

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Stark County Health Department receives \$2,500
GRANT FROM THE CJ FOUNDATION FOR SIDS**

November 15, 2010 Canton, Ohio – Stark County Health Department announced today that it has received a \$2,500 grant from the CJ Foundation for SIDS, the largest, leading SIDS organization in the country. This grant will be used for community education about safe sleep for infants, thru guidance from the Stark County Safe Sleep Task Force.

“The CJ Foundation for SIDS is pleased to provide a grant to this program,” said Linda McNeil Tantawi, Executive Director of the CJ Foundation. “We want to ensure that resources and bereavement services are available for families across the country. It is our mission to one day eliminate Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and other sleep-related infant deaths but until that day, we will continue to support programs that provide services to meet the needs of these families.”

According to William Franks, MPH, Stark County Health Commissioner, “the percentage of sleep-related infant deaths in Stark County has ranged from 1.8% of total deaths in 2007 to 17.1% in 2004. Since Child Fatality Review began in 2000 there have been 48 sleep-related deaths to children in Stark County. Most of these deaths were due to either SIDS, or asphyxia, however in some situations the manner of death could not be determined but an unsafe sleep environment could not be ruled out. In many of these situations these infant deaths could have been easily prevented if only the proper sleep position or environment were used. This funding will help with much needed community education.”

The CJ Foundation for SIDS was founded by Joel and Susan Hollander in memory of their daughter, Carly Jenna, who died from SIDS in 1993. Since its inception in 1994, the CJ Foundation has

provided millions of dollars towards SIDS research, organizations, support programs and public education and awareness campaigns throughout the nation, making tremendous strides in its fight to end SIDS.

The mission of the Safe Sleep Task Force which was formed in 2000 is to educate the community about infant safe sleep environments in order to decrease the number of injuries and deaths caused by placing infants in unsafe sleep environments. The Task Force is comprised of individuals from various educational, social, and occupational backgrounds which overall strengthens the message of the Task Force. The Safe Sleep Task Force aims to educate all those individuals who have direct or indirect contact with infants with information, facts, ideas, truths, or principles needed to provide a safe, yet, caring environment, and alter the views of those who are accustomed to a more traditional way of child rearing through updated research and education. The Task Force is trying to accomplish this goal thru community education and the CRIBS for KIDS program. The CRIBS for KIDS program is a safe-sleep education program for low-income families to help reduce the risk of injury and death of infants due to unsafe sleep environments by providing a **GRACO Pack N Play**® crib and educational materials regarding ‘safe sleeping’ as well as other important safety tips to protect infants. The cribs for this program are purchased with money provided by community donations. To find out how to make a donation to the program log onto our website at: <http://www.starkhealth.org/safesleep> .

To learn more about the CJ Foundation for SIDS, visit www.CJSIDS.org or call (888) 8CJ-SIDS.