



# Baby Corner News Spring 2009

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

## *Small Object, Huge Impact*

A group of nursing students from Seattle University took the initiative to meet an important need.

*Story, pages 1–2*

## *When the Going Gets Tough*

The economy has been difficult for a while: how the Baby Corner is coping in the recession. *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](mailto: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 Baby Corner events. Please visit us at [www.seattlebabycorner.org](http://www.seattlebabycorner.org).



st. joseph's  
**Baby Corner**

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

## For Lack of a Thermometer...

*If you ask Director Jeannie Jaybush a question, you're likely to get an answer by way of a story or two...or more. It could be due to an Irish heritage, but Jeannie's tendency to tell stories is also a way of helping visitors, donors, and volunteers understand the importance of something as simple as a fever thermometer.*

**T**he story that Seattle University nursing student Ann McFarlane heard impelled her and several of her classmates to start a project that she hopes will save babies' lives and prevent disabilities. On one of their volunteer visits, the students listened to Jeannie tell a story about a sick infant whose mother had no thermometer and was afraid to take her newborn to the emergency room on the weekend. The infection was bacterial spinal meningitis, and the delay cost the baby both her hearing and her sight. "We (student nurses) all know the importance of early detection of fever in infants," said Ann. "When we began calling around (to the Red Cross and several hospitals), nobody had simple thermometer instructions in any languages other than Spanish and French. This seemed like an obvious need." *(continued, page 2)*

## Something for Everyone—Really!

LIKE A BOX OF CHOCOLATES, the Baby Corner's fundraising "package" has something to please everyone. The largest and most familiar fundraiser, Breakfast for Babies, is back for the sixth time this May (see page 2). But other events have been added to the calendar recently, all of them drawing a group of enthusiastic supporters.

In January, for the second year, the acclaimed Seattle Girls' Choir presented a successful concert of holiday music, despite the inconvenience of being snowed out in December and rescheduled. Then in February, several dozen supporters gathered for the Oscar Bash, the annual charity event at Kells Irish Restaurant & Pub, which this year benefited the Baby Corner for the first time. Red carpet and all, Kells provided an Oscar-worthy evening that rewarded guests with a dinner buffet, door prizes, a raffle, and big-screen viewing of the event. Not

only was it fun, said Assistant Director Liz Holz, "it was really a good deal at \$35!" Kells has invited the Baby Corner back again next year.

In March the Baby Corner reprised Bowling for Babies, now in its second year. Board member Carol Sauter organized this late-winter fundraiser, which gives adult guests the chance to beat the winter blues by bowling the afternoon away.

Other, smaller fundraisers this past year included a fashion trunk show in the fall and a family spaghetti dinner/baby shower at a local church.

All major events are posted on the Baby Corner website. We invite you to check in with us frequently to see what's coming up and to whet your appetite by reading about fundraisers in past issues of our newsletter. We hope to see you—again and again—in 2009–2010!

## Thermometer, *continued*

The greatest challenge was creating a set of instructions that would be clear and easy to follow and would reach as many people as possible. That’s no easy task in Seattle; in 2005, the Seattle School District estimated that there were some ninety-four languages spoken by its students and their families. With the assistance of the Seattle University Office of Multicultural Affairs, the SU students have been able to translate the thermometer instructions into more than a dozen languages, with more to come, they hope.

As the students finish up nursing school and hand the project off to the Baby Corner, they hope that it will benefit families not only here but elsewhere. For their part, through volunteering with the Baby Corner and working on this project, the students have gained insights into the challenges of providing health care to a diverse community. For Ann McFarlane, “it was a huge lesson in the kind of research needed to do a project like this in the most effective way possible.” The overall experience, she said, underscored the need for those involved in caring for Seattle’s communities “to be there long-term, like the Baby Corner.”

Thanks to these students from Seattle University’s College of Nursing, service providers in the future will be carrying one more vital tool with them as they head out the door to bring quality health care and education to King County’s immigrant families.

*The story of the baby with meningitis occurred several years ago. The Baby Corner currently purchases fever thermometers in bulk, when funds are available, usually eight dozen at a time.*



Students from Seattle University’s College of Nursing fulfilled their community nursing clinical in part by volunteering at the Baby Corner.

## Breakfast for Babies ’09

COMING UP AGAIN IN EARLY MAY is the Baby Corner’s big annual fundraiser, Breakfast for Babies. It will take place on **Wednesday, May 6**, from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., with registration starting at 7:00 a.m. The suggested donation is \$35.

This breakfast buffet fundraiser has been held since the very first year at Seattle University. A link to SU’s campus map is on our website; the breakfast will be in Campanion Ballroom, with complimentary parking available in the Archbishop Murphy Garage.

Don’t miss this event! The breakfast buffet is excellent, and the presentation and featured speakers always offer fresh insights about the work of the Baby Corner, even for those guests who come every year. The reservation deadline is April 22, but there are generally spaces available just before the breakfast. If you are interested in reserving a seat or have questions, call Liz Holz at (206) 522-3870.

