



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

Winter 2009 Edition

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

debpersing@gmail.com

Mary Sue Schrantz, Treasurer

mschrantz@comcast.net

Becky Pasch, Director

bpasch@charter.net

President's Letter

Looking Back at 2008 and Forward to 2009

Throughout 2008, **Bundles of Love Charity** contributions to families in our communities continued to grow as they have each year since this effort started nearly 10 years ago. 2,411 complete bundles were donated to families in need in 2008, along with other items donated to hospitals, clinics, shelters and social service agencies – a total of 86,828 items, and an increase of more than 30% over 2007. Due to increased financial contributions, new volunteers and wonderful community support, we were able to donate through organizations in 18 Minnesota counties.

Since our efforts began in 1999, we've donated over 407,000 items for infants – mostly handmade – thanks to over 377,000 volunteer hours and generous donors. Nearly 30,000 families lives have been touched by the talents and generosity of Bundles of Love volunteers over the past decade.

While the statistics are incredible, even more amazing is the impact the shared love, stitched into every item, has on the community – the volunteers, the recipients, the social workers and nurses. Not only are these baby clothes and blankets practical gifts, they are gifts of hope, and caring for families facing a crisis – whether financial, emotional, or both.

A recent thank you note from a public health nurse said "Your dedication to continue to provide for these little ones says much about your organization's values and beliefs. Thank you for helping the families we work with, feel cared for and important."

Thank you to all who have supported our efforts. With the challenging economic times, we need your continued support in 2009. Please read through our newsletter, to learn about new groups, upcoming events and how you can help in the coming year.

~ Mary Jo Prinsen, founder and President ~

2008 Results

Volunteer hours	74,208	Bundles delivered	2,411
Volunteers (average monthly)	275	Total baby items delivered	86,828
Activities held	276	Estimated # of families helped	5,991
Fabric donated (lbs.)	7,417	MN Counties receiving donations	18
Items donated	49,955	Agencies, hospitals, clinics, receiving donations	70

2009 Events and Happenings!

On February 21st we will be hosting a booth at the Volunteer Expo at the Mall of America from 10am to 3pm. Come view our booth and other volunteers who want to help their community.

Want to see your name in print? We have decided to publish and sell a **cookbook** filled to the brim with wonderful recipes. All profits from the sale of the cookbooks will go to helping babies in need. Recipes can be submitted using the form in this newsletter or by downloading an electronic form from our website. Recipes must be submitted by March 14th. (We suggest up to 4 or 5 of your favorite recipes.) Please help us determine how many cookbooks to order by reserving copies for yourself and others. Cookbook requests can be submitted to Lynn Turpin 4457 Madison Street, NE Columbia Heights, MN 55421 (or fax her at 866-378-6426) . E-mailed recipe submissions or cookbook requests can be sent to cookbook@bundlesoflove.org.

Hold October 24th open for our fall fundraiser. We had so much fun last year, we are planning to host another dinner and silent auction at the TriCity American Legion again this fall.

2008 Fundraising

2008 Fall Fundraiser Results

Over \$6,000 was raised during our annual fall fundraiser in New Brighton!

While our primary goal for the fall fundraiser is to raise money so that we can provide the bundles needed throughout the year, this year we had the opportunity to combine the fundraiser with a social event. Our event included a silent auction of over 70 donated items from various companies and individuals that raised \$2,500. We also had a raffle of a Toro Snow Thrower that was donated by the Toro corporation. The winner of the raffle was Joanne Larsen of Rochester, MN. In addition to these events we also had a "Buy it Now" table and a cutest baby photo contest. The winners of the Cutest Baby Photos were 1st place Gage Krech, 2nd place Wes Donley and 3rd place was Nate Lowinger.

Other Fundraisers:

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), or from your work meeting coordinator. A complete list of cards is available at the Great Lakes Scrip webpage (www.glscrip.com)

Other Fundraisers - Thank you to those involved in planning other fundraisers in 2008, including the annual fundraiser planned by Joan Fisher and her family, the Bethel SOS Bake Sale, the Family of Christ Car and Craft show in which the Andover Ham Lake work group sold craft items.

