



Baby Corner News

Fall 2010

Changing the world one diaper at a time...

Volume 12, Number 2

Baby Corner Moves to Broadway

Housing has never been a sure thing for the Baby Corner. The nonprofit had already relocated twice in the 1990s when it found a new home at 900 Boylston Avenue, in a former medical office building owned by Swedish Medical Center. That was in 1998. Over the next twelve years—the longest it has stayed in any one place—the Baby Corner opened its door to service providers nearly 10,000 times.

The arrangement was mutually beneficial. The Baby Corner set up operations in a rent-free space on First Hill, and Swedish gained a partner in providing important services for low-income mothers, many of whom gave birth at the medical center. Service providers from Swedish had only to walk down the block to get the things their families needed.

In May of this year, however, Swedish notified the Baby Corner that the space would have to be vacated by mid-September, citing significant problems with the plumbing in the building. Over the years, there were other maintenance issues, since the aging building was largely unused, but repairs were not costly enough to jeopardize the Baby Corner's status.

With no other option, the Baby Corner faced the daunting prospect of moving. Over the last decade, as the need for services grew, so did the Baby Corner's inventory. Finding a large enough space with affordable rent would be nearly impossible in a prime downtown location. Beyond that, the time frame for finding a space and moving was short—a little more than three months.

After consulting with Swedish, the Baby Corner relocated in late August to a space that was formerly used by the Minor & James Medical Group, just two blocks from the old site, on the corner of Broadway and Madison. When Swedish forged a partnership with Minor & James Medical in 2009, it assumed the lease on the space. Once again, thanks to the generosity of the medical center, the Baby Corner will not pay rent and will have the use of the space until May 2012, when the lease expires.

Although it's a temporary solution, the space is as good as it gets—3,600 square feet of office and warehouse space on one level, with two indoor parking spaces and a

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Assistant Director Liz Holz and little helper take a break from packing for the move.

Making a Big Move

After twelve years at 900 Boylston Avenue, the Baby Corner has moved.

Story, pages 1–2

Federal Crib Ban

New standards mean that the Baby Corner can no longer accept full-size cribs from donors.

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

1001 Broadway, Suite 100
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(206) 726-1435

www.seattlebabycorner.org

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

Move, *continued from page 1*

secure garage for deliveries and pickups. "It's more office space than we've ever had before," said Jeannie Jaybush, Director of the Baby Corner. "We didn't know how crowded we were until we weren't. There's more room to move around when working, especially with equipment like car seats and double strollers—babies take a lot of stuff!"

There is also more room for the groups of students who volunteer at the Baby Corner for community service. And for service providers, there is the additional benefit of not having to worry about getting a parking ticket when picking up their orders. All in all, Jaybush considers the space "the most conducive we've ever had for the kind of work we do."

Special thanks go to "Roland and the boys" from Environmental Services at Swedish. On their own time, they made a dozen trips in a pickup truck, ferrying bins and boxes from the old site to the new.



Above: Long-time volunteer Elizabeth Patterson sorts donated clothing in the new work space.

Right: Director Jeannie Jaybush talks to fourth graders from Seattle Jewish Community School in the Baby Corner's spacious new office.



Public Employees: It's Time to Sign Up!

If you work for the State of Washington, King County, or the Port of Seattle, you can donate to the Baby Corner through payroll deduction. Workplace campaigns generally run through November. For details, see your department campaign chair or visit the campaign websites:

www.cfd.wa.gov

www.kingcounty.gov/employees/giving

Economy Puts the Squeeze On

HEADING INTO THE LAST QUARTER, the Baby Corner has experienced a significant drop in donations, affecting everything from updating our printed material to ordering car seats. Although the end of the year always presents a fiscal challenge for the Baby Corner, this year is different.

One of our board members, a social worker at Swedish Medical Center, informed the board recently that many new clients are college-educated, middle class families who can no longer support themselves. "The people we are now helping," she stated, "are no different than you or me... they are now the new poor due to the horrible economy."

Baby Corner services are more necessary now than ever. When you receive the **Annual Appeal** letter (if you haven't already), please consider a gift of \$25 or more. As overwhelming as the bad economy seems, we can assure you that your gift—of whatever size—will make a difference to these families and their young children.

Federal Ban on Drop-Side Cribs Coming

The federal government has moved to ban drop-side cribs and has issued a warning about “sleep positioners”—those foam wedges used to keep babies from rolling over on their stomach.

No more drop-side cribs

In July the Consumer Product Safety Commission voted unanimously to propose mandatory standards that would effectively ban drop-side cribs and tighten manufacturing requirements for other types of cribs. The decision was based in part on reports of 32 infant deaths associated with the drop-side cribs and on 11 recalls in the last 5 years.

