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THE LUKE PROJECT 52 CLINIC NEWS



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Transportation issues contribute to high infant mortality. What to do?

Research has shown that disparities such as racial inequity, poverty, stress, food insecurity, lack of education and **limited access to transportation or health care** can contribute to poor health outcomes for mothers and babies

Although the infant mortality rate in the African American community has declined slightly, it is still 2.5 times higher than the national average. The rate in the Hispanic community has actually increased.

At the Luke Clinic we have seen the transportation issue up close and personal. Every clinic we have patients who call in late whose ride has fallen through asking if we can come get them. We had a patient walk 1.1 miles in single digit temperatures in flip flops so she could keep her appointment.

What are we to do? While we seek a longer term solution to this issue we are asking for volunteers who will simply come to clinic to be friends to our patients who need a ride. We actively teach our Moms how to use the ride system available through Medicaid, but when they have no insurance, they need a friend to help. Is that you?

Longer term we are going to explore the possibility of converting our donated ambulance into a mobile antenatal testing unit which, if a Mom can't get to us, we will go to them. It's sort of back to the future. House calls by the Dr. Details to be worked out.

NEWS NOTES

- **Traveling to Raleigh, NC on Feb. 8-9 to look at a 40' mobile clinic with 36,000 miles available at a miraculously low cost**
- **Donation of a 5 year old ambulance from Huron Valley Ambulance service has been reconfirmed. Coming soon**
- **Meeting with U of M Chairperson of OBgyn on 2/7/18 to explore "How can U of M help?"**



36,000 miles, 2 exam rooms, lab, diesel, \$35,000. 40 foot mobile medical clinic. Complete details next month.



Immediate need: Volunteers willing to transport a friend (patient) on clinic days. Last clinic we had Moms that had to miss crucial appointments because their rides deserted them at the last moment. They called the Clinic begging for a ride, but we had no one available to transport. Call me at 734-646-8206 if you would be willing to help.

Children's Room workers: This continues to be an area of crucial need. If you or your church would be willing to help, you would be addressing one of the issues that prevent Moms from getting the prenatal care they need and you could be directly involved in saving a baby! Don't just march for women or life, serve for a woman and a life! 4 hours once every two months. CALL!