

# Baby Cafe Receives \$10K Grant

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Working with mothers and mothers-to-be in the area, the Blackwell Chapel Baby Cafe is grateful for the support they have recently received.

Thanks to a second \$10,000 grant from The Health Foundation for Western and Central New York, the Baby Cafe will now be provided with internet and phone services for a year, as well as healthy snacks, materials, furniture and more.

The Blackwell Chapel Baby Cafe is located on the second floor of the Gateway Center in the family center, and is the first of its kind in Chautauqua County. Baby Cafe USA is a nonprofit organization that is affiliated with Baby Cafe Charitable Trust of the UK, and the purpose is to support and encourage breastfeeding in areas that have low breastfeeding rates. The cafe offers profession-



**Baby Cafe Advisory Board members, volunteers, mothers-to-be and mothers with their children recently gathered at the Gateway Center, home of the Blackwell Chapel Baby Cafe, to make healthy, homemade baby food. Thanks to a second \$10,000 grant from The Health Foundation for Western and Central New York, a variety of needs have been met for the Baby Cafe and its guests.**

P-J photo by Katrina Fuller

ally trained and certified lactation counselors, a nurse practitioner, trained volunteers, support groups, a resource library and more. Blackwell A.M.E. Zion Church is heading up the initiative with an advisory board made up of community members from throughout the area and

with support from the Chautauqua County Department of Health.

"The goal (of this organization) is to increase the informational resources for breastfeeding mothers and improve maternal and infant health," said Joyce Bess, Jamestown location project director and certified lacta-

tion consultant. "The benefits of breastfeeding for an extended period of time can help protect babies against respiratory illness, gastrointestinal disease, allergies, SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome), Type II diabetes and more."

The Baby Cafe advisory board members are thankful

for the support of the Health Foundation of Western and Central New York, as well as for the support from the community.

The Rev. Chloe Smith, advisory board member, said the funding means a lot to the Baby Cafe and the guests who visit the Baby Cafe.

In a special event, mothers and mothers-to-be gathered in the second-floor kitchen at the Gateway Center to cook, puree and freeze their own baby food with instruction provided by Lacey Keefer, registered dietitian.

"It's more nutritious and more economical for the moms," said Smith. "This was something special we did today."

Offering classes and resources to expectant mothers and beyond, the Baby Cafe is attempting to support Chautauqua County moms and babies who need it most.

According to the 2015 Chautauqua County Health Rankings, compiled by the University of Wisconsin and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Chautauqua County has a teen birth rate of 33 births per 1,000 women from ages 15-19 countywide, which is significantly higher than the national birthrate of 24.2 births per 1,000 women aged 15-19.