

Bundles of Love



Newsletter
2006

Newsletter Update

By Mary Jo Prinsen, President

As we all know sometimes things do not go as planned. I had good intentions of sending out a newsletter early in 2006 and hoped to send out at least two this year. As most of you are aware, this is the first and last one of 2006! The year has flown by... and we are all looking forward to the year to come. Our hope is that our Bundles of Love efforts will continue to grow during 2007, as there are more babies and families who need our help.

Without all of you volunteers our success would not be possible. So THANK YOU again for what you do! Whether that is delivering bundles, dropping off supplies, raising funds, organizing work meetings, speaking to groups, cutting out items, sewing, knitting, crocheting or helping in any other way, you are making a difference! The gift of your time is priceless! We would love to hear any ideas that you want to share about the organization.

Current Board of Directors

President: Mary Jo Prinsen

Treasurer: Sharon Moore

Secretary: Lisa Buesing

Finance Director: Barb Rothe

Grants Director: Jana Hendrickson

Fundraising Director: Lisa Caballero

March of Dimes North End Community Shower



In September, for the fifth year, we helped provide items for the March of Dimes North End Community shower for families with babies. This year we contributed 50 jackets/sweaters, 50 hats and mittens. They very much appreciate the items, and are always in need of hats of any size.



*Thank you for all that
you do for the babies
and their families!*

New Fundraising Opportunity

We are excited to announce a fundraising opportunity called Scrips that has great potential to support Bundles of Love efforts....

What is Scrips?

When organization members purchase scrip, they're purchasing negotiable gift certificates or gift cards that are used just like cash. The scrip is issued by the national and local retailers where many organization families already shop. These merchants want to support non-profit organizations, and in return ask you to support them by shopping with scrip at their stores. Organization members can use scrip when making everyday purchases like food, clothing, and other essentials, and with every purchase, they earn revenue for the organization.

Where do I place and pick up orders?

Orders are collected monthly at North Metro, South Metro and Rochester work meetings. Deliveries will be made at the following months work meeting.

Who can purchase Scrips?

Anyone! This program is not limited to Bundles of Love members. Spread the word. Orders can be delivered via a Bundles of Love member or mailed to the recipient with a small shipping fee.

Who do I contact for more information?

North Metro - Lisa Caballero
South Metro - Darla Williams
Rochester - Joanne Larsen

Why are we doing Scrips?

One of the main reasons we have initiated a Scrips program is that this is a great way to raise funds with no cost to the volunteers or other Scrips participants! There is huge potential to raise funds for Bundles of Love via Scrips.

Currently we have had 35 participating families that have placed three orders and have generated \$475! That is enough to cover the cost of 19 bundles! Remember, this was at no cost to our volunteers - just a little planning ahead!

We need you! With your support, this program has a huge potential to help Bundles of Love help others in our community!

Example of Scrips cards purchased and funds raised for a family of five...:

Weekly purchases:

Groceries	\$100	x 52 @ 2% = \$104
Gas	\$25	x 52 @ 4% = \$52

Monthly Purchases:

Dining Out	\$50	x 12 @ 8% = \$48
Drug Store	\$20	x 12 @ 2% = \$4.80
Fabric Store	\$20	x 12 @ 6% = \$14.40

You will be making these purchases, but by ordering the cards through Scrips, you can also help families in need without any strain on your budget!!!! With just 50 families participating on an ongoing basis, the Scrips program can fund 550 bundles in one year without any additional cost to the participants!

More Questions?

Please contact the Bundles of Love Fundraising Events Director - Lisa Caballero via phone 651-702-9525 or via email at fundraising@bundlesoflove.org

Bundles of Love Organization Information

Nothing we do would happen without our volunteers. With our growing organization we have a need for more Leadership Support. Identified leadership opportunities are listed below. If you are interested, please contact Mary Jo Prinsen, email: president@bundlesoflove.org, Phone: (952) 431-2867

Marketing / Publicity - Leader needed to develop marketing / public relations plan for the organization and make strategic recommendations to Board of Directors. Coordinate volunteer efforts in the area of marketing, publicity.

Fundraising / Development Leadership - Experienced leader needed to plan and lead fundraising / development activities for the organization including grant proposal research and writing. Evaluate options for an annual giving campaign.

Fundraising Event Planner / CO-Leadership - Event planner to plan local fundraising projects or events for the Twin Cities area, including annual spring/summer/fall fundraisers. Assist in recruiting committee members and coordinate activities of fundraising event committee.