We are also very thankful for **Doolittles** who honored us with their Mud Slide Pie fundraiser in early 2008, as well as **Linders** and **Culvers** for supporting us by sharing a portion of proceeds from our supporters' purchases.

Ed-Ventures continues to support us by asking clients to make donations to Bundles of Love in exchange for providing Ed-Ventures logo passport pouches for their international tours.

Meet our Newest Board Members

Mary Sue Schrantz took over as our board Treasurer in 2008 and has been working hard at learning this position as well as learning more about Bundles of Love Charity. A co-worker of several of us at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota, she has been aware of our efforts, and after hearing that we were looking for a Treasurer at the end of Sharon Moore's term, she agreed to help. Mary Sue, her husband Phil Dreyer and their two young children Kevin (11) and Erin (9) live in Lake Elmo. Mary Sue says she is happy to help with financial duties or in most other ways – as long as she doesn't need to sew. Since her junior high days in home economics class, she has made it a practice to avoid sewing machines! We are happy to have Mary Sue's help in keeping our financial records organized.

Joan Mosey is the newest member of our Board of directors and has agreed to become our board Secretary. Joan is a retired Human Resources manager. She has been preparing the north metro work group reports, and recently has been consolidating the monthly reports for the whole organization. Although she enjoys playing bridge, she is looking forward to using some of her free time making a meaningful contribution to her community through involvement with Bundles of Love. Joan also teaches computer tech classes, and enjoys spending time with her 4 children and 3 grandchildren. We welcome Joan to our Board of Directors!

Thank you to Lisa Buesing for 6 years of service as our Board Secretary. Lisa will be retiring from the Board to take care of her family, including baby daughter, and two sons, and hopes to continue to volunteer in the South metro.

Volunteer Spotlights

Susan Moses of Chatfield, Minnesota, recalls, "As early as I can remember my mother drove the neighborhood roads with the Red Cross envelope to collect donations...and participated in many other community service activities," says Susan. Susan "learned early on that giving of ourselves did not require money, we could give from our hearts."

Susan helped her church, Episcopal Church in Chatfield reach out to the community of Chatfield by organizing a Bundles of Love group. She welcomed all residents of this small town community. In spite of the many other ways Susan serves her community, Susan also decided to go on to organize groups in Houston and Winona.

Susan has served with the Episcopal Church Women's guild, as a 4-H leader, and Girl Scout leader. It was through Girl Scouts that Susan first worked with Bundles of Love. Susan recalls, "In 2001 my daughter Amy (one of three daughters) was looking for a Gold Award project for Girl Scouts. I read about Bundles of Love in the local paper, and as her Girl Scout leader, I suggested she develop her project around the needs of this worthy cause. Amy contacted churches and visited quilting groups to ask them to make quilts, sewed quilts herself and coordinated Girl Scouts troops to sew and stuff teddy bears." Amy either made or collected over 50 quilts and over 100 teddy bears for Bundles of Love.

Susan's husband is an Episcopal minister studying to be ordained. They are delighted to be grandparents. She has been employed the past 21 years as a counselor for people with disabilities helping them to obtain employment.

Regarding her Bundles of Love experience Susan says, "I have met the most caring, loving and giving ladies," and she adds, "I could not keep up with all the bookwork without Annette Skrukud, my right hand lady."

Cherie Niesen has been a volunteer with the south metro work group almost since it was started. Cherie, like many of our dependable volunteers, understates her contributions, but is a reliable volunteer who is willing to help group coordinator, Ruth Volk, with whatever is needed. She delivers supplies and picks up finished items from home-bound volunteers, and from the employee volunteers at New York Life. She has also involved friends and family members in volunteering for BOL, as well as seeking contributions from her former employer, Ceridian.

When Cherie first found Bundles of Love, she had just bought a used serger from a co-worker, but was intimidated by the complicated looking machine. Volunteer Jan Winstead gave her some help getting started, and she has been serging ever since. She also does some knitting and crocheting.

Cherie echoes the feelings of many of our volunteers when she says "I love coming to the meetings. I've met some very nice people and they have all become friends. The love that pours into each and every bundle from these ladies is overwhelming and it's such a joy. Watching their faces as they lovingly fold each garment touches my heart."

