

RMC Foundation, OCL partner on 'Peek-A-Boo' program

Special to The T&D

Supported by a gift of \$3,000 from the Regional Medical Center Foundation, mothers of newborns at Her Place at RMC receive a book for the new baby during the discharge process.

"The Foundation is delighted to invest in a special project like this to encourage families to instill the reading development process from the very beginning," Foundation Director Margaret Frierson said.

"These newest members of our communities are our future, and we welcome the opportunity to support this growth effort."

In addition to the book, the mothers of newborns will receive a bag that has a literacy calendar in English or Spanish, growth charts, library applications, Literacy on the Go booklets and several other pamphlets provided by the Orangeburg County Library.

"We give each new mom a book for her newborn so that she and the family can begin reading to the baby right away," said Stephanie Crider, director of Her Place and Newborn Nursery at RMC.

Crider added, "We also educate parents on the importance of reading to their baby and encourage them to be a part of the local library program for continued literacy and growth in reading. Our president and CEO, Tom Dandridge, initiated this program at RMC because he believes it is vital for children to get exposed to books and reading immediately after birth."

"Research indicates that literacy is key to proper growth and health for our community's children," Dandridge said. "Local obstetricians/gynecologists and pediatricians are also very supportive of this initiative and are reinforcing the importance of reading when children visit their offices."

"Parents are encouraged to follow up with the Orangeburg County Library and participate in their 'Peek-A-Boo, Read With You' program to receive another free book and to participate in a reading program with their baby for up to two years of age," noted Crider.

For more information about the program at RMC, call Stephanie Crider at 803-395-2838 and for the library, call Earline Irick in the Children's Services Department at 803-533-5858.