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NEWSLETTER

Summer 2017

Alicia's answered prayers

After a frantic search for help, Alicia found Cradle of Hope when no one else was there for her family.



Dear Cradle of Hope,

I was ecstatic when I found out I was pregnant with my second daughter, Adeline. Two weeks later, I was laid off from my full-time job and found out my pregnancy was high-risk. Two months later, I had surgery to keep my baby inside my womb as long as possible.

What happens now? How will we pay our bills? Will I lose my baby? Will we lose our house? I tried to find another job, but faced constant rejection. Never in my life have I had such difficulty finding work. I knew it would be healthier and safer for my baby if I stayed home, but I worried about our finances.

My husband and I fought constantly. Divorce crossed my mind. Bill collectors were calling. We were helpless. We made too much money to receive assistance from the county yet not enough to pay our mortgage or the medical bills that piled up.

My husband and I have always been hard working individuals. For the first time in our lives we were desperate. I searched frantically for help and found Cradle of Hope. My prayers were answered.

Cradle of Hope helped us when no one else would

They were able to make a house payment and we received a baby tub filled with baby items. It was amazingly thoughtful and the help was given exactly when we needed it. Everyone met us with compassion. By the graces above, we have two beautiful and healthy girls, we have our home, we are both employed and we have our marriage. Thank you Cradle of Hope!

All my best,
Alicia

Saving Lives

One gift at a time

\$1,000

Provides rent/mortgage assistance to keep mom and her family in home during the pregnancy.

\$500

Provides 2 weeks of child care so mom can focus on finding a job.

\$250

Provides utility assistance for one family for one month.

\$100

Provides a new, safe crib for one baby.

\$50

Provides transportation for mom to secure employment or visit her baby in the NICU.

\$25

Provides diapers and wipes to a family in need.

Goal
\$469,100



\$368,463
Raised

2,700 families in 2017

Portable Cribs:



Distribute 1,452 portable cribs so every baby has a safe place to sleep.

Cost: \$145,200
Still Need: \$54,488

Rent/Mortgage:



Provide 340 families with rent/mortgage assistance so they can stay in their homes during their pregnancy.

Cost: \$255,000
Still Need: \$23,309

Child Care:



Provide 5 families with child care costs for up to one month so mom can return to her job following unpaid maternity leave.

Cost: \$2,500
Still Need: \$2,500

Transportation:



Distribute 40 monthly transportation cards so moms can return to work after unpaid maternity leave.

Cost: \$3,400
Still Need: \$3,400

Utilities:



Provide 30 families with utility assistance for one month.

Cost: \$4,500
Still Need: \$4,500

Training:



Provide 600 individuals training focusing on infant sleep safety, goal setting, money management and basic life skills.

Cost: \$50,000
Still Need: \$6,940

Wellness Baskets:



Distribute 300 baskets filled with essential baby items to help mom and baby begin their life together.

Cost: \$6,000
Still Need: \$3,000

Medical Costs:



Provide 10 families with assistance paying medical costs.

Cost: \$2,500
Still Need: \$2,500

"I love Coft because we help moms who really need the most basic help (rent, utilities, transportation) when they have no other support in their lives."

Laurie Murphy

Wellness Basket WISH LIST

- Diapers (newborn or size 1)
- Baby wipes
- Baby bottles
- Pacifiers (0-12 months)
- Onesies (0-12 months)
- Sleepers (0-12 months)
- Infant clothing (0-12 months)
- Halo SleepSack swaddles
- Infant hats
- Bibs
- Baby shampoo
- Baby lotion
- Baby bath towels and wash clothes
- Baby blankets (small)
- Infant toys and rattles
- Infant board books (colors, textures, animals, shapes, alphabet, etc.)
- Small laundry baskets
- Adult backpack (for diaper bag)
- Baby bath tub
- Notecards (for words of encouragement)

* All baby items in new condition.

* Donations help keep our cost low.



