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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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East Providence Prevention Coalition launches Coffee Connections program

EAST PROVIDENCE, RI – The East Providence Prevention Coalition (EPPC), in collaboration with the East Providence Health Equity Zone (HEZ) and the East Providence Public Library is pleased to announce the launch of Coffee & Connections, a public community coffee hour, which begins May 2nd at the Fuller Creative Learning Center.

On Monday, May 2nd from 10-11am, members of the community are encouraged to meet at the Fuller Creative Learning Center, located at 260 Dover Ave. East Providence, to kick off the first in a series of Coffee & Connections, a program designed for community members to create and foster connections with their fellow neighbors and community members.

"I really look at the Coffee & Connections coffee hour as building the community up one cup of coffee at a time," EPPC Coordinator Madeline Marlow said. "People want human connection, something many have missed due to the pandemic, and it's a fun, informal way to connect and get to know one another."

Other than bringing members of the community together for a cup of coffee and pastries, the purpose of Coffee & Connections is to provide a forum for meaningful conversation and connections amongst East Providence residents in the hopes of eventually creating meaningful, supportive and lasting friendships. The program is open to anyone.

"The pandemic has affected us all – we have all experienced some form of isolation," Naomi Zeltzer, family navigator for the EP Health Equity Zone (HEZ) said. "There's much more to Coffee & Connections than just the free coffee."

In addition to free coffee and pastries, there will also be child care and activities available on site. EPPC, EP HEZ and East Providence Library staff will be available to facilitate conversations and address any community members concerns, as well.

- On the 1st Monday of every month there will be an in-person coffee hour at Fuller Creative Learning Center (260 Dover Ave. East Providence)
- On the 2nd Monday of every month there will be an in-person coffee hour at Riverside Library (475 Bullocks Point Ave. Riverside)
- On the last Monday of every month, there will be an in-person coffee hour at Weaver Library (41 Grove Ave. East Providence)
- All Coffee & Connections will be held from 10am-11am. If one of these Mondays falls on a holiday, the coffee hour will be held either the previous or following Monday at the location originally scheduled for.

If you would like to learn more about Coffee & Connections or have any questions please reach out to the EPPC at 401-435-1923 or eppc@eastprovidenceri.gov.

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