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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **CAMDEN RESIDENTS RENEW THEIR COMMITMENT TO FAMILIES** Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition Names 2008 Honorees

**CAMDEN, NJ**—The Annual Meeting of the Camden Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies—Healthy Start (HMHB-HS) program offers a first-hand look into the lives of parents working to raise healthier babies and stronger families.

Some 160 guests gathered at this year's event. Most are client families enrolled in the program. HMHB-HS and its services are free to qualified Camden residents. The program is directed by the Southern New Jersey Perinatal Cooperative.

Its mission—to lower the infant mortality rate in Camden City—inspired a call to action from HMHB-HS project director Joye Rozier.

“Miracles happen to those in motion,” said Rozier. “The future we wish to create for our families is built with healthy decisions today.”

Three such individuals were honored for their commitment to Camden and to their own families: Angela Paige-Williams, John Jenkins, and Luis Al Rio Dey.

Angela Paige-Williams was named HMHB's “Mother of the Year.” A recovering drug addict, Paige-Williams says her children and husband helped get her life together. In the three years she has been drug-free, Angela finished high school and still keeps an active family life. She is pursuing a counseling degree, and has special training to work with pregnant, substance-abusing women.

“Father of the Year” John Jenkins is the pride of the Fathers on Track (FOT) program, a mentorship group for Camden dads. His own troubled experiences inspired his commitment to a better life for his family. John's contributions to the program have helped him be a better parent and leading role model for other men.

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Atlantic City Medical Center,  
City and Mainland Divisions

Cape Regional Medical Center

Cooper Health System

Deborah Heart and Lung Center

Kennedy Health Systems,  
Washington Township Campus

Lourdes Medical Center  
of Burlington County

Our Lady of Lourdes  
Medical Center

Shore Memorial Hospital

South Jersey Healthcare-  
Elmer Hospital

South Jersey Healthcare-  
Regional Medical Center

The Memorial Hospital  
of Salem County

Underwood-Memorial Hospital

Virtua Memorial Hospital  
Burlington County

Virtua West Jersey Hospital  
Voorhees

Planned Parenthood's Luis Al Rio Dey received the 2008 Silver Rattle Award for his years of service to Camden families. As the first case manager to work with the male partners of HMHB-HS clients, Al Rio Dey's upbeat outlook has been a fixture of FOT since April 2003. His rapport with the men he counsels lets him be both a resource for parenting questions and a trusted sounding board.

Rozier praised the honorees and all HMHB-HS program participants as living examples of the change that can transform Camden City. She also invited guests to affirm their commitment to their families' health.

"We in Camden need to consider what the community can do to achieve the healthcare goals of the city," said Rozier. "To embrace the mission of Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies means to take responsibility for raising healthy children."

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*The Southern New Jersey Perinatal Cooperative (SNJPC) is the state-licensed, non-profit, maternal-child health consortium serving the seven southernmost counties of New Jersey. SNJPC programs and services are dedicated to improving health outcomes for mothers and babies in South Jersey. For more information about the Cooperative or its services, call 856-665-6000 or visit [snjpc.org](http://snjpc.org).*