Strategic Planning - Help us build a firm foundation for the future. Experienced leaders needed to help our grassroots volunteer organization become an established, viable, organization which will continue to serve our communities as long as our services are needed.

Newsletter Publisher - Publish a newsletter for volunteers and other interested parties 3 or more times per year. Gather / write articles, recruit committee members to help as needed, oversee printed and web formatting, coordinate printing and distribution.

Advisory Board Recruitment - Identify and recruit advisory board members for the organization in areas such as marketing, development, volunteer management, fundraising, organizational management, real estate management.

Organize Speaking Opportunities - Contact organizations that may be interested in supporting Bundles of Love and set up speaking opportunities for current volunteer speakers. Recruit additional speakers who will represent the organization at speaking engagements.

Work Group Leader - Start a work group in your neighborhood. Organize meetings so others can make baby bedding and clothing for the families who need them. Recruit volunteers, organize materials and activities, train volunteers, track and report activity.

Special Work Meeting Leader - Help lead volunteer activities when we receive requests from groups at schools, churches, youth groups, scout troops, corporate volunteer groups, etc. so we won't need to turn down volunteer requests. Work closely with an experienced work group coordinator until you feel confident enough to work on your own. Commitment is flexible depending on your schedule. There are opportunities for daytime, evening, or weekends.

Please note - A minimum commitment of 1 year is required for leadership positions

Many Hands Make Light Work

For everyone who wonders how we get all this work done, here is a list of the work groups that meet regularly. Our volunteers are amazingly dedicated, generous with their time and talents, and awesome team workers! If you would like to start a new group in your part of town or at your church, please contact Teresa Wilts at email: twilts@bundlesoflove.org, phone: (763) 783-7876.

South Metro Area Groups:

South Metro Work Group
Minnetonka

Rochester Work Group

East Metro Area Group

Stillwater Work Group

North Metro Area Work Groups:

North Metro Work Group
Messiah United Methodist Work Group
Skyway Seniors
Oak Meadows

Extra Work Groups

Bundles of Love wishes to thank all the volunteers from the following groups who attended special work meetings to help us meet our commitments to area hospitals and organizations. Without you we wouldn't have been able to do it!

*Anoka County Shelter and Regional Juvenile
Center*

*American Sewing Guild—SE Neighborhood
Group*

South West High School

St. Barnabas Lutheran Church

Lino Lakes Moms Club

Minnesota Knitters Guild

Beautiful Saviors Lutheran Church

Opportunity Partners

University of St Thomas

Holy Name of Jesus Christ

Thank you to all who helped to support Bundles of Love in 2005 and 2006!

We appreciate all donations of fabric, yarn, supplies, and especially your time. There have been so many donations that we don't have space to list them all, but we do appreciate all of your contributions!

The following organizations and corporations donated funds in 2005 and early 2006 to help purchase additional supplies and pay for other expenses:

American Express employee gift matching Ruth Volk
Anoka Lioness Club
Bethel Lutheran - Rochester
Blue Cross Blue Shield MN for employee volunteers Mary Stanek and Mary Jo Prinsen Born
Burnsville Lion's Club
Cliff Corporation - Dolittles 1st Quarter 2006 Citizen for Life Mud Pie donation
Church of St. Edward
Children's St. Paul NICU loss fund via nurse Pat Reinke
Central States FL.CA-Peace Lutheran - Washinaton MO donor designated aift

Ceridian - in support of employee volunteer Cherie
Dakota County Cabane
Donors in memory of Brady Lindstrom (about 200 individuals, organizations, and businesses)
Early Riser's Exchange Club , Rochester
Ecolab - for employee volunteer Lisa Caballero
Ed-Ventures, Inc - passport pouch fundraiser
Edison Media Research / volunteer Ginny Morris
FM107 sale of diaper dude and diaper diva "onesies" at the 2005 Minnesota state fair
GMAC Residential Funding Corp employee volunteer Jodi Eberhardt
Jimmy Buffet fan club - St. Minnesomeplace in Paradise Chapter
Kiwanis Day Makers Rochester
Laura Nelson - sale of quilts at craft sale
Midwest Medical Insurance Holding Co employee volunteer Joan Fisher
Medtronic for North Metro workspace
Moms Club Coon Rapids
Multiple Connections - Twin Topics
New York Life
North Burnsville Mom's Club
PAYC
People in Business Care
People's Congregational Church, Bayport
Russell & Herder - designated by Olson
St. Gerard's Guild of St. Alphonsus, Brooklyn Park
St. Paul Travelers Foundation for employee volunteer Jana Hendrickson
St. Thomas Univ students - for rent
Thomson-West matching gift from Robin Veal
Triple Espresso
Thrivent (Scott County, Rochester, NW Minneapolis, South Anoka County, Northern Dakota County Chapters)
Sams Club Foundation for North Metro workspace
Saturn of St. Paul for North Metro workspace
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church - Children in Need fund
US Bank - 5 Star award in recognition of employee volunteer Marilyn Rukavina
Wal-mart Corporation for matching funds for our dessert party fundraisers
West Suburban Women's Club
Zumbro Lutheran Church Women, Rochester

