

March 21, 2014

News Release

For Immediate Release

Springfield organizations recognized by the Department of Health & Human Services

WHAT: The Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services (DHSS) will be jointly awarding the City of Springfield and Mercy Hospital Springfield with the Breastfeeding Friendly Worksite award. The Missouri Breastfeeding Friendly Worksite Program is a collaboration between DHSS and the Missouri Breastfeeding Coalition to educate employers on the value of providing lactation support in the workplace and to recognize businesses that support their breastfeeding employees. For more information, visit <http://bit.ly/BFworksites>.

Springfield is the first city entity to receive the award (through a joint venture with the Springfield-Greene County Health Department); Mercy is the first hospital in the state to receive it. Gail Vasterling, director of DHSS, will be speaking at the event. Mercy will also be receiving the "Show-Me 5" award during the ceremony for its ongoing efforts to support breastfeeding and newborn care. Learn more about Mercy's Show-Me 5 status at <http://bit.ly/ShowMe5sgf>.

WHEN: Monday, March 24 at 2 p.m. Media is invited to attend, and encouraged to arrive at 1:45 p.m.

WHERE: Mercy Kids front lobby (1235 E. Cherokee St.)

Contacts:

Cora Scott, Director of Public Information & Civic Engagement, 417-864-1009 (office) | 417-380-3352 (cell), cscott@springfieldmo.gov

Brad Haller, Mercy Media Relations Specialist, 417-820-2171 (office) | 417-522-8468 (mobile), Bradley.Haller@mercy.net