



**Olde Towne Medical Center Receives
Additional Funding for OB/Perinatal Clinic**
*Sentara Williamsburg Regional Medical Center joins Health Foundation
in Support of Clinic*

WILLIAMSBURG, Va., (April 24, 2008) - The Board of Olde Towne Medical Center (OTMC) recently voted in support of a proposal by Sentara Williamsburg Regional Medical Center (SWRMC) to support its prenatal clinic with \$100,000 in funding this year. With this funding decision, SWRMC joins the Williamsburg Community Health Foundation in support of the OB/Perinatal Clinic at OTMC, which began in 2004 after the Health Foundation lead an initiative to provide improved access to care for pregnant women in the greater Williamsburg community.

Since its inception, the OB/Perinatal Clinic at OTMC has served over 400 women. Staffed by Dr. Les Wasserman, OTMC patients receive prenatal care and accompanying educational materials that promote healthy lifestyle habits for pregnant women.

“This clinic provides vital prenatal care to women who would not otherwise have access to these necessary services,” says Wasserman. “Without this clinic in the community, these women would enter the hospital for delivery with a much higher risk for complications.”

According to the Centers for Disease Control, Virginia’s infant mortality rate is 18th highest in the nation.

“Programs like the OB/Perinatal Clinic through Olde Towne are working to improve those numbers,” adds Wasserman.

SWRMC has supported OTMC with funding dating back to 2000, when the Hospital partnered with the Foundation for a three-year, \$1 million commitment. That annual

support has carried forward in subsequent years. Additionally, OTMC received a \$1 million endowment payment upon Sentara's merger with Williamsburg Community Hospital.

The Health Foundation has also long supported OTMC, with funding for several programs over the past 11 years. Since its establishment in 1997, the Health Foundation has awarded more than \$4.9 million in grant monies to support OTMC programs around access to medication, psychiatric and substance abuse counseling, chronic disease care, adult and child dental services and the OB/Perinatal Clinic.

"The Foundation's vision to strengthen the health and well being of people in our community is directly evident in our support of this program," says Kerry Mellette, President and CEO of the Williamsburg Community Health Foundation. "This program has demonstrated tremendous health improvements for the women it serves."

Dedicating these funds to the Perinatal Clinic fits more in line with Sentara's mission to improve health every day and to better track community benefit results from its funding, according to Bob Graves, Vice President and Administrator of SWRMC. Women who are seen during their pregnancy at the OTMC Perinatal Clinic often come to SWRMC to deliver their babies. Deliveries are performed by the OB/Gyn physicians of Williamsburg Obstetrics and Gynecology and Womancare of Williamsburg. Dr. Wasserman has worked with these physicians since joining the OTMC Clinic in 2005 to ensure coordination of care for Clinic patients.

"This program seamlessly connects the continuum of care for pregnant women in the community who might not otherwise receive appropriate prenatal care," adds Graves.

According to Wasserman, an additional benefit for these OTMC clinic patients is the access to multi-specialty care. Many women receiving care through the Perinatal Clinic are also referred to the dental clinic or to other medical specialists for additional pregnancy-related concerns such as diabetes or gallbladder disease.

"In many cases, the care they receive through this Clinic goes beyond what you might get in a private practice setting," says Wasserman.

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Olde Towne Medical Center is a Rural Health Center, established in 1993, that operates as a safety-net medical/dental provider. At the heart of the Center's mission is the provision of preventive care and early intervention services to vulnerable populations. Primary and preventive health care services provided are: physical examinations with early screening for health and developmental problems, immunizations, dental care, gynecological care, pre-natal care, education and family support, information about and referral to community resources and medical specialists, and case management services. A medical director, nurse practitioners, physician assistant, nurses and nursing assistants, dental hygienists and dental assistants, clerical support staff, administrative staff, part-time physicians and dentists, and many volunteers provide care. Each month, an average of 75 volunteer physicians and dentists, dental assistants, clerical workers, students, and medical specialists who see OTMC patients in their offices provide an average of 600 hours of service.