In 2018, the Center for Disease Control reported the infant mortality rate in Illinois as 6.3%, which is above the national rate of 5.9%. However, African-American infants are most at-risk, with an infant mortality rate of 11.3% nationally.

Our service community has many resources available to young women, but until the Healthy Baby Network (HBN), they were not organized into a complete and easily accessible program. Managed by UChicago Ingalls Memorial, HBN connects expectant mothers with a network of local healthcare providers, retailers, government agencies, schools and community organizations that work together to coordinate prenatal care, education and social services for pregnant women.

The program specifically addresses the needs of economically disadvantaged pregnant women and teens. Before, the result had been too many of our community’s babies were born without the benefit of prenatal care, putting the baby at greater risk for low birth weight and instances of infant mortality and other health complications.

Through the Healthy Baby Network, with regular prenatal care, women can reduce the risk of pregnancy complications. Fortunately for Baby Anderson, her mother Arielle was one of 153 moms who were enrolled in the Healthy Baby Network last year and received vital help and support.

Although hesitant about joining the Healthy Baby Network, she is extremely glad she did. “I was scared in the beginning,” says Arielle, “but my doctor and nurses helped calm me down and explained what to expect throughout my pregnancy.” Arielle gave birth to her daughter in 2018.

In addition to prenatal care and support, eligible HBN clients also receive a donation of baby care supplies, including an infant car seat. These donations are made possible through donor gifts. Retired physician Michael Peck, MD, one of the program’s major donors truly believes in this program. “I can appreciate the importance of investing in health at the beginning of life, having spent my career treating the chronic conditions of patients who lacked a healthy lifestyle.”

Healthy Baby Network Is On The Move

The program is rolling out phase 2, which focuses on infant and child wellness.

If you or someone you know is in need of prenatal care, and would like to enroll in the Healthy Baby Network, call Shanice Graham, R.D., HBN coordinator, at 708-915-3825 for more information.

Please consider making a gift to fund an infant car seat or larger gift to support prenatal care for young mothers enrolled in the Healthy Baby Network.
There is exciting news for cancer patients seeking treatment at Ingalls.

Despite the rapid changes in cancer care treatment, Ingalls Cancer Care Center has been able to stay ahead of the curve with the help of the Ingalls Development Foundation. With a growing need to change our existing cancer system from being disease focused to a system driven by an integrative approach, Dr. James Wallace, Cancer Program Director, and his team are discovering new ways to help cancer patients tackle physical, psychological, social, spiritual, and financial challenges to improve their quality of life.

Integrative medicine is a patient-centered approach with services that address emotional, mental, physical, social, spiritual, and environmental needs. Conventional care such as chemotherapy partners with complimentary care to better serve the patient.

The Foundation has been revolutionary in its support of Integrative Medicine. Through a generous grant, a program was established in July of 2017 in the Ingalls Infusion Center with local wellness leader, Vicky Weis.

At Ingalls, Integrative Medicine activities include guided meditation, reflexology, facials, manicures, pedicures, hand and foot massages, spa treatments and Reiki Therapy. These services help patients to relax, decrease anxiety, pain, and even nausea. Once patients learn these techniques, they can be used at home and in other settings. These types of services are often difficult for patients to gain access to in the community we serve.

Other care methods such as physical therapy, occupational therapy, pain control, palliative care, nutrition and support programs have also been instrumental in improving patient care. Complimentary care, when used in conjunction with conventional methods, is scientifically proven to improve patients overall experience.

Historically, Ingalls has shown leadership with clinical trials and Dr. Wallace believes now is the time to show leadership in Integrative Medicine!
Congratulations to Markiesha Robertson (left) and Rita Sears, two of the 41 recipients of the Ingalls Development Foundation Spring Scholarship Program! The Foundation Board of Directors approved the release of $23,000 in donor funds to support employees looking to further their education. Combined with over $80,000 from the fall semester, which includes employees as well as their children, the Ingalls Development Foundation has invested a total of $106,000 in our Ingalls family this academic year.

Keeping in line with our mission of improving the health of communities we serve, more than half of the scholarship recipients this semester are attending either South Suburban College, Prairie State College or Governor’s State University. Single mom Markiesha Robertson is advancing her studies at South Suburban College, where she is studying to become a medical assistant. As a Patient Services Employee, Markiesha takes great care in making sure patients receive their meals and that their menus are fully understood. Ms. Robertson also shows compassion and empathy when dealing with patients as they go through their own physical challenges to better wellness. Meanwhile, Rita Sears, an Ingalls employee for over 40 years, is pursuing her nursing degree at Purdue Northwest University. Above right, read a personalized letter Rita wrote expressing her sincere gratitude to the Foundation.

As a recipient of the 2019 Ingalls Development Foundation EDGE Club Scholarship Program, I want to thank you for supporting this scholarship and express my sincere appreciation for your generosity. I am honored to be chosen to receive this scholarship and grateful for the financial assistance this provides.

I am enrolled in the Bachelor of Nursing program at Purdue Northwest University, being on track of completing my degree in the Spring of 2019. As the Manager of Unification, Management, and Clinical Documentation, and a forty-year employee at Ingalls, the financial and generality of the scholarship program have assisted by decreasing financial burdens and increasing success in obtaining educational and career goals.

Once again, I would like to thank the Ingalls Development Foundation for the generosity in selecting me as a recipient of the EDGE Club Scholarship Program award, which has provided both financial support and encouragement.

Signed,
Rita Sears

Donor Impact
Annual Scholarship Awards Top $105,000!

Interested in supporting our scholarship program?
The next scholarship application window will open in June. This opportunity is open to Ingalls employees and their children. If you have would like to contribute, please contact the Foundation at 708-915-6115.

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About Ingalls Development Foundation

Founded in 1982, the Ingalls Development Foundation continues the legacy set by Industrialist Frederick A. Ingalls. Our mission is to improve the health of the Chicago southland communities we serve. We create and fund opportunities to realize our mission as well as empower families, strengthen communities, and advance innovative treatments and research. The Foundation exists to support our mission and assist in funding research and innovative treatments for cancer, retina and other critical areas of care.

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