



Mission Moment with Miki

In September, we celebrated our 40th Birthday with some of our closest and most dedicated supporters—an evening that truly encapsulated the heart of our mission. Surrounded by people who have stood by us through the decades, I was reminded of how each of our organization's successes is yours to share with us. You play an essential role in our work.

One of the most moving parts of the evening was a video we shared featuring a past client who is now 25 years removed from needing our services. Her story is included in this newsletter. It is a powerful testament to the lasting impact of our work and proof of what we can achieve together when we lift each other up.

What struck me most during our dinner was the realization that everyone in the room has their own story that drives them each day. During her speech, our 40th Birthday

Endowment's Visionary Partner and lead donor, Lauren Von, shared how her husband had grown up food insecure, just like the families we serve today. In that moment, it became clear we are more connected to our clients than we might realize. Whether it's through personal experience, or simply the shared empathy that drives us to give, we all understand what it means to want something better for the next generation. As we celebrate 40 years of service, I am inspired by what we've accomplished and even more excited about what lies ahead.

I encourage you to reflect on the impact you can have on the lives of others. Your support, whether through a donation today, or a planned gift, will make a difference in ways you might not yet realize. Together, we will continue to build a community where every child receives the essentials they need and every family knows they are not alone.

Thank you for standing with us for the past 40 years—and for the many years to come.

Always for the babies,

Miki Farns



More than Diapers and Formula: Car Seats & Pack 'N Plays

Infant Crisis Services provides more than just diapers and formula to babies and toddlers—we also know how important it is for parents to secure other items to support their children. We are able to provide a limited number of Pack 'N Plays for safe sleep. Thanks to a partnership with Toyota's Buckle Up for Life initiative, we can also provide a limited number of car seats to our clients so that their little ones are safe on the road! Our on-site Car Seat Technicians ensure that every car seat we give out is installed correctly, and they equip parents with the knowledge to safely install the car seat themselves. If you are in need of a car seat or Pack 'N Play, please call us at (405)528-3663.



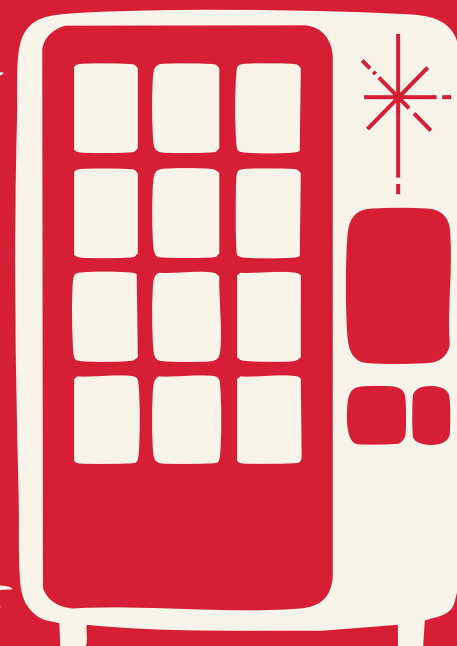
Special Edition Newsletter

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of
40 YEARS
Infant Crisis Services
No baby should go hungry

The Giving Machine OKC

What is a Giving Machine?

The Giving Machine is a collective of vending machines that provides ways to donate to local and global charities during the holiday season. This year, we're happy to share that Infant Crisis Services will be a partner charity for the new Oklahoma City location! What does this mean? Each donation made by purchasing one of our cards in the vending machine will give back 100% of the proceeds to help babies and toddlers in need.



Where?

SCISSORTAIL PARK

When?

DEC 18 - JAN 4



Baby Wipes

Toddler Food

Specialty Formula

Baby Bundle

Milk

How it works:

- 1) Visit**
Giving Machines offer items for both local and global charities
- 2) Choose**
Select as many items as you wish to donate
- 3) Swipe**
Machines accept credit cards or mobile payments only (no cash)
- 4) Give**
100% of your donation goes to your chosen charity

DIAPER NEED AWARENESS

Stats from:



National Diaper Bank Network

1 in 2

U.S. families cannot afford enough diapers to keep their infant or child clean, dry, and healthy.



Babies cannot participate in early childhood education

Diapers are a requirement for caregivers to be able to drop their child off at childcare. 25% of caregivers with diaper need report having to miss work or school because they didn't have enough diapers to drop off their child.

Caregivers miss work and lose wages

The 25% also report missing on average 5.1 work days in the past 30 days. This represents a loss of \$296 per month for those earning federal minimum wage.

Families are forced to cut back on essentials

46% of families reported reducing other expenditures to afford diapers, with most of those households cutting back in multiple areas including entertainment (56%), food (35%), and utilities (19%).

