



Baby Corner News

Fall 2009
Changing the world one diaper at a time...

Volume 11, Number 2

Responding to a New Need

The Baby Corner has joined in the effort to fight hunger. *Story, pages 1-2*

When Little Is Really Big

This year's Breakfast for Babies focused on "the little things that matter."

Story, page 3

Mailing list update We try to keep our mailing list as current as possible. If you would like to make a correction, addition, or deletion, please e-mail bhainley@accutek.net. Thank you!

Visit our website! If you prefer your news via the Internet, the most recent two or three issues of *Baby Corner News* are posted as PDFs. In addition, our website has frequently updated information about important Baby Corner events. Please visit us at www.seattlebabycorner.org.



st. joseph's
Baby Corner

900 Boylston Avenue, Ste. #1
Seattle, WA 98104
(206) 726-1435
www.seattlebabycorner.org

"To serve the immediate and unmet physical needs of infants and children living in poverty"

Baby Corner Helps Hungry Families

Food banks in our state are experiencing an increase in the number of people needing their services, as much as 50 percent for some. Among the hungry are families with babies: The Food Bank @ St. Mary's in Seattle's Central District told us that they are now seeing three times as many babies as at the beginning of the year.

Until recently, with the exception of formula, food was not on the Baby Corner's wish list. But this year families are having a more difficult time feeding themselves. In recent months, Director Jeannie Jaybush has been getting more and more requests from service providers for help with groceries. The Baby Corner has doubled the value of grocery gift cards given out, from about \$600 in 2008 to more than \$1,200 already this year.

For struggling families with young children, food stamps don't go far enough, while another valuable federal program, WIC (Women, Infants, and Children), doesn't cover children over the age of 5. Getting enough nutritious food to eat through food banks is more difficult as well, with more clients using the services and lines forming as early as six in the morning.

Recently a service provider came to the Baby Corner for assistance. One of her families was a single parent with two teenage sons; because of malnutrition, the boys were both the size of first graders. In order to feed her children, the

continued, page 2

What Hunger Looks Like in Western Washington

- Nearly 43% of the people who are emergency food recipients in Western Washington are food insecure with hunger: They do not know when they will eat again and often go to bed hungry.
- The profile of a hungry person in Western Washington continues to defy society's assumptions: Nearly 45% have some form of post-secondary education. Only 15% are homeless.
- Many of the people served by Food Lifeline are among the working poor.
- 38% of the hungry people Food Lifeline serves are children.
- 13% of the hungry people Food Lifeline serves are seniors.
- Hunger causes many families to make difficult choices:
 - 51% of the hungry people Food Lifeline serves must choose between food and heat;
 - 40% must choose between food and medicine or medical care;
 - 40% must choose between food and rent.

(adapted from Food Lifeline's web site, <http://foodlifeline.org/hunger/index.html>)

Hungry Families, *continued*

mom would fill up on soda and frequently go without eating. Beyond that, having been raised in an orphanage, she had little knowledge of how to provide a nutritious meal for her sons.

As she handed the service provider a grocery gift card, Jeannie, who raised three boys herself on a tight budget, recommended some inexpensive, nutritious recipes for the family. When the service provider returned to the Baby Corner a few weeks later, she remarked on how the boys had grown, even in that short period.

Because of this urgent need among our families, the Baby Corner is asking donors to please consider purchasing gift cards to either Safeway, Fred Meyer, or QFC in the amount of \$25. To ensure that the cards are used appropriately, service providers in certain cases oversee purchases and turn store receipts in to the Baby Corner.

If bundling a gift card with other donations, donors are asked to please put the card in a large envelope so that it isn't overlooked. Thank you for your generosity!

Updates

ANNUAL APPEAL LETTERS have gone out in the mail. The money received through the appeal comes at a critical time, since donations generally taper off in the last quarter. It's also the time of year when the Baby Corner must stock up on more expensive cold-weather clothing for babies and toddlers. Please be as generous as you can; this year, your donation is more important than ever.

SAVE THESE DATES IN 2010! Oscar Bash at Kells Irish Restaurant & Pub, Sunday, March 7; Breakfast for Babies, Wednesday, May 5. Details will be posted on our web site.

AFTER SUSPENDING THE PURCHASE of car seats last October for lack of funding, the Baby Corner resumed ordering this important safety item in the first quarter of 2009. Currently, car seats are on order through November of this year.

THIS PAST YEAR, Seattle University nursing students launched a project to create simple instructions for using fever thermometers, in multiple languages. So far, the instructions have been translated into twenty-three languages!

Holiday Wish List

Please consider purchasing one or more of these much-needed items as you shop:

- Infant pajamas, undershirts (onesies), and snowsuits, sizes 0-3 months
- Infant clothing, size 12 mos
- Boys clothing, sizes 3T-4T
- Sweats (tops and bottoms), sizes 12 mos-4T
- Diapers, sizes newborn, 4, 5, 6+
- Baby wash, diaper rash ointment, baby lotion
- Detergent (laundry, dishwashing)
- Overnight sanitary napkins (for new moms)
- \$25 gift cards to Fred Meyer, Safeway, QFC

Seattle Girls' Choir Holiday Benefit Concert

Friday, December 11, 2009
7:30 P.M.

St. Joseph Church
732 18th Avenue East
Seattle, WA 98112

The Baby Corner is once again privileged to be the beneficiary of a concert by this renowned choir. Donations will be accepted in lieu of tickets. For more information, visit www.seattlegirlschoir.org

Turning Ho-Hum into Ho Ho Ho!

