



## **Annual Report 2009**

Mission Statement: *To serve the immediate and unmet physical needs of infants and children living in poverty.*

Since 1988 St. Joseph's Baby Corner has continued its mission to help families with small children whose needs are not met by public assistance programs. These families are the most vulnerable in our community, the "working poor," undocumented workers, those living in poverty. Public assistance programs may supply subsidies for food, but generally not for diapers, bottles, detergent, blankets, clothes, car seats, and other critical items. We work with professional service providers, primarily in West King County, to distribute these items, which are either purchased with cash donations or donated by thoughtful donors.

In 2009, despite a slight drop in cash revenue, we were able to significantly improve our production over 2008 in terms of total distribution of needed items to the vulnerable in our community. And we changed the mix of our Board in order to broaden our fund-raising efforts.

We are grateful to our donors, Board, staff, and volunteers for the key accomplishments highlighted below.

### **Fundraising/Donations**

This was the sixth year of our "Breakfast for Babies" fundraiser, and while we consider it successful, as in 2008 we experienced a reduction in anticipated revenue by \$5,000, down to \$20,000. Fortunately, we had the relatively new fundraiser "Bowling for Babies" and Kells Irish Restaurant & Pub's Oscar Bash to take up some of the slack. We also had another great response to our Annual Appeal letter, with contributions exceeding \$23,000, a new high, and we continued to receive donations through the Washington State Employees Combined Fund Drive and once again through the King County Employee Giving Program. This was also our fifth year receiving grants from the Windermere Foundation to help support specific programs within our services, such as car seat and portacrib purchases. Windermere responded with donations exceeding \$7,000. Total cash contributions for 2009 were 2% less than for 2008.

Fortunately, our holiday Giving Tree program, our church crib programs, and private donations continued to grow, improving our in-kind donations. Our estimate of the value of in-kind donations received is \$624,500, a 9% improvement over 2008.

### **Distributions**

In 2009 the Baby Corner distributed \$658,000 in baby goods to more than 1,200 families to assist in ensuring the safety and well-being of their children. This was our best performance ever and amounted to a 9% improvement over 2008. Distributions included 495 car seats, 132 portacribs, and 568 layettes. These numbers are generally representative of past years, although portacribs decreased because of lack of availability.

### **Daily Stories from the Baby Corner**

In late summer a woman only 25 weeks pregnant, in labor, was airlifted to Seattle from Alaska. The baby was cared for in a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) and then discharged in late December. The woman, with the baby and four other children, was taking the ferry back to Alaska. Obviously, the weather would be much colder going home than it was coming to Seattle. Not only did the Baby Corner

outfit the baby with all the necessities, including warm clothes and blankets, but it also provided warm jackets and blankets for the siblings as well.

### Challenges for 2010

With a well-stocked inventory to begin the year and in anticipation of similar donation levels, we plan for a modest 3% growth in distributions.

The Board will continue to address a long-term strategy for adequate and sustainable funding so that we can continue to supplement our in-kind donations with the purchase of items such as car seats, portacribs, and consumables (ointment, wash, bottles, etc.). As the need grows in the community, we must do this to sustain our contribution to those most vulnerable.

Our most immediate and most significant challenge is to find new space. For the past 12 years, Swedish Medical Center has donated our present space. The condition of the aging building and other concerns are forcing Swedish to adopt new plans for the site. Finding an adequate replacement site and possibly having to fund it are daunting tasks that increase the need to address sustainable funding strategies, as outlined above.

We will continue to seek a broader and more predictable base of volunteers to manage the increasing volume of in-kind donations and meet the demands of the growth in distribution.

### Financials

|   | <u>2009</u> | <u>2008</u> |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Cash Contributions</b>               | 111,908     | 113,840     |
| <b>Gift-in-Kind Contributions</b>       | 624,503     | 573,084     |
| <b>Investment Income</b>                |             |             |
| <b>Total Revenue</b>                    | 736,411     | 686,924     |
|   |             |             |
| <b>Program Expenses/<br/>Production</b> | 707,537     | 648,796     |
| <b>Management and General Expenses</b>  | 8,302       | 7,726       |
| <b>Fundraising Expenses</b>             | 5,738       | 5,305       |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>                   | 721,577     | 661,827     |
|   |             |             |
| <b>Net Assets – Begin Year</b>          | 211,366     | 189,222     |
| <b>Changes in Net Assets</b>            | 10,682      | 22,144      |
| <b>Net Assets - Year End</b>            | 222,048     | 211,366     |

**Officers/Board of Directors & Staff**

| <b><u>Title</u></b>    | <b><u>Name</u></b>       |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| President              | Kathy Collins            |
| Vice President         | Terry Sweeney, MD        |
| Treasurer              | Thomas O'Connell         |
| Secretary              | Liz Overland             |
| Director               | Carolyn Marck            |
| Director               | Josie McCall-Fenton, PHN |
| Director               | Nancy O'Brien            |
| Director               | Karen Pederson, MD       |
| Director               | Fred Raney               |
| Director               | Carol Sauter             |
| Director               | Winnie Sperry            |
| Director               | Victoria Sweeney         |
| Director               | Joan Ward, MSW           |
| Director               | Donna Whitford           |
| Exec. Director (staff) | Regina Jaybush           |
| Asst. Director (staff) | Liz Holz                 |

**Conclusion**

While these accomplishments are important, the need continues to be great. There is more for us to do. Based on the Communities Count 2008 report, the percentage of children living in poverty in King County increased from 9.9% in 1999 to 14.3% in 2007; the latter percentage represents more than 56,000 children.

We do not have current numbers, but certainly the extensive, sustained economic downturn continues to make the situation worse. Too many families do not have sufficient income to keep pace with the growing costs of the necessities of daily living: shelter, food, clothing, and transportation. We hope not only to continue to provide essential items to these families with infants and young children, but also to grow both our capacity and network to reach more than we do today. In doing so, we strive to make a significant difference in their lives.