



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

**Fall 2009 Edition**

### **President's Letter**

#### **A Time of Thanksgiving and Giving...**

Fall is in the air - my favorite time of year - and my thoughts turn to the seasons of Thanksgiving and Giving. I am so grateful to be part of this caring group of volunteers around the state (and elsewhere)! You continue to give so generously of your time, talents and resources to help others who need some TLC in the community.

Although there are hints of economic recovery on the evening news, many are still dealing with fallout from job loss or intermittent employment. Our help is needed more than ever. This is evident as our request for bundles continue to grow.

This fall as you gather together with family and friends take a chance to tell them what we do. Maybe someone in your circle is looking for a way to give back. What would be greater than volunteering with your friends!

Please continue to support our efforts and enjoy the feeling of giving.

I wish all of you and your families blessings in the coming months.

~ Mary Jo Prinsen, founder and President ~

#### **January— August 2009 Results**

Volunteer hours	57,337	Total baby Items delivered	61,968
Volunteers (average monthly)	251	Bundles delivered	1,745
Activities held	248	Estimated # of families helped	3,407



## Please join us!! - 2009 Annual Fundraiser!

We are delighted to invite you to join us in celebrating our *tenth* anniversary at our Annual Fall Fundraiser.

**When:** Saturday October 24th 6:00 p.m.

**Where:** Tricity American Legion—400 Old Highway 8 NW, New Brighton, MN 55112 • (651) 631-1124

**Menu:** Marinated chicken breast or Fettuccine with broccoli (our vegetarian choice

Whipped potatoes and gravy

Mixed vegetables

Tossed salad

Amazing desserts will be provided by our volunteers.

Silent auction of items that were donated by local organizations.

Raffle with first place being a Toro snow thrower and second place being a Lloyd Security system.

Kindly RSVP to Deb Persing by sending \$15 per ticket to

Deb Persing

1352 155th Ave NW

Andover, MN 55304

### Bundles of Love Charity cookbook

Our cookbooks have been selling well. Hopefully you are enjoying some of the wonderful recipes. Unfortunately, not all recipes were included in the cookbook because of space. We did try to make sure everyone who submitted recipes had at least one or two recipes included. Unfortunately, some were missed. Here's one that looks perfect for the chillier weather on the way...

#### Cabbage and Kielbasa Soup

1 qt. beef broth	8 oz. kielbasa (or vegetarian
1 c. beer	links), 1/2-in pieces
1 14-oz. diced tomatoes	1/2 t. thyme
1 bay leaf	1/2 t. salt
1 small head cabbage, shredded	1/4 t. black pepper
1 large potatoes, peeled and diced	3 garlic cloves, chopped
1 onion, chopped	1/2 t. red pepper flakes
1 carrot, sliced	

Heat broth, beer, tomatoes with bay leaf in large soup pot. Add cabbage, potatoes, onion, carrots, kielbasa and spices. Bring to boil, then lower heat to medium. Cover pot and cook until potatoes and carrots are tender (about 15 minutes). Add more salt or pepper to taste. Delicious with fresh-baked cornbread.

~Recipe submitted by Marian Stever, Rochester Bundles of Love work group

## Ongoing fundraising

**Scrips** – The scrip card program has been very successful in helping us raise funds for Bundles of Love. Scrip is a term that means "substitute money". We are able to order Scrip cards at a discount, while you receive full face value for these cards from national and local retailers where you already shop. In 2008, we raised over \$1400 through the Scrip card program, but the potential is much higher. Please encourage your friends, family, and co-workers to help in this effort in 2009. Orders are due on the last day of each month. Gift Cards are delivered at work meetings (delivered by Darla Williams in the metro area, and mailed to other areas). All it costs you is some organization. To ensure the best availability, cards should be pre-ordered, but can be paid for at the time they are received. Order forms including most requested cards can be found on the Bundles of Love web-site ([www.bundlesoflove.org/otherdonate#scrip](http://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](http://www.glscrip.com)).

**Don't forget to stock on scrip cards for holiday shopping or gift-giving!**

**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.

**Roastmaster Rewards** – Want an easy way to support Bundles of Love Charity's mission to help the Minnesota Babies? When you use the Community Giving Roastmaster Rewards card, Dunn Bros Coffee shops will make a donation equal to 10% of the net sales proceeds to Bundles of Love Charity. The cards are free and can be used at any participating Dunn Brothers coffee shops. All you have to do is what you like to do anyway, like enjoy a tasty beverage in our store or buy fresh-roasted beans to take home. Contact Deb Persing at [debpersing@gmail.com](mailto:debpersing@gmail.com) to get your Roastmaster rewards card today!

