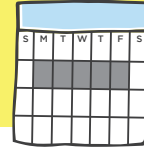


SAVE THE DATE



FEED BABIES LUNCHEON

Join us for a special luncheon to learn more about the impactful work of Infant Crisis Services!

Co-Chairs:
Clay & Becky Taylor

Date: Wednesday, October 16th

Time: 11:30am - 1pm

Location: Infant Crisis Services

This event is free to attend and will provide an inspiring overview of our efforts to provide food, formula, and diapers to infants and toddlers in need. While the luncheon is free, please note there will be a dedicated ask to support our continued efforts. We look forward to seeing you there and sharing how you can help us make a lasting difference! If you are interested in attending or being a table host, reach out to **Senior Development Manager Lisa Perry** at lisaperry@infantcrisis.org or **405-778-7638**

BINGO FOR BABIES

Get ready to step back in time and join us for a night of glamour, fun, and fundraising at Bingo for Babies hosted by the Young Professionals Board!

Co-Chairs:
Annie Baze & Claire Ratliff

Date: Saturday, November 9th

Time: 6:00pm - 11:00pm

Location: Oklahoma Golf and Country Club

Don your best flapper dresses and dapper suits for an evening filled with exciting bingo games, delightful prizes, and a dash of vintage charm. Mark your calendars and get ready to support a great cause in true Gatsby style! If you are interested in becoming a sponsor for this roaring event, reach out to **Special Events Manager Haydn Beatty** at haydnbeatty@infantcrisis.org or **405-778-7620**

Feed Babies
Fundraising Luncheon & Tours



SPECIAL EDITION
40TH BIRTHDAY 2024

BABY TALK

The Newsletter of Infant Crisis Services

With \$40,000 Match from Rob and Karen Braver

THE GIFT OF GIVING

At Infant Crisis Services, we are privileged to have a family of volunteers and donors who tirelessly support our mission of providing food, formula, and diapers to infants and toddlers in Oklahoma. Among this incredible family, Karen Braver stands out as a beacon of hope, compassion, and commitment just as she has been for 15 years. Karen exemplifies the spirit of generosity, hard work, and unwavering commitment that drives our organization forward. Known for her quiet acts of kindness, Karen does what is right even when no one is watching, embodying the true essence of selflessness.

Karen has become an integral part of our organization, not only through her personal contributions but also by inspiring others to join our cause. Her efforts have brought nearly \$250,000 to our mission, a testament to her incredible dedication and ability to bring supporters to her organization. When asked about Karen, Executive Director Miki Farris reflected:

“We often hear that people give of their time, or their talent or their treasure and Karen gives from all three buckets. Her passion is so contagious that her mom also became a regular volunteer, her children became involved in various ways and her husband, Rob, offered his support whenever needed. She is an integral part of our ICS family.”

Karen’s commitment to our mission is not just financial; she has also invested hundreds of hours in serving our neighbors and their babies. Our Client Services team even recalled how Karen put in time and effort to overcome language barriers with our Spanish-speaking clients. This selfless act allowed her to build stronger relationships with many of the families we serve, ensuring they feel understood and supported during their times of need. The ICS team also remembers a time where a staff member was out for an extended period due to illness, and Karen filled in the spot, completing essential tasks that kept the department functioning.



(Above) Karen Braver

Karen’s humility is perhaps her most defining trait. Despite her significant contributions, she remains focused on the mission, never seeking recognition or accolades. Her friends and colleagues at Infant Crisis Services describe her as someone who treasures the intangible values that make life meaningful. Her focus on the priceless things in life—love, trust, and friendship—serves as a guiding light for everyone around her.

To celebrate our 40th birthday, as well as Karen’s dedication, The Bravers will match all newsletter donations, up to \$40,000, with a gift to Infant Crisis Services’ 40th Birthday Endowment Fund. This incredible gesture not only amplifies the impact of your contributions but also serves as a testament to Karen’s lasting influence on our organization and the families we serve.

Karen Braver’s story is a powerful reminder of how one person’s dedication and love can create a ripple effect, transforming communities. **Your support, matched by Karen and Rob, will ensure that her spirit of generosity continues to touch countless lives.**

EVENT WRAP UP

BOOTS AND BALL GOWNS

On March 9th, we invited 1,100 of our closest friends to celebrate the 15th annual Boots and Ball Gowns. **The event, presented by Quintessa Marketing and The Chickasaw Nation and co-chaired by Kate Gordon and Katty Gasbarra, raised just over \$757,000—our most ever raised through Boots and Ball Gowns.** We haven’t stopped thinking about how fun this event was since it happened!



