



Bundles of Love Charity
P.O. Box 240301
Apple Valley, MN 55124-0301

Winter 2010 Edition

President's Letter

A recent story about the impact of a "bundle" delivered to a young mother reminded me once again that Bundles of Love Charity is about so much more than baby clothing and blankets.

Through generosity of donors and volunteers, we are touching lives of families in crisis and creating stronger communities. In difficult economic times we share hope and support with those who need it, and make our own lives richer for our involvement.

In 2009 we delivered over 100,000 items of essential clothing and blankets to infants, helping over 5,600 families. In a time when many non-profits had to cut services due to declining donations, we were able to increase bundles and items delivered by 16% over the prior year.

We are positioned to continue our growth in 2010, but we will again need strong support of donors, leaders and volunteers. With your help, we will achieve major milestones in 2010.

Thank you all for your caring and generous spirit!

Mary Jo Prinsen, founder and President of Bundles of Love



January— December 2009 Results

Volunteer hours	91,480	Total baby Items delivered	100,542
Volunteers (average monthly)	408	Bundles delivered	2,808
Activities held	380	Estimated # of families helped	5,672

Fundraising Updates

Linder's Plant Cards— This year we are selling gift cards to Linder's. These can be used at any flower market or at their store. Bundles receives 15% of what is sold. Cards will be delivered during the April work-group meetings, perfect for Mother Day presents!!!! They are available in \$10, \$25 and \$50 increments. To pre-order your card, check out the website or email Becky at bpasch@charter.net.

Cookbooks— You still have a chance to purchase our unique cookbook that is comprised of delicious recipes from our very talented volunteers at a bargain rate of \$10 each plus shipping. Contact Deb Persing at 763-434-4110 or debpersing@gmail.com if you are interested in purchasing some.

Scrips— We are able to order gift cards to a variety of stores at a discount, while you receive full face value for these cards from national and local retailers where you already shop. Please encourage your friends, family, and co-workers to help in this effort in 2010. Orders are due on the last day of each month, with payment due at the time they are received.. Gift Cards are delivered at work meetings . All it costs you is some organization. Order forms including most requested cards can be found on the Bundles of Love website (www.bundlesoflove.org/otherdonate#scrip), or from your work meeting coordinator. A complete list of cards is available at the Great Lakes Scrip webpage (www.glscrip.com).

iGive.com – If you shop on-line please take a look at the iGive.com website. By going to the igive website before making your purchases retailers will share a percentage of your purchase with Bundles of Love. Just register with Bundles of Love as your designated charity.

GoodSearch.com—Earn money for Bundles while you search the Internet. Go to www.goodsearch.com, select Bundles of Love, as the charity to support. Then start your searching, every time you use the search engine we earn a penny. Just think of how many times during the day you search for things. You could be earning money for Bundles just by starting at a different search engine.

Do you have ideas for fundraising events just waiting to be implemented? We are looking for volunteers who can help us with new ideas and ways that Bundles of Love can raise money to help achieve our mission. We are looking for people that may have some event planning experience, or maybe you are an organized person that keep a group of individuals on task and within the budget. Just as important are those of you that have that "Can Do" attitude! Join us at the North Metro Workgroup on the second Saturday of the month at 11am to share your ideas or contact Deb Persing at 763-434-4110 or debpersing@gmail.com. We are looking forward to your fresh new ideas and support.

Space and equipment needs

The north metro warehouse is in need of more **industrial shelving**. This will allow us to store the large quantities of flannel we purchase in the fall.

Rochester group has grown to the point that we could really use a **permanent work space** to make the logistics of volunteer meetings more manageable. The ideal space would include both space to meet, spread out and sew or assemble bundles as well as storage space for supplies and finished items. **Please help spread the word that we could really use**



Agency Spotlight

St. Joseph's Hospital—contributed by Sheila Priebe

We are St. Joseph's maternity unit, here are some of the nurses comments. Quite a few of our patients are new immigrants from Burma. They have been sponsored by their families to come to Minnesota but they often times do not have ANYTHING for their children or new baby. We have many families that you touch by your gift.

Nurse Jeanne. "All of our patients who receive one of the diaper bags have been grateful and thankful to have something besides a t-shirt and diaper to take their new baby home. They have nothing! Our families who are new immigrants are so appreciative, grateful and pleased with the gift. I take everything out of the bag and show it to them and have the interpreter explain what it is. The mothers are shy but I get a big smile when they see the gifts for their baby! It is really nice that the blanket sleeper outfit has legs and feet in it because they are so warm and it is easy to put the baby in the car-seat with the legs. Most of our families do not have anything to put on their baby when they are discharged. I feel the gratefulness and see it in both the mother and the father. Thank you for all that you do!"