Donations from over 100 individuals for their personal contributions including designated gifts via United Way and Corporate giving campaigns.

Donations in memory of Ross Temple, Maxine Kennedy, Gerry Bierman, Brad Hill, Joseph Vernon Hesse, Velta Nagobads, Leo & Elizabeth Rossman, Michael Baker Hatfield, Sean Phillip Callahan-Mitsch, Helen Harns, Garnet Wagner.

Donations in celebration of Matt and Colleen Lindstrom's pregnancy, and Mary Rossman's birthday

Our apologies to any organizations we've inadvertently missed.
The support has been awesome!

Bundles of Love Pattern Sets

Our most used sewing patterns are available for sale. Pattern sets for volunteers are available through your work group coordinator. The "Newborn Necessities" set includes sewing patterns:

Sleeper (small & large preemie, & newborn sizes)

Newborn gown

Newborn Hat

Cardigan Jacket

Hooded Raglan Sleeve Jacket

Newborn Pants

Newborn undershirt / "onesie"

Raglan sleeve t-shirt

Bibs

Burp Cloths

Thumbless mittens

Open Front preemie gown

Instructions for:

"peek a boo" sleeper cuffs

fitted crib sheet

receiving blankets

infant quilts

wash cloth mitt

diaper bag

A suggested donation of \$5 per set will offset printing costs.

New Pattern - Ruth's Baby Ripple Afghan

By Ruth Volk

Gauge: 3 dc by 1 row = 1-inch square Size "G" crochet hook

Finished size: Approximately 30" by 35"

Materials: 14 oz. Worsted weight yarn

KEY: CH = chain; DC = Double Crochet; YO = Yarn Over

Ch 133

Row 1: YO and pull up a loop in 4th CH from hook, YO and pull through 2 loops on the hook. YO, skip one CH and pull up a loop in the next CH, YO and pull through 2 loops on the hook. YO and pull through all 3 loops on the hook.

Up-hill - DC in the next 5 stitches.

Increase - In the next stitch, work an **Increase Pattern** as follows: DC, CH 1, DC, CH 1, DC.

Down-hill - DC in the next 5 stitches.

Decrease - YO and pull up a loop in the next stitch, YO and pull through 2 loops on the hook. *YO, skip one stitch and pull up a loop in the next stitch, YO and pull through 2 loops on the hook. Repeat from * once. YO and pull through all 4 loops on the hook. **Decrease Pattern** made (3 decrease DCs with a skipped stitch between each).

Repeat Up-hill, Increase, Down-hill, and Decrease to end of row, ending with a Down-hill, then a **1/2 Decrease Pattern** as follows: YO and pull up a loop in the next stitch, YO and pull through 2 loops on the hook. YO, skip one stitch and pull up a loop in the next stitch, YO and pull through 2 loops on the hook. YO and pull through all 3 loops on the hook.

End with a DC in the last stitch, chain 3 and turn.

Row 2: Work a 1/2 Decrease, then work the Up-hill, Increase, Down-hill and Decrease patterns to end of row, ending with a 1/2 Decrease, DC in the last stitch, chain 3 and turn.

Repeat Row 2 until piece measures the desired length.

North Metro Work Group moves into new Permanent Home

By Teresa Wilts

Recently the North Metro work group moved to 445 Old Highway 8, Suite 3B in New Brighton. On behalf of the work group, I'd like to thank the following people and organizations for everything they did to make the new workspace wonderful and to make the move go smoothly.