Agency Spotlight

Indian Health Board - written by Teresa Wilts—North Metro Coordinator

Note: Our continued growth and wonderful community and volunteer support in 2008 have allowed us to increase our donations to help new organizations serving parents of newborn babies. The Indian Health Board of Minneapolis is one of our newest community partners...

The Indian Health Board (IHB) of Minneapolis was incorporated in 1971 to provide for the health needs of the American Indian community living in Minneapolis. IHB provides medical and dental care and counseling services to more than 7,000 patients, mostly low income, each year.

IHB is a non-profit organization and they try to help everyone needs these services, regardless of whether they have health insurance by offering a sliding fee scale based on income.

“One of the areas we’re most proud of is our focus on disease prevention,” says medical director and CEO Patrick Rock, MD, “particularly around diabetes and smoking related illness in American Indians.”

For babies, IHB encourages attendance for all expectant mothers at prenatal education programs, to help ensure the healthiest start to life, with a goal of at least 5 pounds birth weight.

IHB is hoping that Bundles of Love will be able to provide bundles for about 10 babies every month. We’re excited to be part of a new partnership with The Indian Health Board!

Sponsor Highlight

In 2008 Assembly Services and Packaging, a privately owned company in Hudson, Wisconsin honored us by choosing Bundles of Love Charity their Corporate Citizenship day recipient. They used their marketing budget to fund the event which included advertising and sending out collection boxes to raise money for Bundles of Love Charity. The event included work of fifteen of their paid staff who cut sewed, and attached snaps to sleepers. Look at what they accomplished!

Cut and serged 274 receiving blankets	Cut, sewed and snapped 88 bibs
Cut and sewed 223 burp cloths	Cut and sewed another 42 bibs
Cut 960 burp cloths	Sewed 42 gowns
Sewed 6 sleepers	Sewed 3 toys
Attached snaps to 168 more bibs, 239 sleepers and 26 buntings	
Tied 31 quilts	

In addition, they raised \$501.19 from employees and customers and donated an industrial sewing machine. **WOW!**

Suppliers

We are thankful for support from yarn shops, the **Yarn Garage**, and **Knit’n from the Heart**, and their customers, and from fabric stores, including **JoAnn Fabrics, Hancock Fabrics, and Mill End** for working with us to buy fabric on sale to stretch our dollars further and help more families. Please let these stores know, when doing your shopping, that you appreciate their support.

Discount Serger Thread - Cindy from **The Thread Market** recently contacted us to offer discounted prices on cones of serger thread for charitable use. Check out her family business website at www.thethreadmarket.com. Contact Cindy and tell her you sew for Bundles of Love Charity to check current charity prices.

Great Copy Patterns owners Rick and Patti Otto sent us two bunting patterns – for their Cuddle Wrap and Angel Wrap and have given us permission to copy these patterns for use in our charitable activities. Thank you!

2008 Sponsors

Thank you to these Organizations, Corporations and their employees who provided monetary support in 2008:

Thrivent Financial

(Southern Dakota, Rochester, North Anoka, Northern Dakota County, Central Minneapolis, North East Minneapolis, South Anoka County, Med City, West Fillmore County, and West Winona County chapters)

Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation

Epsilon Sigma Alpha

(ESA Foundation and various ESA Chapters)

Midwest Medical Insurance Holding Company

Ecolab Foundation

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church (Apple Valley) Children in Need fund

Catholic Community Foundation

Doolittle's Restaurants

St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Osseo MN

People's Congregational Church, Bayport

People in Business Care

The Hartford

Bethel Lutheran Church, St. Paul – Bethel SOS Women

Family of Christ Lutheran Church, Ham Lake

Land O Lakes Foundation

Cummins Business Services

Toro Foundation

McKesson Medical Supply

ECM Publishers

Edina Realty Foundation (Rochester Edina Realty)

