

Salt Lake City, UT – December 8, 2008

**La Leche League of Utah Congratulates University of Utah Hospital
on Achieving Baby Friendly Certification.**

University of Utah Hospital has been awarded certification as the first and only Baby Friendly Hospital in Utah. Only 78 hospitals or birth centers in the United States have earned this certification through a process established by the World Health Organization and UNICEF. Susan Johnson, IBCLC, and the Utah Professional Liaison for La Leche League states “I congratulate University Medical Center on being the first hospital in Utah to achieve Baby Friendly status. Breastfeeding flourishes in a community of support. I challenge other hospitals to rise to this challenge on behalf of Utah mothers and babies.”

The goal of the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative is to support and promote breastfeeding. In order to earn Baby Friendly certification, a hospital or institution must comply with 10 steps. An important component of the World Health Organization’s Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative is to “Foster the establishment of breastfeeding support groups and refer mothers to them on discharge from the hospital or clinic.”

As an established breastfeeding support group in the community, La Leche League welcomes referrals from University Hospital. We plan to maintain our active support for all moms to continue mothering through breastfeeding in the weeks, months, and years following birth of their babies.

La Leche League has provided free mother-to-mother breastfeeding support for over 50 years in every state and 62 countries. La Leche League International strives to help mothers worldwide to breastfeed through mother-to-mother support, encouragement, information, and education, and to promote a better understanding of breastfeeding as an important element in the healthy development of the baby and mother.

In Utah, there are 49 La Leche League Leaders throughout the state. For support, encouragement, or answers to breastfeeding questions, mothers can call a La Leche League Leader anytime. In addition to individual phone help, La Leche League offers a monthly series of four meetings. Nursing mothers, mothers-to-be, and the women who support them are welcome to attend to learn more about the womanly art of breastfeeding. You may begin attending at any meeting. Those who are pregnant will find it helpful to start attending La Leche League meetings before the baby arrives.

Medical professionals are also invited to call with questions as La Leche League is backed up by an extensive network of professionals in all medical disciplines.

Media inquiries:

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Resources:

La Leche League of Utah: <http://www.llusa.org/UT/Utah.html>

La Leche League International: <http://l.li.org>

Baby Friendly USA: <http://www.babyfriendlyusa.org>