Nurse Mary. "I am proud to give the families your gift. They are very pleased. Many are embarrassed because they do not have anything for their baby. The clothes are perfect for the baby to wear home and most have only the belongings that are in your bag. I, too get a big smile from these gentle women when we give them and show them the supplies in the bag. *Thank you for your generous spirit*".

Many have such sad eyes---they have had a difficult journey---and very far from what they know. The message we want them to receive from their care is one of safety, compassion and caring. The bundles that we give these families are another bridge of communication--caring volunteers giving to vulnerable, strong and proud women and their babies. I know that we don't always get feedback when: we do a kind act, smile when we do not feel like smiling, or give a gift like you make----but one woman said "I will always remember".

Volunteer Spotlight

The Minnetonka work group first met in June 2002 and continues to meet monthly to tie quilts. The first quilts were tied on tables at Jan Winstead's home. Now having increased in numbers of volunteers and quilts needed they are meeting at the Glen Lake Activity Center. The Beacon Hill ladies also meet twice a month in their community room.

Many times I have been asked at a meeting, "where did these quilts come from?" Each month both the North and South Metro groups distribute over 200 quilts to hospitals and agencies for babies. A quilt may go through many volunteer hands before the tying process. Many of the squares used in the quilt tops are the squares cut from sheet fabric (that make the fitted crib sheets). Then more squares are cut to coordinate with these squares and sewn into quilt tops. The tops are then put with backing, batting and passed on to another group or persons that sew these "sandwiches" together and prepared for tying. The quilts are then tied by different groups.

The majority of the finished quilts are included in a bundle, but some are donated separately to agencies that request only quilts. Thanks to all the volunteer "hands" that make these quilts each month to keep the babies warm.

Jan Winstead, Minnetonka Work Group



Thank You to the following organizations for your generous support in 2009.

AON Foundation	Malborgs
Alpha Epsilon Chapter 1409	Mayo Clinic Community Caring Award
Ameriprise	Metro Gravel
Andover Mom's Club	Minneapolis Elk's Lodge
Bethel Ladies Bake Sale	Minnesota Quilters
Bethel Lutheran - Rochester	Mom's Club of Mounds View
Blue Cross Blue Shield	People in Business Care
Catholic Community Foundation	People's Cooperative Services
Children's Hospital	New York Life
Culver's Restaurants	Olmsted Medical Center Auxiliary
Cummins	Peace Lutheran, Washington MO
Dakota County Cabane	People in Business Care
Dunn Brothers	Realife Valley View Co-op of Eden Prairie
ECM Publishers	Rochester Reformed Church
ESA	Shepherd of the Valley, Apple Valley
Early Risers Exchange Club	South Shore Trinity Lutheran, White Bear Lake
Eastwood Bank of Rochester	St. Gerard's Guild
Epsilon Sigma Alpha	St. Paul United Church of Christ
Federal Reserve Bank	St. Mary's Alter Society
Fisher Family Fundraiser	St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
General Mills	Strands of Love Deaf Club
Grace Lutheran Church of Apple Valley	TimberLodge
Hollstadt & Associates	Thomson Reuters
HCMC ICU staff	Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
IBM	Trinity Lutheran Church of Brooten
Johnson Screens	Toro Foundation
Jones Apparel Group	Verizon Foundation
L'Allier Concrete Inc	Wells Fargo
Linders	WOW Fundraiser



Have some extra time on your hands? We need help in the following areas:

Grant researchers – Deb Persing is looking for assistance with researching grant opportunities, and requirements. This is a volunteer opportunity that can be done on a flexible schedule from your home. If you can help, please contact Deb at debpersing@gmail.com

Communications Team—We are looking for people to make recommendations on how we get our message across via print, email, and web. Anyone interested can contact Becky Pasch at bpasch@charter.net.

Leadership needs:

Director - Fundraising – lead our fundraiser effort and coordinate other fundraising activities.

Director-Publicity – press releases, arrange speaking engagements, recommend actions to increase our profile in the community.

Director- In-kind donations – coordinate requests for in-kind donations for all workgroups, to help cut down on our need for purchases of baby care items, fabric, and other supplies.