**Community Giving drives** – This is the time of year when many companys hold community giving funding drives. If you are able to designate your gifts rather than donate to a "general" fund, we ask you to consider specifying Bundles of Love Charity for part of your giving. If you choose payroll deduction, we will receiving donations throughout the year, and you may notice very little impact on your paycheck.

## Volunteer Spotlight

### Nancy Johnson

When we published our 10th anniversary Bundles of Love charity cookbook, Nancy Johnson took orders at Mayo Clinic where she works. She sold fifty-seven cookbooks! Way to go, Nancy!

Nancy is an active member of the Rochester Bundles of Love group. She stores flannel fabric at her house. She cuts bolt of flannel. She manages to find matching colors to cut bibs, burp clothes and receiving blankets which she organizes into sets. Unmatched items are called "orphans" and Nancy finds them a "home".

She also shops for diapers, baby wipes and baby wash or shampoo for the Rochester group. When it is time to pack bundles there is always a supply of these baby products.

Recently, Nancy had surgery. Ambulating on crutches, she still wanted to do some cutting. This is a testimony to her commitment. Dependable, caring and a pleasure to work with describes this volunteer who is valued by our group.

*Joanne Larsen, Coordinator of the Rochester Group*

## Workgroup News from some of our groups...

**Bundles of Love groups continued their wonderful work throughout the summer.**

### **South Metro**

At the September work meeting, the south metro group set a new record, packing nearly 100 bundles! Thanks to all for the continued hard work. It is with regret that we announce that Ruth Volk will be stepping down as the south metro coordinator at the end of this year. She has been leading the group for about 10 years and we are deeply grateful for her outstanding leadership. Ruth will continue to volunteer and would also like to spend more time teaching her youngest daughter to sew. New leaders are needed to take over various duties so that this group can continue to meet the needs of Dakota county and surrounding areas.. If you are able to help with some leadership duties, contact Ruth or Mary Jo.

### **Messiah Methodist**

Earlier this summer, I was able to attend a work meeting of the Messiah Methodist work group in Plymouth. This group of dedicated ladies is led by Phyllis Bopp. This group was characterized by outstanding hospitality which has helped the group draw volunteers both from the church and the surrounding community. Phyllis and Orpah keep the ladies busy cutting, sewing, a variety of items. Finished items are delivered to the North Metro work group for assembly into bundles.  
~ Mary Jo

### **Spring Valley**

Phyllis Buresh was standing in line at a fabric store. She was curious as to why another woman was purchasing so much fabric so she questioned the customer who happened to be a Bundles of Love volunteer. That conversation inspired Phyllis to inquire about starting a Bundles of Love group. Her initiative inspired members of her church and community in Spring Valley, Minnesota. They have been meeting and sewing, and have already delivered bundles. The first bundle was given to a young father and was covered by the press. This may be the first bundle ever given to a father.

Phyllis's husband bought a trailer for hers to store supplies in. She pulls it behind their pickup and parks it outside her church, St. Ignatius Catholic Church in Spring Valley, when they have their work meetings. What a great way to store and transport all that fabric!

### **Southeastern Minnesota**

Other groups in southeastern Minnesota are Chatfield, Winona, Houston and Theilmann. Thank you to the leaders and all the volunteers who have made it possible to serve this part of our state. Our dream is to cover the whole state and it is not beyond our grasp!

### **New group in St. Cloud area**

We have a group starting to serve the St. Cloud area . If you know of anyone in that area who might like to help, contact Mary Jo at [president@bundlesoflove.org](mailto:president@bundlesoflove.org) and I'll pass on the information to our leader there.

### **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.

South Metro and Rochester area groups have 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 donated space to help ease the burden on the work group leaders!** If you have ideas or contact information to help us in our search, please let us know.



## A couple of hints and requests for volunteers:

Some of the patterns from the original pattern set have been modified to meet agency or hospital needs or suggestions. Please check with your work meeting coordinator to make sure you are using the correct pattern pieces before you spend time cutting out items.

If you are cutting items for other volunteers to sew, please put a note in each box or bag with your name and phone number or e-mail so your coordinator can contact you if she has any changes or suggestions, or has a special request.

