

SANTA MARIA



## ***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

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## **Santa Maria and BCBSTX Join Forces to Improve the Health of Moms and Babies in Texas**

**Houston, Texas, 77093, (January 5, 2024) Santa Maria (SM)** announced today it received a Special Beginnings® maternal and infant health grant from [Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas](#) (BCBSTX), as part of BCBSTX's statewide initiative to aid moms along their preconception, prenatal and postpartum journey.

With this grant Santa Maria plans to grow its "Caring for Two" program, which promotes positive infant development and maternal health outcomes for families impacted by maternal substance use, mental health challenges and trauma. Santa Maria will scale its offerings in Houston and expand into Central Texas.

Santa Maria strives to be a premier provider of specialized, trauma-informed, client-driven services for women and their families to restore hope, transform lives and promote long-term wellness and recovery.

"We are so pleased to expand our collaboration with BCBSTX to support new moms and their families through services and care coordination that improves mental health and wellness, strengthens parent-child relationships and builds family resiliency so that both mom and baby have the best opportunity to thrive," said Nadine Scamp, CEO of Santa Maria. "Our services have proven life changing, impacting multiple generations, improving behavioral health, family functioning and life stability."

In addition to being one of Texas' largest providers of substance-use treatment services for women, Santa Maria is also one of the few programs where a mother may bring her children with her into residential treatment. Santa Maria's residential treatment program is also open to pregnant and post-partum moms, as well.

Santa Maria provides services to more than 6,000 women, children and family members each year, including more than 1,000 within the residential substance use programs.

BCBSTX's Special Beginnings® initiative is focused on:

- Implementing quality-based maternal health programs that demonstrate a reduction in preterm and low-birth weight babies, as well as obstetric and postpartum emergencies;
- Expanding access to comprehensive health services, including behavioral health care during the preconception, prenatal and postpartum periods; and
- Increasing public awareness and community engagement to reduce maternal morbidities, mortalities and health disparities, with an emphasis on expanding the maternal health workforce.

“In order to move the needle and support Texas moms and babies, it will take a collective effort. We're proud to support and work alongside local nonprofits by helping grow the impact they make to reduce barriers to needed health care and support services,” said Dr. Mark Chassay, BCBSTX VP and chief medical officer. “We are scaling the ways we reach and serve not just our members but all Texans by further strengthening programs in the communities we serve.

BCBSTX continues to build on long-standing maternal and infant care programs as well as relationships with trusted local community organizations, health care providers and thought leaders to leverage their knowledge, experience, and talents to increase access to care, reduce care gaps and educate and engage Texans at the local level.

For more information or to set up an interview, contact Rachael Wright at [rwright@santamariahostel.org](mailto:rwright@santamariahostel.org) or (832)207-2038.

### **About Santa Maria**

Santa Maria (SM) provides a full continuum of services to meet each family where they are on their recovery journey: from community-based prevention and intervention programs to residential and outpatient addiction recovery treatment, and beyond with long-term housing and recovery support. SM is one of Texas' largest multi-site residential and outpatient substance use disorder treatment centers for women in addition to being one of the very few to offer a full continuum of services for women who are pregnant or parenting.

### **About Blue Cross Blue Shield**

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas (BCBSTX) – the only statewide, customer-owned health insurer in Texas – is the largest provider of health benefits in the state, working with more than 140,000 physicians and health care practitioners, and 520 hospitals to serve more than 7 million members in all 254 counties. BCBSTX is a Division of Health Care Service Corporation (HCSC) (which operates Blue Cross and Blue Shield plans in Texas, Illinois, Montana, Oklahoma and New Mexico). Health Care Service Corporation is a Mutual Legal Reserve Company and an Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association.