Work Group Contacts

Andover Ham Lake	Ruth Nelson	nelsonruth@comcast.net
Chatfield, Houston, Winona	Susan Moses	srmoses@msn.com
Lonsdale	Ruth Nelson/Lisa Strawhacker	nelsonruth@comcast.net
Minnetonka	Jan Winstead	jan2win@aol.com
North Metro	Teresa Wilts	twilts@bundlesoflove.org
Plymouth	Phyllis Bopp	p.bopp@comcast.net
Rochester	Joanne Larsen	sewlikeme@msn.com
South Metro	Ruth Volk	ruth.volk@bundlesoflove.org
Spring Valley	Phyllis Buresh	
St. Cloud	Danita Traut	Danita@birchwoodelectric.com

Meeting Schedule:

March	April	May	June	July
3 Andover/Ham Lake	1 Plymouth	1 Andover	3 Plymouth	1 Plymouth
4 Plymouth	10 Andover	6 Plymouth	5 Andover	10 Andover
10 North Metro	10 North Metro	8 North Metro	8 North Metro	10 North Metro
10 Spring Valley	13 North Metro	11 North Metro	9 Spring Valley	13 North Metro
13 Minnetonka	15 Minnetonka	11 Minnetonka	12 North Metro	13 Minnetonka
13 North Metro	17 South Metro	15 South Metro	15 Minnetonka	14 Spring Valley
17 South Metro	17 Spring Valley	15 Spring Valley	15 Winona	17 South Metro
20 Winona	20 Winona	18 Winona	19 South Metro	20 Winona
24 Rochester	24 Lonsdale	22 Lonsdale	26 Lonsdale	24 Lonsdale
24 Lonsdale	24 Rochester	22 Rochester	26 Rochester	24 Rochester
26 Chatfield	26 Chatfield	24 Chatfield	28 Chartfield	26 Chatfield



Workgroup Highlights from 2009

Thank you to all our leaders for an amazing 2009. Without your efforts we would not be able to help the babies we do. Your leadership to the organization is amazing and once again THANK YOU for your service!!!!

Work groups continue to expand both in size and in number. “Extra” groups are too numerous to list in this newsletter, but we appreciate all of you!! Please contact Mary Jo to share any special stories you would like to include in the next newsletter.

Corporate volunteer groups continue to be active at Cummins Power Generation, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota, and New York Life, and now also the Federal Reserve Bank in Minneapolis. An additional volunteer group at BCBSMN has recently begun and is focusing on Afghans.

The North Metro work group holds multiple meetings monthly and is supported by many satellite volunteer groups including churches, Mom’s clubs, seniors and youth. The Hands On Twin Cities “Cute as a Button” project has been an exciting new source of volunteers.

South Metro has grown to the point that we are actively negotiating for a leased permanent property to make our work more efficient since the logistics of hauling many van loads of supplies to and from volunteer meetings has become time consuming.

Rochester is excited to have ongoing support from volunteer groups from local churches as well as youth groups including high school, 4-H and Girl Scout groups. Deliveries have expanded from Olmsted County to surrounding counties.

Chatfield, Winona, Houston, and Spring Valley groups – our “new” groups not long ago are meeting regularly and delivering bundles regularly.

Volunteers interested in helping the new group starting in the St. Cloud area should contact Danita Traut a Danita@birchwoodelectric.com.

We also have some interest in starting a group in Isanti County. Contact Mary Jo at president@bundlesoflove.org if you are interested in helping in this effort.

Other ways to help:

Why not hold a baby shower or collection with family and friends, at work, at your place of worship, or with your service group to help us save funds? Also nice to have are infant toys, pacifiers, teethers, bottles or other “extras”.

If you would like to help with these needs, but are short on time, check out our Dollar Days International wish list at www.dollardays.com/bundlesoflove/wishlist.html. You can order baby items from our wish list and they will be shipped directly to us.



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 _____

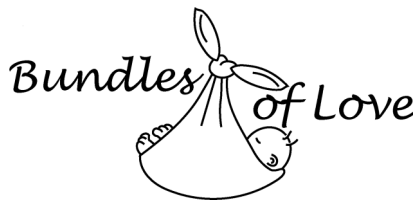
Event _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please make checks payable to: "Bundles of Love Charity"

Mail to: Bundles of Love Charity
PO Box 240301
Apple Valley, MN 55124-0301



Bundles of Love Charity
P.O. Box 240301
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E-mail: info@bundlesoflove.org



Our Mission

Bundles of Love provides newborns and their families in crisis with infant clothing and blankets or bereavement items that have been made by volunteers with love, so that we may help the most vulnerable members of our community.

Board Members

Mary Jo Prinsen, President
president@bundlesoflove.org
Joan Mossey, Secretary
info@bundlesoflove.org

Barbara Rothe, Vice President
barbrothe@hotmail.com
Deb Persing, Director
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Mary Sue Schrantz, Treasurer
mschrantz@comcast.net
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ARE YOU ON-LINE? If you have Internet access, please send us your e-mail address at: info@bundlesoflove.org and ask to be added to our e-mail list. 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.