HelpSystems LLC

Minnesota Quilters

Qwest Foundation

Bethel-Lutheran Church, Rochester

People's Cooperative Services, Rochester

Grace Lutheran Church

Children's Hospital - Minneapolis

General Mills

Assembly Services and Packaging, Hudson, WI

Lutheran Women's Mission League

Falldin American Legion Post 555

NWA Cargo Accounting

Wachovia Foundation

US Bank Foundation

Family Dollar Stores

St. John the Baptist Church - New Brighton

Olmsted Medical Center Auxiliary

Tapemark Industries

Herge Sunday School

Dakota County Cabane #1458

Hollstadt and Associates

Ladyslippers

Redmon Law

St. Gerard's Guild of St. Alphonsus

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

VFW Auxiliary # 6893

Vomela

MOMs club of Moundsview

St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Eyota

Bethany Methodist Church, Rochester

Allen Business Enterprises

State Farm Insurance

Aavalon

United Health Care employees

Meeting Space

Our warehouse has been immense value over the last couple of years for many volunteers. We are thankful for this space, and also for the space offered by many churches, community centers, Quilting by the Hearth, and by corporations such as New York Life, and BCBSMn who allow employees to hold meetings at work. Thank you all for generously sharing your space.

Workgroup News

The **Lonsdale** work group has been meeting for over 1 year now – in Lisa Strawhacker's quilt shop, Quilting by the Hearth, on Main Street in small-town Lonsdale, about 15 miles west of Northfield on MN Hwy 19. Volunteers, including Lisa's sister and others from the Andover/Ham Lake area, and other volunteers from the area around Lonsdale meet monthly – usually the last Saturday of each month – in a back room of this century old home which has been transformed into an intriguing quilt shop with sample projects and fabric in every nook and cranny. Volunteers sew, cut, press, snap, and chat all day in a manner reminiscent of the quilting bees of old – with a potluck lunch and the added benefit of being able to take a break and do some shopping at will. Projects vary from month to month, based on which items are most needed for the metro area bundles. Lisa's quilting retreat room has room for more volunteers, so feel free to join her for a relaxing day of sewing, knitting or crocheting some day soon.

Susan Moses has been very busy getting groups started in **Chatfield, Winona**, and **Houston** in southeastern Minnesota to support needs in Fillmore, Winona, and Houston counties, near the Iowa and Wisconsin borders. Beginning in September, 22 bundles have been delivered through 5 organizations in the area and more bundles have been packed recently for distribution in early 2009. Groups meet in St Matthew's Episcopal in Chatfield, St Paul's Episcopal in Winona and Mary Botcher's home in Houston. Annette Krukrud helps keep the reporting in order, and Carrie Putzier will begin taking a leadership role in the Winona group. There are already about 50 volunteers in these new groups and they plan to support all 3 counties in 2009. They have really "hit the ground running!"

Sherri Debettignies has started a group in **Rosemount** at Lighthouse Church. This group will help supply items to the South Metro work group.

One of our newest groups is being formed by Sandy Danckwart and Janet Rahmann. While this is a new group accepting members in the **Plainview / Thielman** area to help meet needs in Wabasha County, the volunteers – many from St. Joseph's parish – have been helping Bundles of Love Charity for several years through their annual Lenten project. They are experienced in making items for Bundles and we don't expect it to take long before more bundles are being delivered to help babies in Wabasha county.

The **Bethel SOS** (serving our Savior) group is an energetic group of women who have been assisting Bundles of Love for many years through their church, Bethel Lutheran, in St. Paul. Though their members are small, about 6 women, they extend their passion for helping into the community. One way they do this is through Kathy Kaluza and Pam Burg, hair stylists at the local Cost Cutters. Betty Paulus, the BOL coordinator of the Bethel SOS group first mentioned her work to Kathy while getting her hair done. Kathy, and then Pam began spreading the word to their other clients. The Cost Cutters has now become a regular drop off location for baby clothing and blankets, which Betty picks up and takes, along with the other items finished by the Bethel SOS ladies, to Teresa Wilts for the north metro bundle packing. The Bethel SOS group decided to hold a bake sale in 2008, and raised almost \$1000 including a partial match from Thrivent. They intend to repeat the bake sale this year, and now that they know how successful their baking can be, they will request a larger match.

Update from **Minnetonka Work Groups** by Jan Winstead

... Yes, groups. Starting in October, 2008 another group was formed and meets at the Beacon Hill Terrace apartments for tying quilts. This group meets the first and third Wednesday of each month. At these meetings the group tries to exceed the number of quilts tied at the previous meeting.

