

Baby Basics: Helping Families Through Tough Times

Sebastian's Story

Ana worked at the linen factory throughout most of her pregnancy. She, her husband Filipe, and their two children were excited about the new baby and all of the fun adventures ahead of them. Ana knew she was having a boy and the family had already picked out a name: Sebastian.

Ana went into labor early. The delivery was long and she was exhausted but happy to finally meet her baby boy. It wasn't until the next day that the pediatrician delivered the devastating news. Sebastian was born with congenital heart and kidney defects and an underdeveloped jaw. He had several complications from these conditions that Ana and Felipe needed to learn to manage, such as properly positioning him for his feedings so he wouldn't choke.

After three weeks, Sebastian was released from the hospital with referrals to a host of specialists. His health needs were complicated and required an enormous amount of Ana's time and attention. Ana was stunned and scared to learn she could no longer work. The family's income was drastically reduced at the same time that their medical expenses increased. Ana began researching organizations that could help her and her family and learned about Baby Basics.



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"It's a marvelous program," Ana says. "It gives me formula and diapers. We don't have many resources and Baby Basics is incredibly helpful. I'm very grateful."



Nearly 1 in 3 Families Struggle to Afford Diapers

Diaper need is often a silent problem that affects many low-income families with babies. And all it takes is an unexpected emergency — a job loss, illness or car repair — and the effects on the family's finances can be devastating. Additionally, there are no government safety net programs to address this need.

Our Baby Basics program is a true lifeline:

It provides free formula and diapers to low-income families living or working in Bergen County. Without this vital program, these families may have to ration diapers and change their babies less frequently, often leading to diaper rash and other health problems. What's more, many child care centers require families to bring a supply of diapers; the inability to afford diapers can prevent mothers from working, thus perpetuating the cycle of poverty.

You can help these struggling families and their babies by making a gift today either using the enclosed remittance card or online at www.cafsnj.org.

Thank you!

Leading a diaper drive is also a meaningful service project for girl/boy scouts, rotaries or other service groups, corporations, schools and religious or faith-based organizations. You can download a Baby Basics toolkit at www.cafsnj.org/babybasics.



CHILDREN'S AID
AND FAMILY SERVICES

Your support also helps us provide foster care and adoption services; community homes, support services and day programming for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities; safe, supervised housing for teen mothers and their babies; alcohol and drug abuse prevention and recovery support; and other vital community programs.

Together, we are changing lives.

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*Please give as generously
as you can using the enclosed
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*Thank
You!*