Griffin Companies: Sharon Moore, Wes Johnson and Steve Martin for helping us find the new building. A special thank you to Wes Johnson for helping us power wash the floor, arranging a donation of shelving units, ceiling tiles and cleaning supplies and for delivering the donation and for all his expertise and support. Thank you also to Sharon and her husband Barry for helping us paint.

Everest Properties: Thanks to Tom Walgren and his partners for their persistence in getting the hot water working and for being willing to work with us to correct a few problems in the building.

Demolition, Construction and painting crews: A special thanks to Rob and Marilyn Rukavina, Doug Brandner and Ed Wilts, all of whom showed up day after day in an attempt to get everything ready. Thanks to the following who also helped: Cassie Carney, Ruth and Kirk Nelson, Karen Cummins, Elaine Jones, Lynda Haemig, Leanne Patchen, Dianne Murdock, Eva Cahill, Azalea Henao, Jana Hendrickson and Rod Barfknecht, who fixed all the holes in the drywall.

Moving crew: 26 volunteers showed up to help us move and it took us only 2.25 hours. In that time we were also able to get the old space cleaned and the keys turned over! Thank you to everyone who took the time to help out, especially Sharon, who missed her retreat to bring the young men from work over to help. A big thank you to them as well.

Domino's Pizza in New Brighton: They supplied half the pizza for lunch for the day of the move. Also, thank you to Ed Wilts, who brought the rest.

Dairy Queen in New Brighton: They donated a big ice cream cake the day of the move. A special thanks to Cassie Carney for arranging the donations.

The trouble with naming names is I'm sure I forgot someone and for that I apologize. I appreciate everything that all of you have done to make this space a great place for our volunteers to make baby clothing and bedding.

With gratitude

Teresa Wilts

North Metro Work Coordinator

Thank you notes & Words of Support for Bundles of Love

Bundles of Love in the American Indian community

Each month, the Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center receives a phone call from Carl, asking how many Bundles of Love we can use this month. Then magically, the requested bundles appear at our office soon thereafter. This is a story of how those gifts are helping to transform lives in the Minneapolis American Indian community.

American Indian women suffer high rates of substance abuse, homelessness, sexual assault, domestic violence, and mental illness. Their children are disproportionately placed in the child protection system. Infant mortality is high, and many Indian women have their first child before the age of 20, often with inadequate or inexistent pre-natal care. The Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center (www.miwrc.org) provides a culturally appropriate, holistic response to these issues. Our six major program areas include accredited childcare, family reunification and crisis intervention, legal services for victims of gender violence, chemical health programming, emergency and supportive housing, and a library and training center. The majority of women who come to us for services are very low income, and struggling to put their lives together again and build a safety net for their precious children. When they receive these beautiful bundles of love from strangers, it has a strong impact on them. One client asked if she could share her response to this gift:

The bundle they gave me had 5 sleepers, bibs, burb clothes, receiving blankets, pampers, baby wipes, shampoo, babywash, a blanket, and an adorable stuffed animal and the handmade diaper bag. I think it was very helpful and thoughtful to a person in need. My son uses the sleepers all the time along with the diaper bag. I want to thank whomever donated the Bundle of Love. I thank MIWRC for all the help to me and to the community.

This young mother is doing very well and is on her way to a healthy new lifestyle. For women who have come to us with nothing, often homeless or fleeing domestic violence, this is a gift that carries with it the kind wishes of a larger caring community. That act helps our clients know that they can make it in this world, and that there is help available for them. In the Ojibwe language we say Chi Miigwetch, which means Thank you very much!

Volunteer Spotlights

TESA students

Bundles of Love thanks the students of the TESA program for their volunteer efforts during the 2005-2006 school year. TESA is a special education program which meets at the Dakota County Technical College, and helps students make the transition from classroom to work. Students develop work skills and interact in the community through a variety of volunteer activities such as sorting or organizing donations at the Goodwill, doing mailings for the Neighbors food shelf, and park cleanup. Last year, seven students volunteered for Bundles of Love, meeting 3 times each week for 1 ½ hours to cut fleece scraps and assemble kits to sew turtle toys. They also stuffed the sewn toys. Each student found his or her own talents and created an assembly line technique, dividing up tasks such as tracing, cutting, matching fabric, and filling zipped bags with the appropriate pieces.

When I met with the students at the end of their first quarter volunteering to discuss their experiences they showed a strong sensitivity to the needs of others in the community and were happy to be helping others.

