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Passport Health Plan and March of Dimes donate diaper bags to families with babies in UofL Hospital NICU

Louisville, Ky. – As part of National Prematurity Awareness Month, Passport Health Plan and March of Dimes are stepping up to help families who have babies being treated in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at University of Louisville Hospital.

Passport (the provider-sponsored, nonprofit, community-based health plan administering Medicaid benefits to more than 310,000 Kentuckians) and March of Dimes (the nation's leading maternal and infant health nonprofit) are donating fully stocked diaper bags to help families during one of the most emotional and tense times in their lives.

“The preterm birth rate in the United States is on the rise for the third year in a row, a trend signaling an urgent health crisis for moms and babies,” says Passport CEO Mark Carter. “Passport and March of Dimes share a common goal – to work towards a day when every baby born in Kentucky arrives full-term and completely healthy.”

In Jefferson County, the preterm birth rate is an alarming 10.9 percent, based on 2016 data.

“Passport is proud to work with the March of Dimes to help promote healthy pregnancies and babies,” says Passport Chief Medical Officer Dr. Stephen Houghland. “Through this collaboration, we strive to prevent premature birth and birth defects, educating moms and supporting families in need.”

Premature birth (before 37 weeks of pregnancy) is the largest contributor to infant death in the United States and around the world.

“It is an important part of our March of Dimes mission to support those who've been affected by premature birth and let them know they're not alone,” says Kristin Lehman, executive director of market development for March of Dimes Kentucky. “If we can come together as a community, we can create solutions that support healthy moms and strong babies here in Louisville and across the nation, not just in November, but all year long.”

“UofL Hospital is thankful for the generosity of March of Dimes and Passport in donating necessary infant care items that will help these families as they prepare to bring their babies home,” says Ken Marshall, president and



CEO of UofL Hospital. “Patient and family-centered care is at the heart of what we do at UofL Hospital and we’re grateful these community organizations are supporting that mission.”

About Passport Health Plan

[Passport Health Plan](#) is a provider-sponsored, non-profit, community-based health plan administering Medicaid benefits to more than 310,000 Kentuckians. Passport has been contracted with the Commonwealth of Kentucky to administer Medicaid benefits since 1997. For details, please visit passporthealthplan.com or call toll-free (800) 578-0603. You can also find Passport on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).

About March of Dimes

March of Dimes leads the fight for the health of all moms and babies. We support research, lead programs and provide education and advocacy so that every family can have the best possible start. Building on a successful 80-year legacy of impact and innovation, we stand up for every mom and every baby. Visit marchofdimes.org or nacersano.org for more information. Visit shareyourstory.org for comfort and support. Find us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