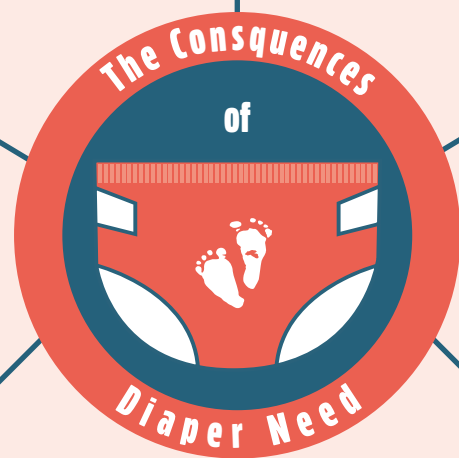


Caregivers experience stress and worry

70% of the respondents reporting diaper need said that they were stressed or anxious about their responsibilities as a caregiver. 53% said they felt judged as a bad caregiver because they could not afford diapers.

Babies are exposed to potential health risks

Diapers are essential for health and hygiene. Prolonged contact with urine and feces increases a child's risk for diaper rash and other infections.



WIC & SNAP are NOT available to purchase diapers.

Diapers can be bought with TANF cash assistance. However, only 23% of families living below the Federal Poverty Level receive cash assistance through TANF nationwide. The funds they do receive are not enough to buy diapers and pay all the other expenses (utility bills, rent, other hygiene essentials, clothing, etc.) that money is supposed to cover.

1 in 5 babies in Oklahoma lives in poverty.

The minimum wage in Oklahoma is \$7.25 per hour. At 40 hours per week, that amounts to \$15,080 per year. A baby's first year costs on average \$16,000- \$18,000.

TWANETTE JACKSON:

A Mother First

Twanette Jackson first came to Infant Crisis Services in 1998. She was living abroad when her husband told her, **"He could not do his job effectively and be a Brady Bunch family."** So Twanette and her four children traveled back to the United States to start their new life.

Determined to make it as a single mother, she set out for support. Her first stop was DHS, and they recommended she visit Infant Crisis Services. Twanette made an appointment, and when she arrived, she was welcomed by Executive Director Miki Farris. Miki conducted Twanette's client intake - she asked her about herself, inquired about her children's diaper size, and what type of food or formula her children needed. **"She made me feel comfortable, she listened as I told her my story, she answered my questions and gave me the diapers, clothing, and toys that I was so grateful to have for my children."** Twanette visited Infant Crisis Services a handful of times after that initial visit and stayed in touch with Miki throughout her children's early years.

Years later, in March 2020, Infant Crisis Services welcomed the Oklahoma City Thunder staff to our facility for an organization-wide ThunderCares volunteer day. The players, staff, and coaches were all in attendance. When the Infant Crisis staff led tours for the Thunder employees, Twanette, now working in security for the team, approached Miki. **"I don't know if you remember me, but I received services from you years ago when you were at the other building."** Miki remembered her immediately. They caught up for a few minutes, hugged, and reminisced about when they first met more than 20 years prior. The Thunder organization chose Infant Crisis Services for their volunteer day again in 2024, and Twanette was able to attend. She reunited with Miki a second time, and Miki knew we had to share this story.



Last month, Twanette agreed to speak at Infant Crisis Services' annual Feed Babies luncheon. With her was one of her daughters, Janette, who received services when they first visited in 1998. Janette has a child of her own now and is a happy and healthy 31-year-old woman. She was recognized at the luncheon, and it was truly special to witness the full-circle moment. There wasn't a dry eye in the room. At Infant Crisis Services, we meet so many mothers just like Twanette who are doing their very best to provide for their little ones. We also get to see smiling faces of tiny children who just need another bottle, another clean diaper, and food to grow strong. Just as Miki told Twanette when they first met: **"You're going to get through this. As long as you keep fighting, you'll get through this."** And until no baby is hungry, Infant Crisis Services will be here to help.



AMPLIFY YOUR IMPACT:

The Impact of Qualified Charitable Distributions

Did you know that if you are over 70.5 years old you can donate from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) directly to a 501(c)(3) qualified charity, like Infant Crisis Services, through a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) without paying income taxes on the withdrawal?

A QCD reduces your taxable income, which could lower your Medicare premiums and decrease the taxable portion of your Social Security benefits - all while making a lasting impact on the lives of vulnerable babies in need. This donation method maximizes your charitable contribution since the full amount could go directly to ICS, without incurring taxes, and it simplifies your tax filing by eliminating the need to itemize deductions.

Before proceeding with a QCD, please consult your financial advisor to help you navigate the specifics and ensure that your charitable giving aligns with your personal financial goals. For questions about the impact of a QCD for ICS, please contact **Lisa Perry, Senior Development Manager, at 405-778-7638 or lisaperry@infantcrisis.org.**