Mary Weinand

Volunteering for Bundles of Love is a family affair for Mary Weinand as it is for many Bundles of Love volunteers, but Mary's family has a unique member - Emma - Mary's service dog. Mary retired from teaching about 7 years ago after experiencing symptoms of MS (multiple sclerosis). Because she suffers from weakness in her arms, bouts of dizziness, and episodes of vision difficulties, she needed a volunteer opportunity she could do from home, at her own pace.

Mary's sister, Sue Gunderson got her started volunteering with Bundles of Love about 5 years ago when she taught Mary to crochet. Mary uses a large crochet hook - size P or Q with a rubber gripper and multiple strands of yarn to create colorful afghans and diaper bags. When her vision blurs, she can continue to crochet by "feeling" her work. When she drops her crochet hook, she gives Emma a command to pick it up for her.

Mary's husband and her four grown children help choose yarn for Mary's projects. Her daughter, Anna, and her daughter-in-law crochet and can help complete the foundation row for a new project. Mary's family also helps roll jumbo sized skeins of yarn into smaller, manageable-sized balls with the yarn winder Anna bought for her mother. Mary's sister Sue helps tuck in loose ends and delivers Mary's finished items to the South Metro work meeting where Sue helps stuff bundles. In spite of her limitations, Mary had one of the highest number of volunteer hours for the south metro work group last year.

Leanne Patchen and Lynda Haemig:

Leanne and Lynda are sisters who became volunteers for the north metro work group of Bundles of Love about 4 years ago, following Leanne's bout with clinical depression. Leanne, an elementary school teacher of more than 30 years survived breast cancer, but found that the treatments left her with little energy for her demanding job. Faced with a one-time opportunity to retire early, she reluctantly made a quick decision to leave her career.

Widowed, without children, and leaving a demanding job and long commute which left her little time to develop many hobbies, Leanne began, over time to miss being busy, interacting with her students and colleagues, and began to lose her sense of purpose. She became more and more sad and began to withdraw from family and friends, eventually becoming nearly housebound. During this dark time in her life, her 2 loving sisters and devoted friends did everything in their power to help Leanne, but after 2 years of missing family events and holiday celebrations, the effort became overwhelming and they convinced her to seek professional help.

With the help of a doctor who specialized in depression, Leanne began to understand that her depression was caused by a chemical imbalance and was not her fault. The right medication and time restored her energy and sense of optimism, and she began seeking a way to feel useful again. She found Bundles of Love when her sister Lynda convinced her to visit a volunteer fair at Northtown Mall. Leanne now sews for Bundles of Love, has made some wonderful friends, and has become more comfortable in trying new adventures. "I know that my effort helps families and their babies get a better start in life."

Lynda, who first attended a volunteer meeting to offer her sister moral support, continues to volunteer for Bundles of Love as well. An employee of Catholic Charities, and inspired daily by the dedication of volunteers, she enjoys volunteering in a position that fits into her schedule and transportation limits. Lynda enjoys sewing gowns, but will work on anything she has learned to make.

Current and Ongoing Needs

The following items are always needed:

- Newborn sized sleepers, gowns, or jacket/pants sets
- Diaper bags
- Crocheted & knitted afghans
- Baby care items which we include in each bundle. We mostly need diapers, wipes, and baby soap or shampoo. Nice-to-haves are bottles, pacifiers, teething rings, diaper rash ointment, etc.
- Yarn - all kinds (except wool and mohair type) and any colors

Volunteers:

Cutting items to keep our talented volunteers busy is a big job. If you'd like to help with pre-cutting items for volunteers to sew, contact your work group coordinator for fabric and patterns.

Fabrics Always needed...

Our current needs are: knits, sweatshirt fleece, ribbing, polar fleece, flannel Quilt backing (at least 1 yard in length and 44-45" wide), sheet fabric (at least 70 inches in length and 45 inches wide). All donations are welcomed, so we don't need to purchase as much for our monthly needs. We could use some nice knit prints - especially "babyish" prints to mix with our solid colored fabrics.

Preemie items:

We need more preemie items, both large and small at this time (especially hats). We need sleepers, open gowns, booties and fabric hats. The hospitals have requested fabric hats as the yarn can bother their sensitive skin.



Size Guidelines:

Booties

When making booties, please keep in mind these guidelines: Foot lengths for booties are as follows: small preemie (1-3 pounds) 1-2 inches; large preemie (3-5 pounds) 2.5 - 3 inches; newborn (6-10 pounds) 3-4 inches. Most needed are newborn sizes, unless you are making booties to be used for burial layettes (white or pastel colors are requested.)

