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**Haiti Cholera Research Funding Foundation Inc. USA OBSERVES WORLD BIRTH DEFECTS DAY**

**Calls for More Prevention, Research and Care for Babies**

“Many Birth Defects, One Voice”: World Birth Defects Day 2022

Palm Beach County, Broward County, Martin County and Port Saint Lucie Florida — Every year, 8 million infants globally are born with a serious birth defect. In United States of America, 1 out of every 33 babies are born with a birth defect. Birth defects are a leading cause of infant mortality and for babies who do survive, birth defects result in lifelong physical and intellectual disabilities. That’s why Haiti Cholera Research Funding Foundation Inc USA is joining other birth defect prevention organizations, including the World Health Organization, March of Dimes, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to increase awareness about birth defects on March 3rd, World Birth Defects Day.

Not all birth defects can be prevented, but women can increase their chances of having a healthy baby by adopting healthy behaviors before becoming pregnant and during pregnancy. For example, eating a healthy diet, including taking 400ug of folic acid daily, receiving prenatal care, staying up-to-date on vaccines, and avoiding alcohol and smoking all reduce the risk of birth defects.

In order to improve outcomes of infants, surveillance programs and birth defect research is essential. Surveillance provides accurate estimates of the number of infants with birth defects and can track factors that may contribute to birth defects. This allows for public health organizations and researchers to identify opportunities for interventions that can lead to better health outcomes.

To learn more about what HCRFF is doing on March 3, visit https://www.hcrff.org/birth-defects/ To learn more about World Birth Defects Day, visit www.worldbirthdefectsday.org