Jericho Road’s
Priscilla Project

works to achieve healthy birth outcomes by empowering socially isolated, at-risk women as they go through the process of pregnancy, labor, and delivery in the United States. Volunteer mentors and on-staff doulas work with refugee and immigrant women, as well as native-born American women to reach a healthy birth weight for their babies (5.5 pounds or larger) and have a full-term pregnancy.

Women in the program receive education in their own language and develop a birth plan with a doula. Doulas are able to advocate for clients based on their individual wishes. Priscilla Project clients also attend mentor/mentee events, where they learn about other services available to them in Buffalo.
INFORMATION FOR MENTORS

Why become a Priscilla Project mentor?
Here’s what current and former Priscilla Project mentors have to say about their experience:
“The warm and loving welcome from the families has been the most wonderful gift.” - Whitney M.
“The Priscilla Project has given me the opportunity to build bridges across cultural, religious, and language barriers. I have made life-long friendships that enrich my life in many unexpected ways.” - Donna D.

The Priscilla Project provides monthly workshops dedicated to topics specifically designed for mentors, such as ESL training, supporting someone in labor, dealing with infant loss, and trauma-informed care. The program also offers dedicated support for each match from a qualified case manager and a community health worker.

How do I become a Priscilla Project mentor?
Mentors must be available for a minimum of one hour per week until six months post-partum. After completing a volunteer application, you will be interviewed by Priscilla Project staff and pertinent documentation will be submitted for a background check. A successful applicant will attend a volunteer orientation and be paired with a Priscilla Project client.

If you are interested in learning more about the program or beginning the process to become a Priscilla Project mentor, please call our volunteer coordinator at 716-348-3000 ext. 614 or email volunteer@jrchc.org. If you are a good match for the program, you will attend an orientation session that will provide you with a greater understanding of our mentee population and tools for a positive mentoring relationship.

INFORMATION FOR REFERRAL AGENCIES

Refugee and non-refugee women with one or more of these qualities may be eligible to participate in the Priscilla Project:
• Expecting her first child (some exceptions are made for others)
• Non-English speaking or not comfortable speaking English
• Minimal social support
• At-risk or complicated pregnancy

Why refer a client to the Priscilla Project?
• 95% of clients give birth to healthy birth weight babies
• 92% of clients carry their babies to full term
• 84% of clients receive breastfeeding support after being discharged from the hospital through our weekly Baby Café or through one-on-one meetings with their community health worker
• 85% of clients receive car seat education from a certified car seat technician

How to refer a client to the Priscilla Project:
A referral form is available on our website at jrchc.org/programs/priscilla-project-buffalo. The completed form can be submitted to priscilla.project@jrchc.org.

Services provided by the Priscilla Project
• Assessment by a community health worker
• Education on prenatal nutrition and baby care, doula services, and birth plan development in native language
• Referrals to donation centers for clothing and baby supplies
• Social outings and support events
• Opportunity to be matched with a mentor
• Breastfeeding support and weekly Baby Café
• Opportunity to be enrolled in Parents as Teachers program, which provides support up to age 2
• In-house interpretation services

Ways to support the Priscilla Project other than mentoring
• Provide and lead workshop for mentees and/or mentors
• Plan and implement a fundraising event
• Plan and implement a fun activity for mentees and mentors
• Give needed items to the Priscilla Project. Please call to schedule a drop-off. All gifts are tax-deductible.
  • Diapers and wipes
  • New or gently used baby clothing (0-6 months) – no stains or tears
  • New car seats, pack'n'plays, strollers, high chairs
  • Other relevant donations may be accepted. Please call to check.