



**NEWS RELEASE**

**July 21, 2016**



**Mountain Park Health Center's Baby Box Program Wins Child Safety Award**

**Program is the first and largest in the U.S.**

Phoenix, AZ –Mountain Park Health Center, a nonprofit community health center was honored Wednesday for its Baby Box program – the first and largest program of its size in the U.S. - implemented in December 2015. Prevent Child Abuse Arizona recognized Mountain Park with their Everyday Hero Award during its annual awards luncheon.

“Congratulations to the team at Mountain Park for their great work in taking an idea, turning it into a reality and making sure more babies in Arizona are sleeping safely every day,” said Becky Ruffner, Executive Director of Prevent Child Abuse Arizona.

Mountain Park’s Baby Box program launched in December 2015 with the goal of providing 2,000 expectant mothers free Baby Boxes to help ensure their baby has a healthy and safe start in life. To date, almost half of those boxes have been distributed to mothers who are overjoyed to receive them – often being brought to tears.

The Baby Box is filled with safe, cute, practical products for baby and mother to enjoy, and when emptied completely, is to be used as a comfortable and safe place for the baby to sleep.

For 75 years, Finland's expectant mothers have been given a Baby Box, which has been credited with helping Finland achieve one of the world's lowest infant mortality rates. The tradition, which continues today, is designed to give all children in Finland, no matter what background they're from, an equal start in life.

For more information about Mountain Park Health Center, visit [www.MountainParkHealth.org](http://www.MountainParkHealth.org) or send an email to [BabyBox@mphc-az.org](mailto:BabyBox@mphc-az.org).