Quilts

36x45 is commonly the size we make quilts, as this requires only 1 yard of backing and batting. If you use a warm backing fabric such as sweatshirt fleece or polar fleece, batting is not needed.

Current and Ongoing Needs Continued

Afghans

30" to 36" is a common size for crocheted or knitted afghans

Receiving blankets

30" single layer flannel

Some of the Organizations we serve....

Abbott Northwestern Hospital, Minneapolis
Agape House via St. James church
Amnion Crisis Pregnancy Center, Burnsville
Cambridge Crisis Emergency Center
CAP Agency, Rosemount
Catholic Charities - Seton Services - St Paul
Children's Hospital Minneapolis
Children's Hospital, St. Paul
Christmas Anonymous, Rochester
Dakota County Public Health - Apple Valley
Dakota County Public Health - So St Paul
Dakota Healthy Families, Eagan
Dakota Woodlands, Eagan
Dorothy Williams, Santa Barbara, CA Honduras
Fairview Ridges Hospital - Burnsville
Hand-in-Hand Adult Literacy Center,
Rochester
Hands for Humanity
Health East Hospitals
Hennepin County Medical Center, Minneapolis
Interfaith Hospitality Network - Rochester
Life Care Centers - Apple Valley &
West St. Paul
Lutheran Social Services / RJSSVP
Minneapolis Miracle

MN Indian Women's Resource Center
MN Visiting Nurses Association
Native American Community Clinic, Minneapolis
New Life Family Services, Richfield
New Life Family Services, Rochester
North East Strong Together, Minneapolis
Northpointe Clinic, Hennepin County
Olmsted Community Hospital, Rochester
Person to Person, Minneapolis
Regions Hospital, St. Paul
Rochester March of Dimes
Rochester Methodist Hospital
Rochester Public Health
Ronald McDonald House, Rochester
Sister Tierney, Bogota, Colombia
St Mary's Hospital, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit,
Rochester
St. Bridget of Sweden Church, Lindstrom - Baby
Blanket Room
St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, White Bear Lake
Unity Hospital, Fridley
West Side Clinic, St. Paul
Individual Families
Various Organizations (extra hats)

Our Wish List - Since we are in the holiday season, we thought we'd share with you all our wish list for the organization. If anyone has any ideas on how we can accomplish this please contact your work group coordinator or Mary Jo.

Permanent work space for the south metro work group - donated or at a significantly reduced rent
Professional embroiderery at low cost for BOL logo shirts
Invitations for speaking engagements to spread our mission
Leaders willing to start more work groups
Sponsorship to help defray costs of baby care items
Partnership with a printer to provide donated printing services

Work Group News:

Rochester Work Group:

Coordinators: Joanne Larsen and Mary Rossman e-mail: sewlikeme@msn.com
phone: 507-288-3047 (Joanne) 507-282-1051 (Mary)

North Metro Work Group:

Coordinator: Teresa Wilts e-mail: twilts@bundlesoflove.org Phone: (763) 783-7876

Meeting Dates:

Third Thursday of every month - 6:30 - 9:00 pm

First Monday of every month - 6:30 - 9:00 pm

Second Thursday of every month - 9:30 - 11:30 am

Second Saturday of every month - 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Andover/Ham Lake Work Group

This group is now meeting in the new North Metro Work Group space. You can contact Ruth Nelson at (763) 434-7765, or email twilts@bundlesoflove.org

Messiah United Methodist Work Group

Coordinator: Phyllis Bopp e-mail: p.bopp@comcast.net Phone (763) 473-5303

South Metro Work Group:

Coordinator: Ruth Volk e-mail: ruth.volk@comcast.net Home: (651) 452-5827
Cell: (651) 263-1251

This group meets at Shepherd of the Valley Church, on the corner of McAndrews and Johnny Cake Road in Apple Valley.

Meeting Dates:

Third Saturday of every month - 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Minnetonka Work Group

Coordinator: Jan Winstead e-mail: Jan2win@aol.com phone: 952-935-3451

For information about meeting times and locations, contact Jan.

The Value of Donations

Bundles of Love receives thousands of pounds of donated supplies each year, but there are some items that we need cash to purchase. If you are wondering how your donation help's your less fortunate neighbors, look at the following "price list"... We can make a little go a long way!

