

SANTA MARIA



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Santa Maria Improving Outcomes for Maternal and Child Health via  
Caring for Two Program**

*A \$200,000 grant from the Wellpoint Foundation will Expand the Program*

**Houston, Texas, (March 5, 2024)** Santa Maria is improving maternal and child health outcomes for pregnant women or those with young children and their families who are impacted by or at risk for substance use and trauma, via the Caring for Two Program.

Caring for Two uses an integrated team and services including parenting education and coaching, counseling and behavioral health support, peer recovery support services, health care navigation and care coordination such as access to transportation and housing assistance, and linkage to substance use disorder treatment and medication assisted treatment when needed. These services are provided for women impacted by or at risk for substance use and trauma, their infants, and other family members. Services are home and community based and may extend for up to 18 months.

A \$200,000 grant from the Wellpoint Foundation will allow Santa Maria to expand translation services and recovery support services within the Caring for Two model. In addition, for the first time Santa Maria will add Doula Services for participants, including prenatal and post-partum services.

[Wellpoint](#) helps improve health care access and quality for nearly 750,000 Texans who participate in the state's Medicaid programs. Wellpoint Texas President, Greg Thompson, said supporting Santa Maria was a natural fit for the foundation.

“We are proud to partner with Santa Maria because they, like Wellpoint, are focused on a whole health approach. They are changing the lives of our most vulnerable populations by addressing multiple aspects of health and wellness,” Thompson said. “They are working to improve maternal and infant health while addressing other factors including substance use disorder all while providing a safe living space so that families can stay together.”

With numerous community healthcare and social service partners the Caring for Two program is wide reaching, serving more than 900 women and children each year through home and community-based services. In addition, Santa Maria staff provides program services to families at community partner locations in the following zip codes: 77303, 77389, 77090, 77030, 77093, and 77521.

Women like Julie who participated in Santa Maria's Caring for Two program in 2020. Julie was battling substance use while pregnant when she entered residential treatment. While at Santa Maria and receiving all the services connected with Caring for Two, Julie was able to set a new course for her life, and most importantly have a safe and healthy delivery of her daughter Mia. Julie says today very little can bring her down and talks about how Mia has given her a second chance in life. "Now all my friends are moms" Julie said, "My life is much simpler, and I am so happy."

"We are grateful to the Wellpoint Foundation for supporting the expansion of Caring for Two programming. Evaluation of Caring for Two shows that the vital services and supported provided improves behavioral 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. "With Wellpoint's support, we hope to continue to move the needle on maternal and child health outcomes."

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 provides services to more than 6,000 women, children, and family members each year.

For more information or to set up an interview, contact Rachael Wright at [rwright@santamariahospital.org](mailto:rwright@santamariahospital.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 substance use 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. 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.

### **About Wellpoint Foundation**

The Wellpoint Foundation is a philanthropic arm of the Elevance Health Foundation. The Foundation works to address health equity by focusing on improving the health of the socially vulnerable through strategic partnerships and programs in our communities with an emphasis on maternal child health; mental health; and food as medicine.

Additionally, the Foundation also responds to disasters when our communities need us the most. The Foundation coordinates the company's year-round Dollars for Dollars program which provides a 100 percent match of associates' donations, as well as its Volunteer Time Off and Dollars for Doers community service programs. To learn more about the Wellpoint Foundation, please visit [www.elevancehealth.foundation](http://www.elevancehealth.foundation) and its blog at [www.medium.com/elevancehealthfoundation](http://www.medium.com/elevancehealthfoundation).