Because of the way the law is written (Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008), the new standards, when approved, would apply not only to the manufacture of new cribs but to the sale, resale, and use of existing cribs. It will be illegal for manufacturers and retailers to sell existing cribs in their inventory and for thrift stores to sell used cribs. It would also mean that daycares, hotels, and other businesses would have to replace any drop-side cribs they currently use.

Although Commissioner Anne Northup has expressed concern over unin-

tended consequences of the 2008 law, final approval of the new safety standards is expected at the end of this year or early in 2011.

The new standards mean that the Baby Corner can no longer accept full-size cribs. We will, however, continue to accept portable cribs and play yards that are in good working order and have all their parts.

Sleep positioners out, too

In late September the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the Food and Drug Administration issued a warning to parents and caregivers about using sleep positioners. The positioners are designed to keep babies on their back or side, but 12 infant deaths have been associated with the products; babies can roll onto their stomach and become trapped against the positioner or between the positioner and the crib.

Again, because of the serious nature of the federal warning, the Baby Corner can no longer accept and distribute these products. If you have any concerns about donating used baby or toddler equipment, please call the Baby Corner office at (206) 726-1435.



The Seattle Girls' Choir

performs “A Ceremony of Carols”
by Benjamin Britten

Sunday, December 19, 2010
6:00 p.m.

Mt. Baker Park Presbyterian Church
3201 Hunter Blvd. S.
Seattle, WA 98144

The Baby Corner is privileged once again to be the beneficiary of a concert by the Seattle Girls' Choir. With the lovely acoustics and warm surroundings, this will truly be an elegant prelude to Christmas.

Donations will be accepted on behalf of the Baby Corner in lieu of tickets.

Annual Breakfast Speaker: “They Need Our Help”

When Kathy Hughes, PHN, entered the apartment to check on one of her clients, a woman from Somalia, she noticed all the scattered, worn-out toys. “I knew there were a lot of people living there.”

Hughes, who has worked with King County Public Health since 1980, was the featured speaker at the annual Breakfast for Babies, held on May 5, 2010. She has worked with postpartum moms at Swedish Medical Center, First Hill, and also with the WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) clinic at Swedish, just down the street from the Baby Corner. And she's seen just about everything.

The Somali client, in fact, had eight other children, besides her newborn, with ages ranging from 16 months to 16 years. It's not an unusual story for one of the Baby Corner's service providers. Nurses and social workers routinely see immigrant families, pregnant women in prison, teen moms with no support system, women fleeing domestic violence, women addicted to drugs. Recently, however, they began to see a new population of people needing their services—professionals who had lost their livelihood. Even experienced providers like Kathy Hughes were not prepared for the new reality of this economy.

Hughes estimates that eighty percent of her clients have been abused, and she asked guests to remember that these moms love their babies and want to provide for them. “They need our help. It takes a village, right? Guess who's in that village—the Baby Corner.” She urged guests to continue supporting the Baby Corner and to tell others about the need: “People will give if they know the need.”

Donna Whitford, past president of the Baby Corner, presented the annual Baby Booster Award to Jerry O'Connell, treasurer for the organization and a long-time volunteer. Also acknowledged were Kira Pinard-Welyczko, a high school sophomore who took on the renovation of a room at the Baby Corner's former site, and Maggie Gallagher, a young supporter who worked with her quilting teacher to create a quilt that she then donated to the breakfast raffle.

Dr. Terry Sweeney of Swedish Medical Center, a board member, brought the breakfast to a conclusion by reminding guests that “the Baby Corner leverages money in ways you can't imagine. Your money will go farther here than any other place you can think of.” The breakfast raised more than \$25,000.



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 and the following offices: **Capitol Hill, Eastlake, Fauntleroy, Madison Park, Magnolia, Queen Anne, Wall Street, and West Seattle.** Proceeds from the fundraiser Rally at the Alley and recent grants totaled \$9,000.

Swedish Medical Center, for granting us the use of our new space.

Roland and the crew from Swedish Medical Center Environmental Services, who donated their time to help us move.

Our volunteers, big and small, who gave us a hand in the move.

Guests and supporters of Breakfast for Babies 2010.

Cleo Nollette, our dedicated laundry genie, who makes mounds of stained baby clothes look like new.

Ann Julin and her women's group, who donated brand-new backpacks that will be used for layettes, flees bags, and school bags.

Program for Early Parent Support, for asking their supporters to bring items for the Baby Corner to their summer fundraiser.

Girl Scout Troop 50118 for donating two cases of Desitin.

Holy Names Academy soccer, Seattle Jewish Community School, and Katie Knutson for community service and special projects.

Abby Wagner, for holding a diaper drive on her birthday.

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

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Return service requested