\$1 will purchase batting to make a warm infant quilt for a needy or hospitalized infant

\$3 will provide a baby with a starting supply of baby soap, baby wipes and diapers

\$5 will pay for flannel to make 4 receiving blankets as well as several bibs or burp cloths

\$10 will help us buy pronged snaps for more than 30 newborn or preemie sleepers

\$25 or less is the average cash cost of a newborn "bundle" for a family in need, typically a diaper bag filled with newborn necessities, mainly hand-made items including:

- * a baby quilt
- * 2 receiving blankets
- * 2 sleepers
- * sweater, or jacket/pants set
- * infant toy
- * baby wipes
- * seasonal items such as a summer romper or winter bunting, hat and mittens
- * a small afghan
- * 2 bibs
- * 2 infant gowns
- * hat
- * washcloth
- * 2 day supply of diapers
- * fitted crib sheet
- * 2 burp clothes
- * 2 t-shirts or "onesies"
- * booties
- * baby soap

Raising Funds is a continuous activity for the work of Bundles of Love.

You can help by ...

- Notifying us of any contacts you have in corporations who support non-profit organizations such as ours
- Taking advantage of any matching funds programs you are aware of (such as employers or fraternal organizations) which will increase your personal gifts
- Checking to see if your employer supports volunteerism by donating to organizations in which its employees are active
- When shopping on-line go to www.igive.com and sign in under Bundles of Love
- See if your place of worship would be interested in supporting our ministry
- Try something different instead of birthday presents... ask family members for baby care items. Ask if they want to come along to a meeting to deliver them.
- and most importantly, just keep talking with your family, friends, and other acquaintances about what we do!

Bundles of Love Donation Form

I would like to help the Bundles of Love effort with a monetary gift.

Donor's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Amount of donation: \$ _____

This donation is made in memory/honor/celebration of: _____



We would be happy to send a gift card if you are making this donation in recognition of a birthday, anniversary, birth of a baby or other special event. Please provide the name and address of the recipient below and don't forget to tell us what special event is being celebrated.

Name _____

Event _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____



Please check here if you would prefer that we NOT acknowledge your donation in our newsletter. _____

Please make checks payable to: "Bundles of Love"

Mail to:

Bundles of Love

PO Box 240301

Apple Valley, MN 55124-0301

Thank you!

Who are the families we help?

Some examples have been shared by the nurses and social workers including...

A mother in a women's shelter seeking refuge from abuse, accustomed to being mistreated, incredulous that a stranger cared enough to give her new, hand-made clothing and bedding for her baby.

A young woman facing an unplanned pregnancy alone, whose first smile was seen by a social worker after the expectant mother made the difficult decision to give birth and raise her baby on her own and received a bundle of lovingly made clothing and bedding for her first child.

An emergency foster parent who retrieved a "bundle" from the crisis nursery for a newborn just released from the hospital for whom she would care until the child's future was determined.

Families experiencing the loss of an infant: "Thank you for the wonderful, absolutely incredible work you do. This helps alleviate some of the pain. You are incredible."

A family who spent a hot, humid Minnesota summer without electricity because of financial difficulties and now also have a newborn for whom to provide basic necessities.

A family who lost their infant clothing and bedding in a house fire.

Families with premature babies, unable to find clothing to fit their tiny infants.

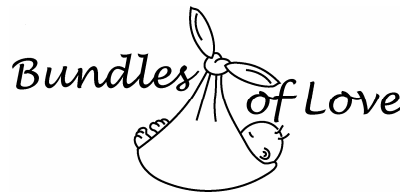
Minnesota families whose additions of quintuplet, quadruplet, and triplet newborns brought multiple times the love, but also multiplied the need for sleepers, diapers, blankets, hats, booties, t-shirts and every other baby necessity.

Families whose lives have been compromised by conflicts with the law and who have many needs in getting back "on track".

A woman who had planned to give her baby up for adoption, but had a change of heart the day she was to be released from the hospital.

A recent immigrant whose thank you note to Bundles of Love for the bundle she received arrived 8 months later, after she had learned enough English to be comfortable writing.

A mother of a 3-lb. newborn who visited the NICU for weeks after giving birth. She bonded with her daughter while performing a daily ritual of dressing the tiny newborn in a ruffled seersucker dress and bonnet sewn by a Bundles of Love volunteer from an adapted doll pattern.



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We will notify you when future newsletters are available online, saving us postal costs so we can spend more of our funds directly helping infants.

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