The original group that was started in June 2002 is still meeting and tying quilts at the work meeting. All kinds of finished projects are turned in and then taken to the South Metro meeting to put in the bundles. At the last meeting, Tina Ludlow brought a new volunteer for the group, Elizabeth, born on December 9th and new little sister to Maggie. Maggie has been coming to meetings since she was about eighteen months old and has now graduated to stuffing toys.

I have the pleasure of counting and recording the donations of lots of beautiful knitted, crocheted or sewn items. Also at the meetings I learn lots of wisdom from the seniors. After the age of 90, so I'm told, you really shouldn't buy green bananas. When you reach the age of 100, you can eat anything and not gain weight. The senior ladies at Beacon Hill Terrace apartment sometimes have trouble seeing to thread their needles, but one of the ladies, age 100 going on 101 is always helpful to anyone that needs their needle threaded. One of the other ladies says "she has the genes of a teenager."

Rochester Group Delivers Bundles to Military Families

In any situation experiencing the departure of loved ones can be traumatic. When the member who has left or is leaving for the military zone is the father of a newborn baby, it is even more difficult. There are additional emotions and responsibilities. An act or word of appreciation can help ease the sacrifices military families make.

Joan Rose of the Rochester Bundles of Love work group found a way to express appreciation through a special act of kindness. She suggested that we make bundles for infants of military families. She also agreed to be the on call volunteer for this project. The social workers at the Hospitals in Rochester were informed regarding this distribution plan. Their responses were very positive. They have called Joan when a military baby was delivered at their hospital. Joan has delivered many bundles.

The diaper bags, afghans, quilts and clothing are in a red, white and blue color scheme whenever possible. Some of the afghans have been crocheted by a woman whom Joan recruited for that very purpose. Volunteers are well aware of this "red, white and blue project". When they sort baby items, they save the appropriately colored items for Joan who stores them at her home. She packs the bundles and is ready to deliver them on a moments notice.

The Rochester group received a thank you note bearing confirmation that these bundles are serving their special purpose. Knowing someone cares helps these military families! Emotional as well as economic needs are met and the burdens families face in military situations are lightened.

The card that accompanies these bundles says,

"Thank you to you and your family for serving our country. This is a gift for you and your baby to show our appreciation for the sacrifices you all make."

Thank you to Joan Rose and our volunteers for making this special project possible.

Work Group Contacts:

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

Meeting Schedule:

February	March	April	May	June
5 Plymouth	5 Plymouth	2 Plymouth	2 Andover/Ham Lake	4 Plymouth
7 Andover/Ham Lake	7 Andover/Ham Lake	2 Rochester (Ed-Vent.)	7 Plymouth	6 Andover/Ham Lake
10 Houston	10 Houston	4 Andover/Ham Lake	9 North Metro	9 Houston
10 North Metro	10 North Metro	11 North Metro	12 Houston	9 North Metro
12 Rochester (Ed-Vent.)	12 Rochester (Ed-Vent.)	14 Houston	12 Minnetonka	11 Rochester (Ed-Vent)
14 North Metro	14 North Metro	14 Minnetonka	12 North Metro	13 North Metro
17 Minnetonka	17 Minnetonka	14 North Metro	14 Rochester (Ed-Vent.)	16 Minnetonka
17 Winona	17 Winona	17 Winona (Sr. Ctr.)	15 Winona (Sr. Ctr)	16 Winona
20 Winona (Sr. Ctr.)	20 Winona (Sr. Ctr.)	18 South Metro	16 Rochester	19 Winona (Sr Ctr)
21 South Metro	21 South Metro	21 Winona	16 South Metro	20 South Metro
23 Chatfield	23 Chatfield	25 Lonsdale	18 Chatfield	22 Chatfield
28 Lonsdale	28 Lonsdale	25 Rochester	19 Winona	27 Rochester
28 Rochester	28 Rochester	27 Chatfield	23 Lonsdale	27 Lonsdale

Thank You Notes

Thank you so much for your donations of Bundles in 2008. Since the beginning of 2008, we have distributed 168 bundles to needy and thankful new moms.... Many of these bundles were given to young teen mothers in our Pregnant and Parenting Teen Program. Some of the items are used as tools to teach the new mothers how to care for their babies. Our nurses comment to us about the excitement the teens express when they see the wonderful handmade items in the Bundle – prepared just for them. They feel so much better about their babies and their futures knowing they have many of the basics they will need for their new babies...On behalf of the many diverse clients that have been touched by your Bundles of Love... **thank you, gracias, ua tsag** (Hmong), **mahad-sanid** (Somali), **asante** (Swahili), **shukran** (Arabic), and **spasibo** (Russian).

