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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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March 13, 2009

### CONGRATULATIONS NFP CLASS OF 2009! Camden Program Helps First-Time Moms Succeed

**CAMDEN, NJ**—Malandra Hall was a flurry of food, music, and excitable two year-olds as the 2009 **Nurse Family Partnership (NFP)** graduating class gathered with their friends, family, and Nurse Home Visitors to celebrate their completion of the two-year program.

The event was a milestone for the 13 women, all of whom are first-time mothers. It represented the result of their dedication to the NFP program and its goals. Guests enjoyed a catered meal, shared testimonials about their experiences, and took home framed graduation certificates.

“Each of these women is so strong and becoming more independent by the day,” says NFP Nurse Coordinator Hope White. “They really worked hard to complete the program, and today they’re raising healthier children because of it.”

NFP is an evidence-based nurse home visitation program that improves the health and well-being of low-income, first-time parents and their children. The program has been implemented in communities nationwide; the Camden initiative is the third in New Jersey. It is overseen by the **Southern New Jersey Perinatal Cooperative**, a non-profit maternal child health consortium in Pennsauken, NJ.

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NFP clients receive in-home care and education from NFP Nurse Home Visitors throughout their pregnancy and the first two years of their babies' lives. The program is voluntary and its services—which are provided free of charge—focus specifically on the needs of Camden City residents, with education designed to help women become self-sufficient, capable parents.

NFP Nurse Home Visitors provide the kind of one-on-one assistance that first-time mothers truly need. They help clients develop their understanding of family health, parenting skills, and their plans for the future. Nurse Home Visitors offer emotional support, answer questions, and make sure that mom and baby have a regular doctor.

“We have worked closely with some of these clients for almost three years,” says White. “Their commitment to becoming great mothers and community role models deserves to be rewarded.”

Even though the women have completed the NFP program, White says they stay in touch with their Nurse Home Visitor.

“We are always available as a resource for questions and encouragement,” she says. “Many women also join the Camden Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition, remaining as leaders and guides to the next group of graduates in Camden City.”

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***The Southern New Jersey Perinatal Cooperative (SNJPC) is the state-licensed maternal-child health consortium serving the seven southernmost counties of New Jersey. SNJPC coordinates programs that provide access to perinatal health care, offer public health education, and strengthen families in an effort to improve the perinatal and pediatric health system in its service region. On an individual basis, the Cooperative operates wherever its services are needed, always focused on the greater good—improving health outcomes for every mother and baby in Southern New Jersey and laying the foundation for a higher quality of service. For more information about the Cooperative or its services, please call 856-665-6000 or visit [snjpc.org](http://snjpc.org).***

***The Nurse Family Partnership of Camden is a free program of the Southern New Jersey Perinatal Cooperative designed to assist first-time mothers in making healthy choices throughout their pregnancy and the first two years of their children's lives. Specially trained nurses help pregnant women prepare their home for the arrival of the new baby and work to incorporate other friends and family members into a network of support for mother and baby. Nurses also assist in long-term planning for life after delivery, including education, possible future pregnancies, and a return to work.***



**CAPTION:** Victoria Quann (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) smiles with her daughter Catalina at the January 30, 2009 Nurse Family Partnership graduation ceremony in Camden, NJ. After two years in the NFP program, Victoria completed high school, got her own apartment, and maintains a full-time job. She is joined by Nurse Home Visitor Marion Delp (far left), Catalina's father, Felix Alicia, and her own mother, Annabella Ferreira, all of Camden, NJ.