

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**March of Dimes Awards Grant to Coastal Area Health Education Center  
To Help Improve the Health of Mothers and Babies  
in Southeastern North Carolina**

(Wilmington, NC, March 1, 2007)—The March of Dimes has awarded a grant to Coastal Area Health Education Center to support The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at New Hanover Regional Medical Center (NHRMC). This funds will be used to purchase a bonding aide so that parents of hospitalized high-risk infants can leave their scent and comforting support behind when they must leave their infant’s bedside (the “Zaky”) Parent educational materials and assistance in sponsoring a national speaker who will discuss Infant Mental Health Issues will also be provided with grant funding. Details about the speaker will be announced at a later date.

This grant is one of many that the March of Dimes awards in pursuit of its mission to prevent birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality.

“We will use the March of Dimes grant to further our objective of providing mothers and babies with increased education and comforting support during a very traumatic period of time in their lives.” said Donna Vaught, Ph.D., Developmental Specialist with the NICU. “We are grateful to those volunteers who support the March of Dimes by participation in events like WalkAmerica and who donate in other ways. That participation and those donations make this grant possible,” said Fernando Moya, MD, Director of Neonatology at NHRMC.

Coastal Area Health Education Center was established in 1973 and is one of nine AHECs under the North Carolina statewide AHEC Program established to attract, retain, and maintain high quality health care professionals in all areas of the state.

The March of Dimes is a national voluntary health agency whose mission is to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality. Founded in 1938, the March of Dimes funds programs of research, community services, education, and advocacy to save babies and in 2003 launched a campaign to address the increasing rate of premature birth. For more information, visit the March of Dimes Web site at [marchofdimes.com](http://marchofdimes.com) or its Spanish language Web site at [nacersano.org](http://nacersano.org).

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