### Top Countries of Birth for Seattle’s Foreign-Born Population, 2000

Country	Number
Philippines	12,361
Vietnam	11,305
China	11,239
Mexico	7,902
Korea	4,432
Japan	3,250
Ethiopia	2,777
Germany	2,567
United Kingdom	2,565
Cambodia	1,968
Laos	1,885
India	1,416
Thailand	1,411
Russia	1,199
TOTAL of above countries	65,977
TOTAL from all countries	94,952

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

### “Thank you so much!”

**A**t the end of March a mom arrived at the Baby Corner with nine large bags full of baby clothes. She was donating the clothes in gratitude for the assistance that the Baby Corner had provided two years before, when her twins were born.

## Keeping the Goods Flowing in a Bad Economy

*A steady stream of people flows in and out of the Baby Corner, the phone rings throughout the morning, and there is a backlog of e-mails. Is it the bad economy?*

The deep recession is certainly having an effect on the number of people needing help in King County. And there's more trouble to come for some families and individuals as the cuts in the 2009 budget, passed last November, take effect. Even as the county is poised to reduce the number of nurses in the field and eliminate some outreach programs, however, Director Jeannie Jaybush says that this is not an entirely new situation. Since 1999, she notes, the county has been pulling back and shifting resources, following the passage of several initiatives that reduced tax revenue, resulting in an increase in the number of families at risk.

For the Baby Corner, demand for services has increased steadily in recent years; in 2007, more than \$600,000 worth of goods went out the door, setting a new record for the Baby Corner. By the end of this year, service providers—nurses and social workers—will have made more than 800 visits to the Baby Corner.

Yet that number doesn't tell the whole story. When service providers come to the door, more often than not they're picking up items for more than the new baby in the family, or to conserve gas they're picking up orders for other nurses or social workers at the same time. On a typical day, by nine or ten in the morning, several large white trash bags, crammed full, are propped up in the foyer, with tags bearing the names of service providers. Inside the bags are diapers, blankets, clothes, baby wash, a receiving blanket, toys, formula, and probably a handmade quilt. There are other items waiting in the hall as well—perhaps a crib, a couple of new car seats, and a changing table. For every bag there is at least one story, like the following from one recent week:

- Pickup #1: A service provider from First Hill picks up bottles and a layette, containing all a newborn needs for the first week or two, for a 6-lb. baby boy. Because his 15-month-old brother has outgrown all his clothes, the Baby Corner provides socks, underwear, and play clothes, and because the weather is still chilly, a winter jacket. Knowing that the birth of a new baby can trigger jealousy, Jeannie drops a truck or two, soft blocks, a ball, and some board books in the bag for the toddler.
- Pickup #2: A service provider from a local clinic for teens picks up a larger car seat for an 8-month-old baby that has outgrown a bucket-style car seat. She also gath-

ers up formula and bottles for the WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) clinic, enough for a dozen or so babies.

- Pickup #3: When a social worker from Child Protective Services stops by to pick up items for two newborn girls, Jeannie asks (as she often does), "Is there anything else?" Reluctantly, the social worker mentions a 13-year-old boy who has been removed from an abusive home, then quickly adds, "But you're the *Baby Corner*. What can *you* do?" It's a response that doesn't faze the Baby Corner's director; the social worker leaves with a basketball and a voucher for Fred Meyer. She will use the voucher to buy underwear and clothes, since the father had burned everything belonging to the boy.

Because of donor generosity, the Baby Corner continues to provide important basic necessities for families, even in the worst economy. Funding is always a month-to-month concern, however. After suspending the purchase and distribution of new car seats in October 2008 for lack of funding, the Baby Corner has resumed the car seat program, at least through the end of April, thanks to donations received this winter. Orders beyond that will depend on continued support from our donors.



*Nurses and social workers are experts at filling every square inch of space in their small cars.*

## Flexible Giving!

TO SEE THE MANY OPTIONS for supporting the Baby Corner, please visit our website, [www.seattlebabycorner.org](http://www.seattlebabycorner.org). And if you wonder whether the occasional small donation of \$5 or \$10 will make much of a difference, please be sure to read the lead story on pages 1–2.



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

At the end of 2008, the Baby Corner faced the very same dilemma as many struggling parents: having to forgo one essential in order to pay for another. In October the Baby Corner stopped buying new car seats, but thanks to the recent generous response from donors, the program was resumed in February.

We would like to thank all those who responded to our Annual Appeal, to our on-line appeal, and to three fundraisers, one of them brand-new. Special thanks to:

- Dr. Jerome Wright, Celia Castle, and the singers of Seattle Girls' Choir
- Patrick McAleese and family, owners of Kells Irish Restaurant & Pub
- Mike Vila, who organized the Kells fundraiser for the Baby Corner
- Carol and Mike Sauter, the Garage on Broadway, Ken Johnson & Alliance Insurance

We also wish to thank the following:

Parents **Deirdre and Nicki**, the **Parents Association of St. Joseph School**, and **Olympia Pizza**, for sponsoring a 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary Baby Corner shower; **Donna Whitford**, for donating a portion of sales from her holiday fashion show;

**The Crockett Foundation**, for a donation of \$2,500;

**The Peg and Rick Young Foundation**, for a donation of \$1,500;

**Slagle Morgan LLP**, for donating \$2,000 in lieu of a company holiday party;

**Swedish Medical Center**, for generously providing our space;

**All our donors**, known to us or not.

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*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.*



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*Return service requested*