BABY STEPS 5K & FUN RUN

On April 20th, our Teen Associate Board hosted their 6th annual Baby Steps 5K and Fun Run presented by AEROTitle, SSM Health, TriStar Pension Consulting, and Bob. It was a windy day, but that didn’t stop 373 participants from showing up and running for the babies. **Throughout the school year and this event, our teens raised just over \$79,000 for our mission.** This is the most ever raised by our teens, and we could not be prouder of their dedication and hard work.



40TH BIRTHDAY CARNIVAL

On June 8th, Infant Crisis Services celebrated 40 years of service with a free community carnival presented by Westminster Presbyterian Church and Larry & Cynda Ottaway. **Over 1,700 people registered to attend, and we were ready to host them with pancakes, activities, games, facepainting, and so much more!** It was the perfect way to ring in 40 years with our community.





MISSION MOMENT WITH MIKI



Miki Farris, 1990s

As I reflect on the past 40 years of our journey at Infant Crisis Services, my heart swells with pride and gratitude. It feels like just yesterday that we began this mission to provide food, formula, and diapers to infants and toddlers in need. I have had the profound honor of seeing every step of this organization since our inception, witnessing firsthand the incredible growth we have made in the face of challenges, changes, and an ever-growing need for our services.

Over the last four decades, we have grown exponentially, touching the lives of nearly 400,000 infants. Each one of those lives represents a story of hope, a story of resilience, and a story of a community coming together to support its most vulnerable members. Your unwavering support has been the backbone of our success, and for that, I extend my deepest appreciation.

As we celebrate this remarkable milestone, we look toward the future with renewed vision and determination. **By 2030, at our current rate, we anticipate serving 40,000 infants each year, ensuring that no child goes without the essential**

nourishment and care they deserve. To meet this growing need and secure our legacy for the next 40 years and beyond, we are excited to announce the establishment of a 40th Birthday Endowment Fund.

An endowment fund is crucial for the sustainability of our organization. Each year, Infant Crisis Services will receive a percentage of the fund as a distribution. It will provide a perpetual source of income, allowing us to plan long-term, respond to emerging needs, and innovate our services with a strong financial footing. **This fund will ensure that future generations of infants and toddlers receive the same level of care and support that has defined Infant Crisis Services for the past four decades.**

However, the establishment of the endowment fund is just the beginning. We still need your continued support to build and grow this fund to a level where it can sustain our operations and enable us to expand our reach. **Your contributions will help us write the next chapter of our story, ensuring that ICS remains a beacon of hope for families in need for 40 more years.**

As we honor the past and embrace the future, I invite you to join us in this vital endeavor. **Together, we can create a lasting legacy of love, care, and support for the infants and toddlers who depend on us.** Thank you for being an integral part of our journey and for your steadfast commitment to our mission.

Always for the babies,

Miki Farris

Miki Farris

40TH BIRTHDAY ENDOWMENT FUND

Join us in securing the next 40 years!
Thank you to our Partners in Hope who have already made their commitment.

VISIONARY PARTNER

Lauren Von

Founder and CEO of Quintessa Marketing

FOUNDING PARTNERS

Lezlie and David Hudiburg

Love Meyer Family Foundation

SUSTAINING PARTNERS

Natalie and Jeff Bonney

Lisa and Piyush Patel

Ketchum Charitable Foundation

COMPASSIONATE PARTNERS

Karen and Rob Braver

Libby and Matthew Howard

Meredith and Matthew Woods

1984 LEGACY CIRCLE

- Cindy Batt
- Clementine Foundation
- Ainslee and Andy Crum
- Tiffany and Ryan Eitzmann
- Miki and Jim Farris
- Carolyn and Rick Hansing
- Kyle Impson and Steve Kochenower
- Lauren and Rich Johnson
- Melanie and Cole Marshall

- Holly McLaughlin
- Carolyn and Norm Mejstrik
- Stacy Murray and Bryan Coppock
- Ronna and Jason Osborn
- Cherish and Matt Ralls
- Becky and Clay Taylor
- Annette White-Klososky
- Afiya Wilkins

SERVING BABIES AND TODDLERS OVER THE YEARS

