



MEDIA ADVISORY

KNOX COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

140 Dameron Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37917-6413

Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day takes place Sunday

Who: Knox County Health Department (KCHD); University of Tennessee Medical Center; East Tennessee Children's Hospital

What: Local observation of Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day

When: Sunday, Oct. 15, 2017, at 6:30 p.m.

Where: Volunteer Landing, 900 Volunteer Landing Lane

Background:

A national observation, this day was created to provide support to and awareness of those who have lost an infant or pregnancy. All those who have been touched by this heartbreaking loss are encouraged to attend. Event participants will have the opportunity to write their baby's name or date of loss on a luminary candle. Several local mothers who have experienced this loss will address the crowd in addition to Knox County Mayor Tim Burchett, University of Tennessee Medical Center Chaplain Steve Sexton and East Tennessee Children's Hospital Emergency Pediatrician Dr. Mary Palmer. In honor of the families, the City of Knoxville will change the Henley Street Bridge lights to pink and blue. Information about community resources will be available at the event.

In 2015, the infant mortality rate in Tennessee was 7 per thousand, which is 25 percent higher than the national average. In Knox County, 10.5 percent of births are premature; and prematurity is the leading cause of infant death. While some causes of infant loss and prematurity are preventable, others are not or the cause is unknown.

Improving the well-being of mothers, infants and children is an important community health goal for KCHD, as reflected in the organization's [Community Health Assessment](#). The Oct. 15 event is made possible by support from the University of Tennessee Medical Center and East Tennessee Children's Hospital. The event is an outcome of KCHD's Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) program, which is funded by a grant from the Tennessee Department of Health. FIMR is an action-oriented community process that continually assesses, monitors and works to improve service systems and community resources for women, infants and families.

For more information contact Katharine Killen at 865-215-5534 (office) or 865-755-1121 (cell).