded with dancing/drumming from the Buffalo River Singers & Dancers.

A special aspect of the evening was the diaper drive; participants brought boxes of diapers when they registered for the event, and local rotary clubs brought a truckload of diapers that they had collected over the last weeks. Other clubs chose to contribute funds for diaper purchases. Participating clubs included Fargo-Moorhead AM, Fargo PM, Fargo West, Fargo, Moorhead, and Cheyenne, Wyoming all contributed funds for diapers. Diapers were divided and taken to each of the sites, to be distributed to pregnant women when they participate in group prenatal care. The total value of diapers + cash for diapers was nearly \$2000!

Over the next two days, the five sites trained with March of Dimes, learning how to implement group prenatal care at their site. They received detailed instruction from national March of Dimes staff who had traveled from four different states (Texas, Colorado, Florida, and Pennsylvania) to conduct training. Willard Yellowbird also did a seminar on native spirituality principles in pregnancy and Jessica White Plume, who is serving as a site liaison for the Rotary grant, gave a seminar on how to best motivate women to improve health behaviors.

Participants enjoyed the training and will now work closely with Jessica White Plume and their teams to implement group prenatal care. In the coming months, they will plan their groups, purchase materials with the \$10,000 stipends from the Rotary grant, design promotional materials that fit their women's needs, and develop their session topics, ensuring the topics and her activities (e.g. food, crafts, ice breakers, etc.) in the group prenatal care classes are culturally appropriate. The first groups are expected to start in December.

The Fargo Forum carried an article on the event that you may be interested in reading:

<https://www.inforum.com/news/4638667-Prenatal-program-taking-aim-at-Native-American-health-disparities>

**Thank you to all who supported this event, the grant, and diaper drive!** Jodi Henry, Director of the Little Moccasins program at the Santee Sioux Health Center, wrote and read the following poem as a thank you for all who helped with this grant:

*A tiny pair of Moccasins.*

*So simple and discreet.*

*Did you know you helped to care for such tiny lil feet?*

*Statistics show they may not walk in those lil pair of moccasins.*

*You see their mommy may not have made the best choices.*

*And add on poverty, drugs, alcohol, and poisons.*

*By you educating moms. . . .*

*Encouraging early prenatal care. . . .*

*By all the resources you so willingly share.*

*A tiny pair of Moccasins*

*So simple and discreet.*

*Did you know you helped care for such tiny lil feet!*



Willard Yellowbird explains the smudging process to attendees. A smudge is used to cleanse people and spaces.



Participants visit posters, to learn more about resources and programs to support moms and babies, especially within other indigenous communities in the Midwest.

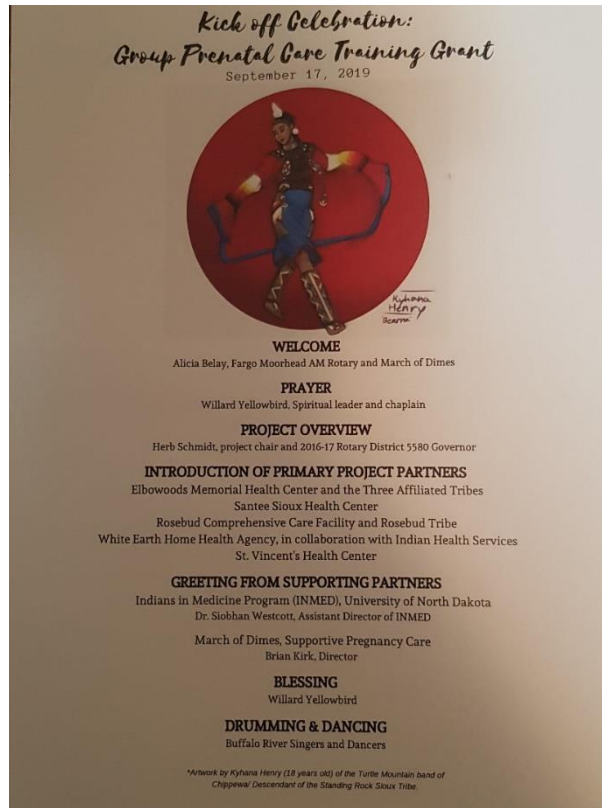


Herb Schmidt, of the Fargo Moorhead AM Rotary, D5580 PDG 2015-16, and chair of the GG1980712 grant committee, shares the overview of the grant, including thanking partners and sponsors.



Dr. Bernice Dubois from Elbowoods Memorial, of the Three Affiliated Tribes, introduced each partnering health site. Dr. Dubois will be leading the group prenatal care initiative at MHA Nation.





Front of the evening's program. Artwork was done by a young lady of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa, descendent of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.



Rotarians Jen Miller and Heather Ranck stand by the diapers donated to provide to the prenatal care participants.



The Buffalo River Singers & Dancers provided dance, storytelling, and drumming for participants to learn more about indigenous culture.



In the days after the kick-off, health professionals worked with the March of Dimes staff to learn about implementation of Group Prenatal Care. Here they pose with Herb Schmidt and Alicia Belay from the FMAM Rotary Club.



THANK YOU TO OUR

# ROTARY PARTNERS



## ROTARY DISTRICT SUPPORT

District 5340, California  
District 5495, Arizona  
District 5890, Texas  
District 9920, New Zealand  
District 1030, England  
District 7820, Canada  
District 3522, Taiwan  
District 9780, Australia  
District 3212, India  
District 4250, Guatemala  
District 5610, South Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota  
District 5580, Minnesota, North Dakota, Ontario

## OTHER INTERNATIONAL ROTARY SUPPORT

E Club of 9920 Francophone  
Rajapalayam, India  
Nagercoil Town, India  
Nipigon, Canada  
Meenambakkam, India  
Thunder Bay (Fort William), Canada  
Thunder Bay (Port Arthur), Canada  
Taipei Dahu, Taiwan  
Wolfville-Mud Creek, Canada

## USA ROTARY CLUB SUPPORT

Rotary Club of Del Mar  
Fargo Moorhead PM  
Fargo Moorhead AM  
Fargo-West  
Moorhead  
Fargo  
Pelican Rapids  
Bismarck Far West  
Sun Lakes, Arizona  
Brainerd  
Prior Lake  
Grand Rapids  
West St. Paul & Mendota Heights  
Wabasha  
Williston  
Cheyenne, Wyoming