Sincerely, Michelle Lichtig, MVNA – Minnesota Visiting Nurses Association

My granddaughter came home from the hospital today with one of your bundles, after six weeks in the NICU. I want to thank you so much for your gift; it is well received and greatly appreciated. As a seamstress, I want to compliment your volunteers on the workmanship and attention to detail. – LouAnna Alahem

To all the wonderful people involved in making the Bundles of Love – You are bringing much happiness and hope to many with your generous gifts to parents with new babies. Many of the parents would be unable to afford all these lovely items; and it is heartwarming to see their faces when we bring it to the room. Thank you so much for all you are doing! Best wishes and Happy Holidays! – Native American Community Clinic – Minneapolis

Thank you for your continued support of the NICU. On behalf of the NICU and our patients, I would like to extend my appreciation for Bundles of Love's generosity. With the blankets and quilts provided by Bundles of Love, the NICU is able to provide something personal for children who are patients in the NICU. Your gifts touch the hearts of friends and family members alike. Thank you once again for allowing the NICU and our families to be the recipients of your organization's (and its volunteers) kindness and hard work.

Sincerely, Nancy Schult, Patient Care Manager, Children's Hospital NICU, St. Paul

Most needed supplies:

Soft knit fabrics such as interlock or single knits in prints or solids.

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

Polar fleece – later in the year as we begin making winter buntings

Yarn—we have a good supply of yarn right now. Please let us know if you have volunteers in need of yarn.

Most needed baby items:

Our greatest needs for 2009 are for items to fill newborn bundles for families experiencing financial hardship. Thankfully, we also have more burial garments than are needed at this time. Please focus on newborn rather than preemie sized clothing and blankets.

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

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

Crocheters or knitters, we often have an over abundance of hats. Please consider making sweaters or sweater sets, booties or afghans.

If you are cutting clothing items, please use ribbing for necklines and for cuffs - it gives more, making it easier to dress the baby.

What's in a Bundle ?

If you have ever wondered what was in a "bundle, the following hand-made items are included in every bundle:

- 1 diaper bag
- 1 quilt
- 1 fitted crib sheet
- 1 afghan or fleece blanket
- 2 receiving blankets
- 2 bibs
- 2 burp cloths
- 2 sleepers
- 2 gowns
- 2 t-shirts
- 1 jacket with matching pants
- 1 knitted or crocheted sweater
- 1 hat
- 1 pair booties or socks
- 1 toy
- 2 washcloths
- 1 pair mittens (winter only)
- 1 bunting (winter only)

In addition, we also include the following baby care products:

- Diapers
- Baby soap, shampoo or lotion
- Baby wipes
-

When we have extra donations, we also include the following:

- 1 pacifier
- 1 towel
- Or other "extras" such as pacifiers, teethingers, bottles, board books as provided by donors.

Other ways to help:

We are always in need of baby care items such as newborn sized diapers, baby shampoo, and small packages of baby wipes (about 100 per package). 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. You can order baby items from our wishlist and they will be shipped directly to us.

Special Volunteer Needs

Volunteer needs:

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 – I 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

Newsletter – gather and write articles, assemble into a newsletter to be published 2-3 times per year for all of our volunteers, and supporters. Contact Becky Pasch for further information.

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.

2008 Support

Lutheran Women's Missionary League Donation

Upon shopping at a fabric store, the Rochester coordinator of Bundles of Love, Joanne Larsen, met Sandy Weiden, a member of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. Sandy said she was helping to coordinate the group's activities. She asked for information about Bundles of Love. Eventually Bundles of Love was chosen to be the Lutheran Women's Missionary League's special project.

