



Warm Hearts ~ Warm Babies News

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New Editor Message

This is the first newsletter from the new editor, Linda Peterson. I am fairly new to WHWB and welcome any and all suggestions for the newsletter. I will be requesting information for the newsletter from Work Group leaders; however, I would encourage suggestions from other volunteers. The newsletter will be distributed to the email lists of WHWB members. Send suggestions or comments to whwb-newsletter@trainspotters.us.

President Resignation

It is with sadness, we announce the resignation of Sandi Powis, Board President. Sandi has been a regular presence at the Baby House on Friday mornings, taking care of WHWB business while sorting material and yarn. She also led the Conifer group for a number of years. Sandi loved to quilt, crochet, and do other hand work. She created and donated several wonderful quilts as fundraiser items at our volunteer luncheons. Thank you Sandi for your dedication to WHWB.

The current Board is temporarily dividing the president's tasks with Frances Scott serving as interim president.

President's Message

Welcome to spring. Spring is a time for renewal and regrowth. In nature the spring and summer bulbs are poking their heads out of the ground. Trees and bushes are starting to leaf out and many animals are giving birth to this year's young. We also start to see more sunshine and warmer temperatures.

Most organizations have cycles much like nature. Warm Hearts~ Warm Babies (WHWB) is entering a period of renewal and regrowth as well. In the last few months WHWB has suffered an economic down and unexpectedly lost several volunteers who performed many key things for the organization. It is not the first time we have faced an economic downturn or the loss of key volunteers. The Board of Directors believes in the organization and that we will make it through this time just as we did in the past. It will take every volunteer's positive attitude and help. It will take some reorganization and temporary belt tightening.

So where do we go from here? How do we start our regrowth? Last winter our volunteers were asked to make cash contributions to WHWB and look for additional sources of income. Our grant writer continues to apply for grants. We will continue to do fall craft shows. If the

opportunity comes along to do earlier craft shows we might consider those if the entry fee is very low or donated by someone and people volunteer to organize and work the booth. You might wonder why we don't sell surplus materials or specially made items through such sources as Etsy or Facebook Marketplace. The simple answer is that we could jeopardize our non-profit status and be assessed penalties and taxes. In another part of this newsletter are ideas of how you might be able to help bring in much needed cash for WHWB.

What will our restructuring look like? To kick start the restructuring the Board voted me, Frances Scott, serve as Interim President. The Board will be searching for several new board members, a webmaster, and looking for assistance in utilizing social media to bring more positive attention to our organization. We also need more assistance in the Baby House to consistently help sort donations and put together layettes. I am sure there are other tasks beyond those mentioned that volunteers could do. If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors, managing the website or any of the other positions we need to fill please contact Frances Scott at fkquilts@aol.com.

As the Interim President, I look forward to working with you and the Board to make the spring and summer 2024 sunny so that year ends on very positive note.

Sincerely,

Frances Scott

WHWB Board – Help Wanted

WHWB has made and delivered thousands of layettes by volunteers since its WHWB origin. The organization's officers volunteer to take care of the business side of WHWB. These same ladies help staff the Baby House on Tuesday and Friday. Quite frankly, they are fatigued and wish that others might step-up to serve on Board.

Sewing, knitting, crocheting, and quilting skills are not required to serve on the BofD. We need a webmaster for our website, officers for Board of Directors, delivery people, volunteers to sort and stock supplies at the Baby House. Volunteers are not just women, men are welcome. You can see by the following In Memory section that a gentleman volunteer worked with WHWB for years.

In Memory

Theron Bredeson, a volunteer with WHWB for over 20 years, died on January 18, 2024. Theron's volunteering started by driving his wife, Glenda, to the Baby House/team meetings and transporting sales items to craft shows. About twelve years ago, he retired from his job with Jefferson County Schools, telling his coworkers he was going to work for the babies.

