

For Immediate Release

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Lincoln Health Foundation Announces Call for Proposals Organization to Fund Program For First-Time And At-Risk Families

Lincoln Health Foundation announces a call for proposals for the implementation and delivery of a voluntary home visiting program designed to assist overburdened first-time and other qualifying parents at critical points in their child's development. The program to be implemented is *Growing Great Kids*™, a nationally recognized, intensive, two-year parent education and childhood development program developed by Great Kids, Inc. This program, recently approved by Lincoln Health Foundation's Board of Directors as a *Healthier Beginnings* strategic plan initiative, was evaluated and recommended by the Foundation's Community Plan Advisory Board, and is representative of the types of programs that the Foundation seeks to fund, through its strategic plan, to accomplish its mission of improving health care and outcomes for residents of Lincoln Parish.

"We are grateful to the community health advisory board for evaluating the results of the Lincoln Parish Community Health Assessment and recommending the *Growing Great Kids*™ program" said Dr. Shirley Reagan, Chair of the Lincoln Health Foundation Board of Directors. "The *Growing Great Kids*™ program has been used successfully in several States to reduce infant mortality rates and the incidence of low birth weights, two areas identified as 'unfavorable' in the Lincoln Parish Community Health Assessment conducted in 2008." added Dr. Reagan. "Lincoln Health Foundation seeks to reduce infant mortality and low birth weight rates in Lincoln Parish by funding the *Growing Great Kids*™ program, and we look forward to working with a qualified local organization that is able to successfully implement and deliver the *Growing Great Kids*™ program."

The objectives of the *Growing Great Kids*™ program include:

- Provide specialized strategies for motivating overburdened parents to nurture their infants and young children, and to support their learning and development
- Facilitate positive pregnancy and child health outcomes by insuring proper pre-natal and postnatal care
- Improve family functioning through parenting and problem solving skill development
- Optimize child growth and development by enhancing parental knowledge of child development and linking with relevant community resources

Lincoln Health Foundation will award funding to the organization that best demonstrates its ability to implement and deliver the *Growing Great Kids*™ program. For detailed proposal guidelines and additional information concerning the *Growing Great Kids*™ program, please visit Lincoln Health Foundation's website at www.lincolnhealth.com.

Responses to this call for proposals will be accepted until March 1, 2010, with final selection and awarding of funds to occur April 1, 2010. Questions may be directed to Norman Hanes, Administrator, by emailing nhanes@argentmoney.com.