

# NEWS FROM THE CRADLE

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WINTER 2009

## THE EXPANSION PLANS ARE STARTING BY ERIN MICKLEY

As most of you know by now, we recently received the “thumbs-up” from the Catholic Charities Board of Directors to start looking into an expansion plan for our program. A few newsletters back, I reported that we were trying to help other diocesan programs (mainly Lebanon) to expand their crisis pregnancy programs; this idea has changed because there has not been a huge need for our program in Lebanon. It was decided to focus on our program in York and try to grow it even further.

We are so excited about this prospect. Our moms and babies mean the world to us and any way that we can further help them, support them and their decision to choose life for their babies, we will do.

Our reasons for expansion are quite simple—we are running out of space to adequately meet the needs of our families. With the addition of our new counselors, things have gotten tight in our little corner of the building and we are constantly running into each other. Even storing supplies has become a juggling

act.

To achieve this goal, we have started a committee to look at all of our options in regards to funding, building space, and staffing. It is a bit daunting when you think about all of the money and effort involved, but we feel that it is necessary to meet our goal of reaching the abortion-minded woman.

People may question why we’re looking at this project in the middle of troubling economic times. We have complete faith that things will be turning around, and since the expansion will not take place instantly, we do have time to allow the economy to stabilize.

So you’re wondering how you can help? There are so many things that can be done to help and they include big and little efforts.

1. Pray for us. Pray especially for our moms and babies who are struggling to make ends meet.
2. Tell everyone you know about our program. Those who may need assistance or those who want to find a way

to help in the pro-life movement. Host a gathering in your home to raise funds and awareness about our moms, babies, and mission. We’d be happy to come and present.

3. Become a monthly donor. Each donation is tax-deductible and will be used to support moms and babies. No donation is too small.
4. Be part of our Spare Change to Spare Lives Campaign. This spare change fundraiser allows us to earn money for our expansion project. It’s simple—fill up a baby wipes container with spare change, when it is full, send the donation back to us, and keep on saving. We’ll even give you the container. This is a great way to give Lenten alms for schools, religious education classes, church groups, or in the home.

*Continued on page 3...*

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Thank You!*
- *Soup, Salad, and Sermon*
- *Expansion Plans*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

THANK YOU	2
ADOPT-A-FAMILY	2
QUICK BITS	3
SOUP, SALAD, AND SERMON	3
WISH LIST	4



## THANK YOU!

A special thank you to all of the amazing groups who have supported our program in the past few months!

- St. Joseph's (York) Prayer Shawl Ministry for donating even more homemade blankets, hats, and jackets to our babies
- St. Mary's Parish for sponsoring a donation drive during the month of January. It was a great success and helped us to fill some bare looking shelves.
- St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Joseph Parish in Dallastown. They gave us a large donation to buy formula for the program.
- Everyone who participated in the Cookie Lee/Mary Kay fundraiser and to Jessica Roth for being our beauty consultant. We earned over \$150 for the program. (If you would ever be interested in hosting a fundraiser like this for your friends and family, give us a call, we'll get you connected with Jess.)
- Catholic Harvest Food Pantry for donating lots of brand-new clothing and other baby items to the program. We have such a great relationship with them and we are so glad they thought of us when they got extra baby item donations.
- York Rescue Mission for continuing to give us extra baby formula and baby food. Formula has always been a hot commodity around here, and lately, we have been going through it even faster.
- Kidz Kloakz, a non-profit program, donated hats, purses, and other homemade clothing items for the program. Our moms absolutely love them and we love giving them away.
- St. Joseph's Church in Dallastown for sponsoring a month long donation drive in the church. The church has been very generous and we are so thankful.

13 BABIES HAVE  
BEEN BORN  
SINCE DECEMBER!  
5 GIRLS, 8 BOYS.  
THEY ARE SO  
CUTE!

## HOLIDAY ADOPT-A-FAMILY

We were a little bit nervous about our adopt-a-family program this year. We thought that with tough economic times, we would have difficulties finding sponsor families. We had 13 sponsors in total and 21 families were adopted. That is the most families we have ever matched with a sponsor. It was a very hectic time for us

(Christmas at Catholic Charities always is), but it was so beautiful to give the gift bags to the families and to hear about their holiday afterwards. They were so touched by the amazing love they received from their sponsors. We got worried that we wouldn't have enough room to place all of the gifts, but everything came in and left

the building in a timely manner.

Thank you to all of our sponsors and to those who donated items to the general need of the program.

## EXPANSION PLANS ARE STARTING

Continued from page 1...

5. Get on our email list. Email Erin at [emickley@hbgdiocese.org](mailto:emickley@hbgdiocese.org). You'll be informed about upcoming events and program needs.