Theron immediately became the WHWB jack of all trades. He continued to transport Glenda, but he also became the general maintenance man at the Baby House, which included replacing shelving, moving things around, lifting heavy items, fixing toilets, and taking out the trash. Theron ordered supplies and picked them up. These items included bottles, toiletries, batting, fabric, and snaps, and he even stored extras in his garage when there wasn't room at the Baby House. Theron also handled all of our mail including picking it up from the post office box and delivering it to the Baby House, and he made deliveries to Brighton each week. For Arvada workgroup meetings, Theron would set up and take down the tables and chairs. He loved seeing all of the volunteers as he helped in any way he was needed. Although definitely not a knitter or sewer, Theron's contributions to showing love and support to WHWB and the babies of Colorado were second to none. Many volunteers looked forward to seeing him. From his big smile and warm hugs, his kindness and hard work, to his dedication to his wife and what she loved, Theron was loved by all of us.

Special Needs for WHWB

It is no secret that costs for almost everything is rising. While much of the materials for items in the layettes are donated, there is a great need for money. The standard requirements of Baby House rent, utilities, insurance, and supplies are all increasing. Purchased items such as bottles, lotion, diapers, etc. that are included in the layettes are more expensive.

Consider sources of monetary donations from organizations you belong to such as church groups, benevolent associations, and neighborhood groups, foundations that offer grants, or workplace matching funds or their charities. WHWB members may have contacts that do not sew but would donate funds. Contact Frances Scott.

Work Groups

Warm Hearts Warm Babies currently has 12 work groups. These groups of people meet to work on items used in the layettes we deliver to hospitals and other agencies throughout the Front Range from Ft. Collins to Pueblo. New volunteers are always welcomed at any of these groups. If interested, please contact the work group leader or visit the Baby House located at 6429C Miller Street in Arvada (open Tuesdays and Fridays from 10:00-12:00 noon.)

Feature Group for this newsletter is Brighton

Brighton was the original work group. Our first meeting was in a member's home. We have had a few different locations around Brighton. Currently we have 12 active members. We meet for two hours each month to basically exchange supplies. I try to find projects for each member. We don't have a specialty but try to let the members work on what they like to do. Leader is Carol Criswell.

Thank You Notes Received

Peak Vista Community Health Centers (attention: Linda Posey)

“On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, and patients of Peak Vista Community Health Centers, it is my honor to thank you for your generous in-kind gifts in January, April, May, July, August, September, and October to support our First Visitor Program. Your support has played a crucial role in advancing our mission to prevent child abuse and neglect in the critical early years of children’s development.”

Intermountain Health-Lutheran Foundation

“Thank you for your donation of 4 quilts and 10 receiving blankets both in November and December”

Pregnancy Resource Connection

“Thank you for your generous donation of layettes for the sweet babies in Grand County. We had four couples last class and anticipate at least seven couples in early November. The mammas love these bags”

Parkview Nursery

“Thank you so much for the beautiful baby stuff. It is very much appreciated!!”

RMHC (Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern Colorado)

“Your choosing to provide baby items for our Ronald McDonald House/for the children and families served by our RMHC has meant the world. Thank You”

Children’s Hospital Colorado (Suzy Jaeger)

“I want to personally thank you for your generous gift of many handcrafted items for the NICU. We so appreciate your generosity and your kindness. Like countless threads in beautiful fabric, you are a vital part of the strong net of support that not just sustains us but lifts us higher.”

Donations to WHWB December- February

Sandy Marriott
Andrea Elms

Colorado Gives = 19 donations
Rocky Mountain Chapter FMCA

Charlene Brown
John Bell
Jared Cleverly
Virginia Knaus
Philip Borgeson
Shirley Diamond
Martha Gilbert
Carla Sherwood
Yvette Weiss

Community Foundation of Greater Richmond
Morgan Stanley
Chris & Carol Harper
Fidelity Charitable
Judy Swens
Gordon & Alice Dalby
James & Janet Kangeiser
Stanley & Jeanette Payne
Mayflower Congregational Church

A special THANK YOU to our volunteers who give so generously of their time, talents and money to support WHWB!