If you are cutting ribbing for cuffs or collars of baby items, please make sure you use ribbing. This fabric has much more stretch than regular knit fabric. While it's possible to use matching fabric for these pieces, the size of the pieces needs to be adjusted, so you will need to modify the pattern pieces.

### Work Group Contacts

Andover Ham Lake	Ruth Nelson	nelsonruth@comcast.net
Chatfield, Houston, Winona	Susan Moses	srmoses@msn.com
Lonsdale	Lisa Strawhacker	
Minnnetonka	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	

### Meeting Schedule:

October	November	December	January	February
1 Plymouth	5 Plymouth	3 Plymouth	2 Andover/Ham Lake	4 Plymouth
3 Andover/Ham Lake	7 Andover/Ham Lake	5 Andover/Ham Lake	7 Plymouth	6 Andover/Ham Lake
8 Rochester (Ed-Vent)	10 North Metro	6 Spring Valley	8 Winona	9 Houston
10 North Metro	10 Houston	8 North Metro	9 North Metro	9 North Metro
10 Spring Valley	12 Rochester	11 Rochester	12 Houston	11 Rochester
13 Minnetonka	14 Spring Valley	12 North Metro	12 Minnetonka	13 North Metro
13 Houston	14 Lonsdale	12 Lonsdale	12 North Metro	16 Winona
13 North Metro	14 North Metro	15 Minnetonka	14 Rochester	16 Minnetonka
16 Winona (Sr Ctr)	17 Winona	19 South Metro	14 Spring Valley	19 Winona
17 South Metro	17 Minnetonka		15 Winona	20 South Metro
20 Winona	20 Winona		17 Winona	22 Chatfield
24 Rochester	21 South Metro		19 Winona	27 Rochester
24 Lonsdale	21 Rochester		21 South Metro	27 Lonsdale
26 Chatfield	30 Chatfield		23 Rochester	
			23 Lonsdale	
			25 Chatfield	

## Supplies Needed

### Most needed supplies:

Soft knit fabrics such as interlock or single knits in prints or solids are needed in the metro area.

Sheet fabric such as broadcloth or cotton or cotton/poly blend fabrics 2 yards in length.

Polar fleece for winter buntings.

Yarn—Please be on the lookout for more yarn donations. With colder weather, we want to make sure we have plenty of sweaters and afghans.

### Most needed baby items:

Check with your local work group for specifics, but in general...

Baby care items. Items needed include: diapers, wipes, shampoo, bottles, teethingers, pacifiers.

For those who sew - baby clothing including sleepers, gowns, t-shirts or onesies, jackets and pants or other newborn sized clothing are almost always our most needed items.

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

**Newsletter assembly** – bulk mail distribution / delivery to St. Paul bulk mail station. Experience with bulk mail assembly would be valuable, but willingness to learn is also appreciated. Contact Becky Pasch for further information.

**Video development** – We would like to make a video about Bundles of Love to use in speaking presentations. If you could help produce a video, please contact Mary Jo at 952-807-7206.

**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](mailto:debpersing@gmail.com)

## Leadership needs:

**Director - Fundraising** – lead our fall 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 to help cut down on our need for purchases of baby care items, fabric, and other supplies.

## 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, teethingers, 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](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_

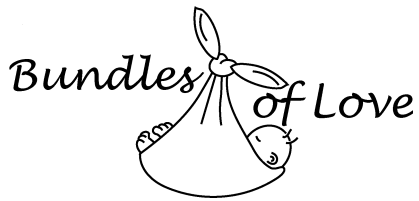
Event \_\_\_\_\_

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  
Apple Valley, MN 55124-0301  
E-mail: [info@bundlesoflove.org](mailto: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](mailto:president@bundlesoflove.org)

Joan Mossey, Secretary

[info@bundlesoflove.org](mailto:info@bundlesoflove.org)

Barbara Rothe, Vice President

[barbrothe@hotmail.com](mailto:barbrothe@hotmail.com)

Deb Persing, Director

[debpersing@gmail.com](mailto:debpersing@gmail.com)

Mary Sue Schrantz, Treasurer

[mschrantz@comcast.net](mailto:mschrantz@comcast.net)

Becky Pasch, Director

[bpasch@charter.net](mailto:bpasch@charter.net)

**ARE YOU ON-LINE?** If you have Internet access, please send us your e-mail address at: [info@bundlesoflove.org](mailto: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.

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