

## **The Maryland Breastfeeding Coalition will celebrate “Maryland Breastfeeding Month” in August**

From August 1 through August 31 the Maryland Breastfeeding Coalition (Coalition) will celebrate “Maryland Breastfeeding Month” throughout the state.

The Coalition’s Promotions and Marketing Committee is planning a number of events for families, health professionals, educators and the general public.

### **Please join us at one of the following events:**

- **Baltimore City WIC celebration on August 2<sup>nd</sup>**
- **Westfield Annapolis Family Fun Day on August 7<sup>th</sup>**
- **Baltimore WIC “Grand Baby Shower,” on August 3<sup>rd</sup>**
- **Westfield Montgomery Family Fun Day on August 14<sup>th</sup>**
- **Westfield Wheaton Family Fun Day on August 16<sup>th</sup>**
- **Towson Mall celebration on August 23<sup>rd</sup>**

World Breastfeeding Week (August 1 – 7, 2013) began twenty years ago by the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA), a global network of individuals and organizations—including the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Maryland has gone a step further and will use the entire month to celebrate, educate and raise awareness about this year’s theme: ***Breastfeeding Support—Close to Mothers***. There are many circles of support, which when in place, greatly add to a breastfeeding mother’s success. These circles include: Health Care Systems; Family and Social Networks; Workplace and Employment; Government/Legislation; and Response to Crisis and Emergency. Having breastfeeding support close to mothers, including support from peer counselors, is a great asset as mothers navigate through their breastfeeding experience.

The Coalition is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to improve Maryland citizens’ health by working collaboratively to protect, promote and support breastfeeding. Its vision is for breastfeeding to be the norm for infant and child feeding throughout the entire state in order to achieve optimal health, enhance child development, promote knowledgeable and effective parenting, support women in breastfeeding and make optimal use of resources.

Contact:

President@mdbfc.org