



Tom Barrett
Mayor

Bevan K. Baker, FACHE
Commissioner of Health

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA ADVISORY

City Officials to Welcome Faith Leaders to Strong Baby Educational Luncheon

Annual collaboration with Ascension - Columbia St. Mary's and faith community to celebrate NEW Strong Baby Sanctuary locations

MILWAUKEE – On Wednesday, Oct. 5, Mayor Tom Barrett and Commissioner of Health Bevan K. Baker will partner with Ascension – Columbia St. Mary's to welcome local faith leaders and health experts for an educational luncheon prior to the upcoming Strong Baby Sabbath, set for Sunday, Oct. 9.

During the luncheon, 24 churches will be celebrated for becoming Strong Baby Sanctuary locations where pregnant women and new families can find referrals to an existing network of community resources or take part in church or communitywide programs that can lower stress, support wellness, and reduce Milwaukee's top two preventable causes of infant deaths: Premature births and unsafe sleeping environments.

The effort supports the goal of reducing Milwaukee's overall infant mortality rate by 10 percent and the African-American infant mortality rate by 15 percent by 2017 set by Mayor Barrett and supported by the Milwaukee Lifecourse Initiative for Healthy Families at United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County.

The Strong Baby Sabbath is planned cooperatively by Ascension - Columbia St. Mary's Urban Church Wellness Program, City of Milwaukee Health Department, March of Dimes Wisconsin Chapter, and the Milwaukee Lifecourse Initiative for Healthy Families at United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County.

WHAT: Strong Baby Sabbath Luncheon

WHERE: Columbia St. Mary's Garden Café
2301 North Lake Drive, Milwaukee

TIME: 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Speakers to begin at 12 p.m.

SPEAKERS: Mayor Tom Barrett
Commissioner of Health Bevan K. Baker
Travis Andersen, President & CEO, Ascension - Columbia St. Mary's
Dr. Camille Garrison, Ascension - Columbia St. Mary's

Additional interviews available on site.

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