



# Panhandle Health District

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**Panhandle Health District**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Nurse-Family Partnership Program Celebrates Idaho's First Graduate**



**HAYDEN, ID** – Panhandle Health District (PHD) is celebrating the first graduate from Idaho's Nurse-Family Partnership program. Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) pairs low-income, first-time mothers with a trained nurse, who coaches and counsels them throughout the pregnancy and until their child's second birthday. Nurses mentor the young mothers – encouraging them to finish their educations, apply for better-paying jobs and set themselves on a path to financial stability, so they can support their families.

Danielle Addy from Shoshone County became the first NFP graduate in the state of Idaho. With the program's help, Addy and her son got themselves into a steady apartment, she has

two jobs and is working towards become an RN. She is now a confident mother of a beautiful, healthy boy.

“Back when I was pregnant, I couldn’t have imagined this. I truly can’t put value on the experience and knowledge my nurse, Diana, has given me. It’s priceless. There’s still a lot to learn, but I know that I am on the right track and that I’m the best advocate for my family,” Addy said.

Nurse Family Partnership allows the nurses to develop long-term relationships with the mothers, working with each client for over two years. During a typical visit, they measure Addy’s son and track his milestones, even while he was still in the womb. They discussed challenges from baby blues and breastfeeding to getting rid of diaper rash.

“All mothers want the best for their children, said Nurse Diana, who calls this the best job she’s ever had. “This program enables them to see their strengths and use them in parenting. I’ve seen clients who are in abusive relationships and I try to help them find resources to be safe. Others need help finding work or transportation or someone to point them to good child care.”

NFP is one the most rigorously tested programs of its kind. Randomized controlled trials conducted over the past 35 years demonstrate multi-generational outcomes for families and their communities. Mothers and children who have participated in the program have consistently demonstrated significantly improved prenatal health, fewer subsequent pregnancies, increased maternal employment, improved child school readiness, reduced involvement in crime, and less child abuse, neglect and injuries.

Currently, the program is managed through the Panhandle Health District with 3 staff members, but increasing demand has left 15 women in need on a waiting list to get paired with a nurse. Two additional nurses will be joining the team in North Idaho in the coming months. This will allow the program to reach 100 local women at any given time.

Referrals to Nurse-Family partnership are encouraged. For more information on how to apply for the program, call (208) 415-5298 or visit our [website](#).

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