

2011 Successful Year for the Family Resource Center

In 2011 the Family Resource Center served 158,436 clients through education, presentations, screening and community outreach. This is a 6% increase in clients served in 2010. The Family Resource Center is located on the lower level of Jennie Edmundson Hospital and is funded by the Jennie Edmundson Foundation. "We provide free, easy to understand health information to patients, their family and anyone in the community" said Jean Armstrong, Manager of Family & Community Health Resources. "Our goal is to help you better understand your medical condition or that of a loved one."

The Family Resource Center also provides My Memory Bags for grieving children free of charge. These tote bags are made for preschool, school age and teenagers grieving the loss of their parent, grandparent, sibling or pet. Each bag contains age appropriate resources of books, booklets, support groups, community resources to help a grieving child. In 2011, 170 My Memory Bags were distributed to children in our community either given to them in the hospital or mailed out.

The Shaken Baby Task Force is headquartered in the Family Resource Center which is the hub of educational resources on the prevention of shaken baby syndrome. Requests pour in all over the United States for free of charge resources for hospitals, new parents, day care providers and health agencies. In 2011 over 27,000 brochures, DVD's, magnets and fact sheets were distributed. Another resource available for parents and caregivers is the 24 hour crying baby helpline. In 2011, 170 phone calls were placed because the caregiver wanted additional information or could not get their baby to stop crying. "I think that is 170 infant lives saved" said Jean Armstrong, Coordinator of the Shaken baby Task Force. 959 middle school, high school, and day care providers were educated on the prevention of shaken baby syndrome and ways to calm a crying baby.

If you or a family member requires an individualized packet on any disease from A-Z including advance directives, heart disease and smoking cessation; assistance is just a phone call away.

For additional information on the Family Resource Center or the Shaken Baby Task Force at Jennie Edmundson Hospital contact Jean Armstrong at 712-396-4200 or email jean.armstrong@nmhs.org.