Get Involved

Provide support for families facing a crisis so they will choose life for their unborn baby.

Host a Baby Shower for an Unborn Baby



There are many pregnant women who have little, if any, support as they contemplate the birth of their baby. Help us to encourage them to continue their pregnancy by hosting a baby shower and donating the items to Cradle of Hope. We will distribute these items in the form of

Wellness Baskets to support these moms for choosing life and let them know they are loved.

Baby Bottle Bonanza

Looking for something that you can do to help Cradle of Hope with your friends, family, co-workers, Church or more? Contact us to host a Baby Bottle Bonanza. We'll provide you with a basket of baby bottles, each with information about Cradle of Hope that you can keep. Your group will have one month to fill as many bottles as you can with coins, cash or checks (made payable to Cradle of Hope). Return the baskets and filled bottles to us; no need to count your collection. You will be notified of what your group raised. Be sure to take photos that we can share with others. Interested in competing with other groups? The group that raises the most money will be highlighted on our website!

The Cradle of Hope Giving Tree



The Giving Tree was created so people of all ages can participate in experiencing the joy of giving. How does it work? You can create your own Giving Tree and we will supply you with the wishes (tags) to be placed on your tree branches. Share these wishes with family and friends, and allow them to pick a wish to fulfill. Once you gather items together, contact us to drop them off at our office. All

items will be used to provide encouragement and support to families facing a crisis so they will choose life. Make this a family or group activity by reading the book "The Giving Tree" by Shel Silverstein. You will feel good knowing that you helped save the life of a baby and transformed a family's future!

"I'm happy to be a part of a group that wants to help embrace and affirm the dignity of women, children and families, and to provide them with material assistance, empowering them for the future."

Father Neil Bakker



Saving Lives Spotlight

West Bend Mutual Insurance provides insurance throughout the Midwest and has a proud tradition of giving back to the communities in which they do business. "The *Spirit of the Silver Lining* award is a unique program that allows us to express our gratitude to our agent partners on whom we rely to identify the causes that matter most in our communities," said Kevin Steiner, president and CEO. In January 2017, Cradle of Hope received West Bend's *Spirit of the Silver Lining* award for our dedication to helping those in need. We were also presented with a check for \$10,000 that we used to save the lives of 100 babies and provide hope to 100 moms. West Bend has stayed true to their promise that the worst brings out their best, and they provided a silver lining to Cradle of Hope. Thank you for this wonderful gift!



Join Heartbeats of Hope

A special group of monthly donors who are committed to saving a baby's life and investing in moms throughout Minnesota.

For as little as 50 cents per day, you can help provide pregnant women with hope so they will choose life for their unborn babies and feel supported for this decision. This year, funds raised through Heartbeats of Hope will be used to distribute portable cribs throughout Minnesota and ensure that every baby has a safe place to sleep. Join us today at: cradleofhope.org/ways-to-give/join-heartbeats-of-hope/

MISSION

Cradle of Hope encourages life by providing financial aid to women and babies in crisis, especially those women who might not choose life because of financial pressures.

2017 Board

Chris Vatsaas - President
 Joe Kueppers - Vice President
 Kristen Hanson - Secretary
 Brian Dobie - Treasurer
 Father Neil Bakker
 Bridget Cup
 Latifah Kiribedda
 Amanda Meyer
 Laurie Murphy

Meet the CoH Staff

Executive Director



Darlene Kopesky joined Cradle of Hope with over 15 years leading programs for homeless children and

families for The Salvation Army in Cambridge, MA. She earned a Bachelor's degree from Boston University and a Master's degree from Cambridge College.

Program Director



Cynthia Godin comes to Cradle of Hope with over 15 years of experience working with local communities, nonprofit agencies,

governmental agencies and advocates to develop statewide human services programs. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in child psychology and a Master of Arts degree in human services administration. Prior to Cradle of Hope, Cynthia developed an innovative jobs and social services program for women with children living in Hennepin County.

Cradle of Hope

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