Last year a Seattle law firm had an idea about how to make their holiday festivities more memorable for everyone. On behalf of their clients and themselves, they donated the money that would have been spent on a corporate party to the Baby Corner. Their generous donation ensured that three dozen families would receive a brand-new car seat.

What's your workplace doing this year?



Breakfast for Babies: Little Things Matter

For a family living in poverty, what good is a board book or a blanket or a Snuggli?

IF THE BABY CORNER HAS A SPECIALTY, it's providing thousands of items every year—many of them small—that cannot easily and quickly be acquired elsewhere. For families living at or below poverty level, those items can be real morale boosters.

The three items mentioned above were at the center of several stories told by Patrick Gemperline, M.D., of Sea Mar Community Health Centers, the featured speaker at this year's Breakfast for Babies, held in May. They are "the little things that matter," he told the 150 guests in attendance—small items that can have an effect far beyond their perceived value, as illustrated by the stories:

- Board books were given to a nineteen-year-old single mom with three children, who had been abandoned by her partner. Her four-year-old daughter had been showing developmental problems, but with the Baby Corner's gift and the help of a speech therapist, the little girl has made great progress.
- A woman lost her only blankets to a thief at a laundromat. The Baby Corner not only replaced the blankets but also gave the grateful mom a layette—a diaper bag filled with baby items.
- Because she had no car, one client had to ride the bus for two hours to get to her appointments, an exhausting task with three small children. The Baby Corner sent her a Snuggli (front carrier) for the baby, enabling her to manage those trips more easily.

Dr. Gemperline praised guests at the breakfast, noting that their "actions and generosity sustain hope for families and those who work with them."

Kathy Collins, president of the Baby Corner, then presented the annual Baby Booster Award to Donna Whitford, for "ensuring the stability and future of the Baby Corner." While enrolled in Seattle University's nonprofit management program, Donna chose the Baby Corner for her final project. She stayed on after completing the program, eventually serving as president and chair of the Board of Direc-

tors. The continued success of this fundraiser, which was originally proposed by Donna, is due in great part to her efforts.

Assistant Director Liz Holz acknowledged the contributions of several long-time Baby Corner volunteers: Margaret Ruhl, who spent many hours volunteering at the Baby Corner while in high school; Barbara Hainley, who manages communications for the Baby Corner, including the web site and newsletter; Jerry O'Connell, the Baby Corner's treasurer and long-time Monday volunteer; and Laurie Pinard, her husband, Roman Welyczko, and their daughter, Kira, a family who have been involved in almost every aspect of the Baby Corner's operation for more than a decade.

In closing remarks, Terry Sweeney, M.D., of Swedish Medical Center and a member of the board, offered some perspective on the effect of the current economy and the value of Baby Corner services. Noting that even middle-class families have been hit hard, he observed that one can't assume anymore that "the government's social safety net will take care of even a fraction of (families') needs." Citing the Baby Corner's assistance with funeral services for infants, he stated, "There is no other organization that can plug holes like that."

Volunteers!

The Baby Corner needs helpers daily, M–F, from 9 to noon, and occasionally on weekends (by arrangement).

In addition, volunteers are needed 2–3 times /month for these special tasks:

Housekeeper—cleaning windows, rooms, hallways, and stairways

Toy Coordinator—check batteries, clean toys, organize by type and age/developmental level

Book Coordinator—organize by category/theme, age level

"Moms Room" Coordinator—organize maternity clothes by size, organize "treats" and personal items

Off-Season Clothing Sorter—sort off-season clothing by gender and size

Infant Layette Coordinator—organize an inventory of layettes by gender, ready to be given out

Off-Site Helpers—sort clothes and make outfits, or do laundry, all from the convenience of your own home!

Please call or e-mail to schedule your volunteer time and for further details: (206) 979-2531, lholtz@msn.com

And thank you!



The breakfast included displays showing guests what the Baby Corner can purchase at different donation levels.



ORGANIZATIONS SERVED BY THE BABY CORNER:

- Swedish Medical Center, First Hill
- Sea Mar Community Health Center, South Park
- St. Vincent de Paul Parish Conferences
- Seattle Indian Health Board
- Jewish Family Service
- St. Mary's Food Bank
- Washington State Department of Social and Health Services

AND MANY MORE!

Thank you's

The Windermere Foundation for grants totaling \$6,700 , enabling the Baby Corner to purchase 12 dozen car seats.

Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Bellevue for including the Baby Corner once again this year in their warm coat drive.

Cleo Nollette, the Baby Corner's laundress extraordinaire.

Our Bronx knitters, **Selma Farrago and her daughter**, who make gorgeous, one-of-a-kind baby sweaters, hats, and scarves.

All those individuals, groups, and institutions that have supported the Baby Corner by donating time, talent, treasure, goods, and space:

Swedish Medical Center

Seattle University

Holy Names Academy students and faculty

University Kiwanis

Mercer Island Pediatrics

Pathfinders of St. Joseph Parish

Second graders of St. Joseph School

Beth Huppin's students, The Jewish Day School of Metropolitan Seattle

Students of Holy Rosary School

Baby Corner Crib Communities

The layette makers of St. Brendan Parish

All our donors, known to us or not

St. Joseph's Baby Corner is a nonsectarian 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization and is listed as a charitable organization with the Office of the Washington Secretary of State. Financial disclosure information may be obtained by calling 360-753-0863.



st. joseph's

Baby Corner *Changing the world one diaper at a time...*

900 Boylston Avenue, Ste. #1

Seattle, WA 98104

Return service requested