

STOP CMV *The CMV Action Network*

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Stop CMV/The CMV Action Network - www.stopcmv.com
Heather Key, Phoenix, Arizona Area Representative
heather.phxstopcmv@yahoo.com

Stop CMV and the CMV Action Network sponsor Stop CMV Day at Chase Field in Phoenix, Arizona

April 20, 2009 - Stop CMV and the CMV Action Network will be sponsoring Stop CMV Day at Chase Field in Phoenix, Arizona on Sunday June 14, 2009 at 1:10pm. Chase Field is home to the Arizona Diamondbacks, who will host the Houston Astros on game day. CMV professionals and families, along with children born affected with Congenital CMV, will be in attendance at the game and will be available for interviews with the press. "The Chase Field event was planned with a very clear goal in mind—to raise public awareness about the dangers of Congenital CMV...this will be the first time that many spectators hear about CMV...it is so crucial to the progress of this movement to rally the public behind us as we press forward towards a vaccine and total elimination of the virus," says Janelle Greenlee, founder of Stop CMV and the CMV Action Network. Greenlee, along with the event chairperson, Stop CMV Area Representative Heather Key, are mothers of daughters severely affected with Congenital CMV.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 1 in every 150 children (approximately 30,000) are born with Congenital CMV infection in the United States each year. CMV is the most common cause of congenital (meaning from birth) viral infection in the United States and is more common than other well known birth defects, such as Down Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. "Congenital CMV infection is a major public health problem that continues to be under recognized by our medical and public health care system...Research is being conducted to provide better treatment options and a CMV vaccine for the future", states Dr. Gail Demmler-Harrison, Professor of Pediatrics with Baylor College of Medicine and Pediatric Infectious Diseases expert at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston, Texas who is also Director of the National Congenital CMV Disease Registry.

Babies born with Congenital CMV can have varying degrees of brain malformations which can lead to developmental disabilities, such as deafness, blindness, cerebral palsy, mental and/or physical retardation, and even death. CMV is present in saliva, urine, tears, blood, mucus, and other bodily fluids and is most commonly found among healthy infants, toddlers, preschoolers and children who contract and carry the virus. The CDC recommends that pregnant women practice frequent handwashing, especially after diaper changes, and avoid kissing young children on the mouth and sharing food, towels or utensils with them. For more information about CMV, visit the CDC at <http://www.cdc.gov/cmV/>.

Stop CMV and the CMV Action Network are the first parents groups to work collaboratively with the CDC and the National Congenital CMV Disease Registry to bring information about the dangers of Congenital CMV to communities around the United States and the world. For information about how to contact a Representative in your area, please visit www.stopcmv.com/chapters.php. If you do not see your area listed, please contact info@stopcmv.com for assistance.