

CHILDREN'S AID AND FAMILY SERVICES

MAKING A
WORLD OF
**DIFFERENCE TO
FAMILIES IN NEED**

A STORY ABOUT BABY BASICS



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The Baby Basics program provides nutritional formula, diapers, and other infant supplies to low-income families with children 2 years and under, as well as parent education and a safety net system of emotional support, counseling, and referrals. These are the families that often “fall through the cracks” of the system, with incomes too high to be eligible for government assistance programs, but too low to afford basic monthly expenses. Other families are living well below the poverty line. The program started in 1995 by serving 10 clients. Now, Baby Basics serves more than 140 Bergen County families, and that number continues to grow.

Baby Basics is made possible by philanthropy, and is staffed almost entirely by community volunteers. Drives, appeals, and fundraising events are coordinated throughout the year to obtain funding and supplies. Following is the story of a Bergen County mother who got help from Baby Basics while rebuilding her life.

Sarah, a single mother, is just starting to piece back together her life after enduring a traumatic ordeal.

Not too long ago, she had a job, apartment, car, and was attending school. However, after becoming involved in an abusive domestic situation, she lost everything and was forced to seek help. She went to a nonprofit organization that provides emergency housing to women and children who have suffered from domestic violence.

When she left the shelter, Sarah found herself in the difficult position of having to start over. Her old life was gone, and she was left with almost nothing and a 19-month-old baby to care for by herself. A counselor referred her to the Baby Basics program, and she contacted the coordinator. She immediately began to get much-needed assistance, receiving diapers, nutritional formula and extras like baby wipes, which for a single mother with limited means, is a big financial help.

“Without Baby Basics, I don’t know where I’d be,” says Sarah. “I struggle as it is with only a part-time job, and without their support, I don’t think I’d be able to make ends meet.”

All names have been changed to protect client privacy.

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