

# New Beginnings

A MomsFirst Newsletter

Fall 2023



## Baby Buggy Crawl

Last year, MomsFirst participants celebrated 177 first birthdays in the City of Cleveland. September was National Infant Mortality Awareness Month (NIMAM) and our MomsFirst partners hosted the annual Baby Buggy Crawl to support NIMAM on Saturday September 9th. Last month, and every month, we want to ensure more happy and healthy babies in our city celebrate their first birthday.

More than 20 little ones crawled their way across the gym in a thrilling race to the finish line. Mayor Justin Bibb hosted an outdoor story time with children of all ages. We celebrated with face painting, food, fun, and prizes.

Shout out to Merrick House for hosting and to case manager Tiffany Ashley for organizing a successful event.



*MomsFirst provides support to expectant mothers living in the City of Cleveland. We are dedicated to helping Cleveland moms deliver and raise healthy babies.*



197

*New moms and dads  
in 2023*

158

*Babies born in 2023*

94%

*Of Moms would recommend  
the program to a friend.*

## Welcome aboard!

We welcome five new Community Health Workers (CHWs) to our MomsFirst Team:

**Amber Green**

**Sharonda Smith**

**Kimberly Armbruster**

**Angelique McGuire**

**Jacquelyn Gaiman**

# New community partner joins MomsFirst

The West Side Community House (WSCH) is joining MomsFirst. They are in the process of hiring and onboarding CHWs. WSCH was founded in 1890 and has operated as a private, nonsectarian nonprofit 501(c)3 social service agency since 1964. Their mission is to transform lives in the community. The WSCH programs strengthen the family, provide opportunities to learn and grow, support independent living, encourage economic self-sufficiency, and renew the life spirit.

## Happy retirement!

MomsFirst Project Director Lisa Matthews will be retiring from the Cleveland Department of Health in November 2023.

Lisa has served the MomsFirst program for 32 years. In her time here she has grown the program, celebrated at many baby showers and baby buggy crawls, advocated for change at the legislative level, and visited with our lawmakers. She is a wealth of knowledge and wisdom - she will be missed!

We wish Lisa the best in her new adventures!



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[MomsFirst.org](http://MomsFirst.org)

*MomsFirst is a partner of Invest in Children*

## MomsFirst Neighborhood Sites

**Friendly Inn  
Settlement House**  
2386 Unwin Rd  
(216) 431-7656

**Merrick House**  
1050 Starkweather Ave  
(216) 771-5077

**Lexington Bell  
Community Center**  
7724 Lexington Ave  
(216) 391-4100

**West Side  
Community House**  
9300 Lorain Ave  
(216) 771-7297