The group met at the Civic Center in Rochester, MN, on June 21, 2008, and women came from miles bearing baby clothes, quilts and money. When the convention was over approximately 10,000 items were collected. Bundles of Love volunteers were surprised by the number of boxes and bags of donated items. They loaded them in cars and vans. Sorting and distributing continued all year. The last carload will be distributed in 2009.

As a result of these gifts the Rochester Bundles of Love group packed and distributed bundles to extended areas of Minnesota. Bundles went to southwestern and northern Minnesota. Less than three months after receiving this huge donation the Rochester group had packed 224 bundles – a number above and beyond their goals. Metro Bundles of Love groups donated diaper bags and needed items. Some of the bundles were then distributed in the metro area. It was possible to fill unmet requests for bundles. The Rochester group continues to use items from this donation to pack and distribute bundles. The items not used in bundles were also distributed where needed.

The handmade items were made with love. All items bring love to the recipients.

Thank you to this group of women for their caring and generosity!

Community / Corporate support & events

We first connected with **Epsilon Sigma Alpha** a few years ago. These ladies are wonderful! This year numerous chapters have made financial contributions.

In March, ESA held a baby shower at **DD's Café** in New Brighton. They gathered a mini-van full of hundreds of items including diapers, toys, pacifiers, socks, blankets, baby care products, and even fabric and monetary donations. This generous donation helped the North Metro group assemble and donate a record setting 96 bundles in March.

One ESA member, also an employee at **Health Partners**, recommended us as the recipient of the items from the 10th floors service project and baby shower in November. Many items, including cases of diapers (over 900 diapers) were collected.

Gamma Omega chapter held a craft sale, with some of the proceeds benefitting Bundles of Love. ESA members are working hard throughout the community to benefit charitable causes. And even better – we were chosen by ESA organization as one of two organizations for their state project in 2008, and in December we received a check for nearly \$3500 to help us continue with our work.

ESA is a powerful network that inspires leadership by bringing good people together to pursue programs and projects that make a positive difference in the local, national and global communities. They undertake hands-on philanthropic endeavors through direct services and help raise money for charitable causes – and we are so fortunate to have them in our “corner”.

HelpSystems

A major donation was delivered this fall from HelpSystems. Their office of 100 employees had a baby shower for us, and offered pre-tax payroll deduction for cash donations. We received \$500 from them, along with 2130 diapers, 43 wipes, 28 shampoo, 38 bottles, 26 pacifiers, plus 7 other misc. items.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota

BCBSM has a strong volunteer and community giving program and was recently recognized with the Jefferson award for public service. Mary Jo Prinsen was interviewed for an article in the November 21st Minneapolis-St. Paul Business Journal which mentions Bundles of Love. BCBSM also matches 50% of donations designated by employees to Bundles of Love through their community giving campaign. 2008 donations resulted in a match of almost \$1,500 from BCBS.

Becky Pasch started a team of volunteers to meet over the lunch hour at least monthly to help cut items for south metro volunteers to sew. Employees are able to use up to 20 hours of volunteer paid time off to benefit the community through volunteerism. Becky and her team were among the first team volunteers recognized by the company, and received a \$500 donation for their efforts earlier in 2008. By the end of the year 2008, over 337 volunteer hours were recorded. Many employees also volunteer on their own time and 9 employee volunteers spent more than 40 hours of their own time volunteering during the year, which qualified each for a \$250 donation for Bundles of Love – another \$2,250 to help with our efforts.

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.

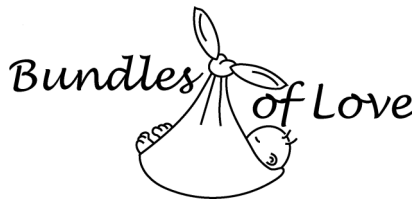
Name _____

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



NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
ST. PAUL, MN
PERMIT #1727

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

Success Story

A new mom lost her job when the company downsized (she was planning on going back to work after the birth of her child). Without a job she lost her apartment and is now staying with relatives. The bundle she received was a welcomed gift from the community and helped her feel positive about her new motherhood. With all these loses the mother struggles with depression. The nurse spent time with the new mother reviewing the items in the Bundle of Love bag. These are the only baby items she has at this time. The bundle brought her in the words of the nurse "having nothing" to having the basic items for her baby.

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.