6. Consider volunteering for our fundraisers or coordinating a fundraiser with your church, youth group, women's group, or family. We can't do any of this without help. This is a great opportunity for teenagers who

need service hours or families who want to do volunteer work together.

7. Come for a tour! We'd love to show you around the program and you can see our wall of babies. We have a whole wall of baby photographs highlighting why we do what we do. Some of these babies' mothers considered abortion, and some even had appointments at the abortion clinics. We rejoice for these babies and their moms'

brave decisions to choose life for their infants.

We understand that life is tough right now for so many families; we hear it every day and we have been facing our own challenges in meeting the needs for our families. We thank each of you for all that you have done for the program whether it is through prayer, monetary support, or just reading this newsletter. You are loving our moms and babies.



## QUICK BITS

- ◇ 13 babies have been born in our PREP program since December. It's been a busy time for us. 5 girls, 8 boys.
- ◇ We have an intern with us this semester. Mandy Brown is a senior at Penn State York completing her degree in Human Development and Family Studies. As part of her internship, she has been helping us with our expansion project.
- ◇ We also have two more counselor volunteer being trained. Sharon Knox is a veterinary technician at a local animal hospital. Connie Dodson is our former program director who wants to help.
- ◇ Our new counselor volunteers can't come soon enough. Our program coordinator, Erin, will be having her first baby in the spring and will be off most of the summer. There will be some shuffling of cases and responsibilities, but the expansion project and services will not be affected in any way.

## SOUP, SALAD, AND SERMON LUNCHEON

The annual Soup, Salad, and Sermon Luncheon will take place on Wednesday, March 18 at 12 noon at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg.

This luncheon with Bishop Rhoades is a free event. We will be presenting during the luncheon about our program.

A free will offering will be taken and proceeds will

benefit the Catholic Charities Pregnancy Resource Center.

Please consider attending this event. It is our first time attending (and presenting) at the event, and we are very excited to be telling others about our alternatives to abortion program.

Seating is limited to 140 people. Please contact Jacquie

Waters at the Diocesan Center at 717-657-4804, ext. 272 or via email at [jwaters@hbgdiocese.org](mailto:jwaters@hbgdiocese.org) to register.

We hope to see you there.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES  
PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER

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<http://www.hbgdiocese.org/yorkprc>

The Catholic Charities Pregnancy Resource Center is a non-profit program established by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Real Alternatives Program and housed in the Catholic Charities Intensive Family Services Office. We provide services to women and their partners who are pregnant, possibly pregnant, or biological parents of a child under the age of 12 months. Our program offers life-affirming alternatives to abortion for women, their partners, and their families who are encountering an unplanned pregnancy. We provide parenting education, adoption information, free pregnancy testing, and referrals to community resources as well as maternity and infant assistance. All services are free, regardless of income.

## OUR WISH LIST

Our Wish List helps us to keep our emergency baby and maternity item pantry shelves full.

- \* New cribs or donations for new cribs
- \* New and gently used infant (preemie to 2T) and maternity clothing
- \* Baby care supplies (wash, lotion, diaper rash cream, powder, and shampoo—travel and full sizes)
- \* New infant car seats
- \* Diapers (preemie to size 5, especially size 2, 3, and 5)
- \* Baby wipes (travel and full size tubs) and empty baby wipe containers for our fundraiser

- \* Nestle Good Start with DHA/ARA formula, Nestle Good Start Soy formula, Similac Alimentum formula, Enfamil Enfacare formula

- \* Stage 1, 2, and 3 baby food

- \* Bottles, nipples, pacifiers, breast milk storage bags, bottle brushes

- \* Department store, grocery store, or discount store gift cards

- \* Monetary donations payable to: Catholic Charities Pregnancy Resource Center

- \* Emergency supplies of non-perishable food items

(soups, pasta and sauce, canned goods), toiletries, and toilet paper

- \* Baby and toiletry item coupons

### Other Ways You Can Help

- \* Become a monthly donor. Even \$10/month allows us to buy one crib, 10 cans of formula, or 4 car seats for families in the course of a year

- \* Sponsor a donation drive at your church, school, or workplace

- \* Get on our email list and learn about upcoming events. To join, email us at [emickey@hbgdiocese.org](mailto:emickey@hbgdiocese.org)

- \* Host a tea/gathering in your home to raise awareness/funds for the fund

- \* Be part of our Spare Change to Spare Lives Fundraiser. Fill up an empty baby wipes container with loose change, cash it in, and donate it to the program. We'll even provide the container for you

Any questions about our wish list or ways to help, call our office at 843-7986 x 229.