



**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Commissioners raise awareness of congenital heart defects

February 3, 2015 - CHAMBERSBURG, PA – Franklin County Commissioners this morning passed a proclamation designating February 7-14 as Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week in Franklin County. See attached proclamation and picture.

Heather Sites was in attendance at the meeting to talk to educate the commissioners about congenital heart defects and the efforts of her organization, Mended Little Hearts, to raise awareness about the topic and to provide support to families with a child who is being treated for a congenital heart defect.

"The advances in treatment for congenital heart defects have been wonderful, and the success rate is very high," said Heather. "But it's a very difficult ordeal for any family to go through, and Mended Little Hearts is there to help," she added.

"This is the second year in a row that the commissioners have done this proclamation to raise awareness about congenital heart defects," said Commissioner & Board Chairman Dave Keller. "We're glad to help raise awareness of this issue, and hope that in doing so further advances are made in detecting and treating congenital heart defects, and that families get the support they need to help their child overcome the defect and have a happy and active childhood like any other kid," Keller added.

For more information about Mended Little Hearts and congenital heart defects, please contact Heather Sites, 717-491-5578, heather.sitesmlh@hotmail.com.

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For additional information on Franklin County visit www.franklincountypa.gov.



Above: Commissioner Bob Ziobrowski, Commissioner & Board Chairman Dave Keller, Heather Sites, and Commissioner Bob Thomas.

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Proclamation #2015-01

Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week

WHEREAS, the health and well-being of all children throughout Franklin County are of paramount importance to the county's families and communities; and

WHEREAS, thousands of children are born with birth defects every year, including approximately 40,000 children in the United States who begin life with one of more than thirty-five identified forms of congenital heart defects; and

WHEREAS, congenital heart defects are among Franklin County's most common birth defects and they are often fatal due to their seriousness, a lack of effective medical intervention options and the limited availability of infant donor hearts; and

WHEREAS, the origins and symptoms of congenital heart defects are becoming more readily identifiable and the range of surgical options are expanding continuously thanks to doctors' and scientists' diligent research efforts and field experiences that extend our body of knowledge every day; and

WHEREAS, there is much to learn about the causes of and effective treatments for congenital heart defects and it is important for parents, pediatricians and nurses to recognize the warning signs associated with congenital heart defects among newborns so they may provide proper treatment as early as possible; and

WHEREAS, many of Franklin County's families and communities are directly or indirectly affected by infant illness and death caused by congenital heart defects, and we applaud the efforts of doctors and scientists everywhere who work diligently to solve life's medical mysteries and to improve the quality of life for us all;

NOW, therefore, We, the Franklin County Commissioners, do hereby recognize February 7-14, 2015 as CONGENITAL HEART DEFECT AWARENESS WEEK in Franklin County, and we call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, We have hereunto set our hand and seal of Franklin County to be fixed this 3rd day of February, 2015.