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**Contact**

**Thrive Networks**

Sylvia Townsend  
Communications Director  
sylvia.townsend@thrivenetworks.org  
+1 510-763-7045

**Embrace**

Alejandra Villalobos  
Executive Director  
alejandra@embraceglobal.org  
+1 650-248-9400

**THRIVE NETWORKS AND EMBRACE MERGE NEWBORN HEALTH SOLUTIONS**

*Programs Join Forces to Multiply Lifesaving Impact*

**Oakland, CA – June 18, 2015** – International development nonprofit Thrive Networks and newborn care innovator Embrace today announced that they have agreed to merge. Their goal is to increase the reach and impact of their solutions to one of global health’s most persistent challenges: the unacceptably high newborn mortality rate in countries around the globe. Thrive Networks and Embrace share the same fundamental approach to global health work, integrating advanced technologies with training and education to support clinicians and the families of vulnerable newborns in low-resource settings.

The merger plans to integrate the Embrace warmer, an innovative device for treating newborns suffering from hypothermia, into the suite of essential, durable medical equipment developed for low-resource settings by Thrive Networks’ Breath of Life program. These technologies include devices treating a range of medical conditions that can threaten newborn lives, including respiratory distress, jaundice, and infections. Both programs provide the devices to hospitals and clinics along with training and support so they are used most effectively.

"As founders, we are very excited about this merger with Thrive Networks. It’s the full package that will allow Embrace to grow its potential," said Embrace co-founder Jane Chen, who developed the Embrace warmer in a design class at Stanford University and now heads Embrace Innovations, a for-profit social enterprise. "The Embrace warmer addresses one issue that affects newborn deaths, but there are many other solutions needed, and it's critical to think about interventions holistically. It’s just heartbreaking when treatment is not available - and babies continue to die every day from preventable causes as a result. Now, with the Embrace warmer joining the full range of Thrive Networks health interventions and capacity building programs, we will have the chance to help so many more babies - and as such, much more effectively achieve the original mission of Embrace."

After the merger, Embrace will join Thrive Networks’ health portfolio, which operates programs in nine countries in Asia and Africa and includes school-based deworming and oral health initiatives, in addition to newborn health. The merger will provide Embrace and Thrive Networks the opportunity to

strengthen existing program efforts and expand them across additional markets to grow impact where it is most needed, including East and West Africa and India.

All Thrive Networks Breath of Life services and activities will adopt the Embrace brand. This combination of technical innovation and accessible care exemplifies a commitment to bringing the best possible treatment to newborns and peace of mind to their families.

Thrive Networks Board Chair, and a senior executive of GE Healthcare, Carrie Eglinton Manner noted that the merger is the fifth undertaken by Thrive Networks in the past two years, and the first with a health sector innovator.

“We see the merger with Embrace as the kind of bold move that’s crucial to saving more newborn lives,” said Eglinton Manner. “Mortality rates in the first 28 days of life remain stubbornly high in many areas, even as under-five deaths overall have been declining steadily. Most of these newborn deaths are preventable. By pooling resources and sharing expertise, we can expand the scale and scope of our existing solutions, and work to develop even more effective tools.”

Long-time Embrace Board members Nancy Heinen, former General Counsel for Apple, Inc., Joe Mandato, Managing Director of De Novo Ventures, and Andrew Butler, Founder and CEO of Design to Matter, Inc., will join Thrive Networks’ Board of Directors. Alejandra Villalobos will continue as Executive Director of Embrace and will additionally serve as Deputy Director for Thrive Health. She will work closely with Luciano Moccia, the International Director of Breath of Life.

The Thrive Networks and Embrace boards of directors have approved the merger and the organizations are awaiting final approval from the Attorney General of the State of California. We expect that the merger will be finalized in early July 2015.

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### **About Thrive Networks**

Thrive Networks is building an innovation network for social change to help the world’s most disadvantaged people move from survival to potential. Through mergers and shared ventures, it delivers lasting solutions to fundamental problems faced by poor families and communities around the globe. Since 1988, Thrive Networks’ high-impact, results-oriented programs in health, clean water and sanitation, and education have supported over 7 million people to help them create positive change in their lives and communities.

Thrive Networks has invested over \$120 million in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, leveraging funds by applying pioneering financing and social enterprise collaborations. With [Blue Planet Network](#), [Reach Global](#), [Coach for College](#), and [Hands to Hearts International](#)—as well as extensive initiatives in water & sanitation, newborn and oral health, and scholarships—Thrive Networks’ impact extends to

nearly 30 countries. Thrive Networks has earned six consecutive 4-star ratings—the highest possible—from Charity Navigator. For more information, please visit <http://thrivenetworks.org>.

**About Embrace**

Founded at Stanford University in 2008, [Embrace](http://embraceglobal.org) has the mission to advance maternal and child health by delivering innovative solutions to the world's most vulnerable populations. Embrace's first product is an innovative, low-cost infant warmer device to care for preterm and low birth weight babies suffering from hypothermia. Embrace has developed a comprehensive program model to leverage the infant warmer as a catalyst for broader impact on maternal and child health outcomes in developing countries. Embrace is currently operating in over 100 active sites across 11 countries: Afghanistan, China, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Mexico, Mozambique, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda, and Zambia. To date, Embrace has supported over 150,000 infants and 13,600 mothers and health care workers. For further information, please visit <http://embraceglobal.org>.