

The City of Richmond Healthy Start Initiative, a federally funded program to reduce infant mortality, and the Virginia Department of Health Saving Babies Initiative are having a free Breakfast Mobilization Meeting as part of *The Richmond Regional Summit on Preventing Infant Deaths*, on **October 22, 2007, from 7:30 – 9:30 am, at the Richmond Marriott**. Congressman Robert Scott will speak at this breakfast, scheduled exclusively for business executives, policy makers, and elected officials.

In the past five years, 500 babies under one year have died to Chesterfield, Richmond, and Henrico residents. At least one half of these deaths are preventable. The infant death rate, just like the crime rate, is a measure of the health of a community. Further, a recent study showed that the direct health care costs to employers for babies born too early during the first year of their lives average \$41,610 – 15 times higher than the \$2,830 for babies born healthy and full term. Investments in prevention and wellness can improve the workforce and the future economic well-being of a community.

The summit is designed to raise awareness about infant mortality, low weight births and pre-maturity and to engage the community in addressing this problem. At the *Breakfast Mobilization Meeting*, the area health directors along with business and community leaders will engage in a discussion about the problem, solutions, and best practices. To attend the breakfast meeting, contact: Tammy Hawley at regionalsummit@comcast.net. To register for the 2-day summit (10/22 & 10/23), contact: www.regonline.com/RegionalSummit2007.