

# Saint Saviour's Healthy Baby Program

## *A diaper ministry for families in need*

### Why start a diaper ministry?

- Diapers can cost up to \$100 per month per child. Diapers are not covered by public assistance programs.
- A nationwide study showed that one in three families struggle to provide their children with enough diapers. Many families have to cut back on essentials including food and heat to buy diapers.
- Daycare centers require disposable diapers. Mothers have kept their children out of daycare and missed work or school because they did not have enough diapers.
- Cloth diapers are prohibited at most laundromats and are therefore not an option for families who don't own a washing machine. Families often re-use disposable diapers.
- Frequent diaper changing is important for children's hygiene and keeping them healthy. Infrequent changing leads to diaper rash and sometimes serious infection.
- Babies are more likely to be abused when they cry from not being changed frequently enough.

### What is the need in Raleigh?

In the fall of 2010, we contacted several churches and nonprofits who assist low-income families in the Raleigh area, including StepUP Ministry, SAFEchild, Growing Together Preschool, Church of the Good Shepherd, First Baptist Church, Wake Relief, Catholic Parish Outreach, and Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC. All saw diapers as a significant need for the families they serve. While many food banks give out diapers, the demand greatly outweighs the supply.

### How does the program work?

Churches, synagogues, schools, businesses and civic groups in Raleigh are collecting diapers and providing volunteers. Saint Saviour's Healthy Baby program has two parts:

Part 1 is called "The Diaper Train." It includes collection and distribution of diapers to local agencies serving low-income families. We currently are distributing diapers to StepUP, Growing Together Preschool, Wake Relief, SAFEchild, Women's Center and Interact. As the program grows and more diapers are collected, the list of agencies will expand.



Part 2 is a pilot program, focused on education and nurture, where families will come to Saint Saviour's Center to receive diapers and resources. A steering committee is developing this pilot, scheduled to begin Fall 2011.

### How can you help?

- Host a diaper drive. We also accept financial donations and gift cards to help purchase diapers.
- Volunteer to pick up diapers from host organizations or deliver to agencies.

To learn more, contact: Allene Adams [capecooley@aol.com](mailto:capecooley@aol.com), Ginny McKay [mckayg@me.com](mailto:mckayg@me.com), Jan Hoomani [jan@hoomani.com](mailto:jan@hoomani.com) or Sharon Hayes, Executive Director at 833-6400, ext. 201, [shayes@saintsaviourcenter.org](mailto:shayes@saintsaviourcenter.org).



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Updated: April 14, 2011