

Helping a Struggling Mother

Joseph's Story

Baby Joseph has already faced more challenges than most people do in a lifetime. His mother, Alexis, escaped an abusive relationship during her pregnancy with little more than the clothes on her back. Although Alexis was able to move in with a family member and find a full-time job, she still struggles financially.

Joseph was born five weeks prematurely after Alexis went through an extremely difficult pregnancy. The baby spent one month in the NICU at the hospital and was diagnosed with Bartter Syndrome, a rare disease that affects kidney function.

“Joseph was taking six different prescriptions when he came home and needed to see a kidney specialist several times a month,” says Alexis. “And whenever he ran a fever, I had to take him to the emergency room right away.” As a result of his condition, Joseph needs frequent diaper changes, which causes even more strain on Alexis’s limited finances. “Even though I work full time, I was spending almost all of my money on diapers,” says Alexis. “The Baby Basics program has been a big help. I can save some money now and I’m very grateful.”



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Alexis works hard to ensure her baby has a good childhood, and she lights up when she talks about him. “He could listen to Pinkfong’s “Baby Shark” song all day, and he loves playing with animals and toy cars. Despite everything he’s gone through, Joseph is the happiest baby! When he smiles, everyone feels better.”



Did You Know...

1 in 3 Families Struggle to Afford Diapers?

Not having enough diapers 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. And 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 in Bergen and Essex Counties. Without this vital program, many families in our communities would be faced with difficult choices, such as buying diapers or paying a utility bill, rationing diapers or changing diapers less frequently, often leading to rashes, infections, and a host of other health problems. What's more, many child care centers require families to bring their own supply of diapers and the inability to afford diapers can prevent parents from working, thus perpetuating the cycle of poverty.

You can help these struggling families and their babies by making a gift today!

Please use the enclosed remittance envelope or visit www.cafsnj.org.

**BABY BASICS
DISTRIBUTES**



**215K+
DIAPERS
ANNUALLY**

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 envelope or online at www.cafsnj.org.

*Thank
You!*

Host a Diaper Drive!

Leading a Diaper Drive is also a meaningful service project for Girl/Boy Scouts, Rotary Clubs or other service groups, corporations, schools and religious or faith-based organizations.

You can download a Baby Basics toolkit at www.cafsnj.org.