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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 1st, 2020

HONORING BABIES WHO DIED BEFORE THEIR FIRST BIRTHDAY:

Pensacola recognizes October 15th as National Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day

Pensacola, FL: October 15th is nationally recognized as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day. The Escambia County Healthy Start Coalition will be remembering infant lives lost on **Thursday, October 15th, 2020 at the Escambia County Healthy Start Office from 4-6pm**. In light of COVID-19, this will be a Come and Go event. In lieu of our annual remembrance ceremony, this year families may come to collect flower petals and candles for their own private flower release and remembrance candle lighting. We will also have a memorial display and bereavement materials available. All are welcome.

Much like a balloon release, a flower release is a symbolic gesture done to honor loved ones we have lost and remember that their spirit is still amongst us. Healthy Start will provide flower petals for all families and community members who wish to have their own private flower release to remember those babies who have a special place in their heart though they may not be with us anymore.

As part of our Remembrance Day, join us in a Facebook Live at 7pm on the evening of October 15th. We will join others across the nation in creating a Wave of Light together and read off the names of those gone too soon accompanied by a reading of remembrance. There will be the opportunity to submit names at the event on the day of. The Facebook Live will be broadcast on the Escambia County Healthy Start Facebook page.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Claire Kirchharr at (850) 530-1955 or research@healthystart.info.

Formed in 1992, the Escambia County Healthy Start Coalition is a private 501©3 non-profit. Our mission is to improve the health of babies through community partnerships. We support women before, during, and after pregnancy by addressing their health and social service needs, strengthening family resilience, and engaging community partners to enhance systems of care. For more information about the Healthy Start Coalition, visit www.healthystart.info or call (850) 696-2291

What: Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Ceremony

When: **Thursday, October 15, 2020 from 4-6pm***

***Those who cannot make it during this timeframe may call the Coalition to arrange an alternative time**

Where: Escambia County Healthy Start Coalition: 318 N. Alcaniz Street, Pensacola, Florida 32501

The event will honor the women who have lost a baby and babies who died before their first birthday on October 15th from 4 to 6 pm.