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Dear Supporter

This is our Summer update newsletter for 2021. The last 18 months has been challenging for everyone but throughout the pandemic we have continued supporting families in our locality as well as marking our 7th birthday.

Sadly we have seen a huge increase in the numbers of referrals, but we have been blessed to receive a lot of financial, business and community support which has enabled us to continue to provide essential clothes and toiletries for new babies.

In addition to the increased referrals due to Covid, we are now experiencing a surge in referrals for families arriving from Afghanistan as our local hospital is caring for refugee ladies who are pregnant.

Our team have worked hard to maintain safe working practices during the pandemic and I am so grateful for their work and the support of so many people.

Please share this newsletter with your friends and family, and thank you for your continued support

Mary Somerville

<https://e-voice.org.uk/sunbury-methodist-church/baby-basics/>

Common Good

Did you know you can donate items to us online? Following an increase in those wanting to donate to us we now have a Common Good page listing a range of products we're short of.



www.forcommongood.co.uk/pages/baby-basics-sunbury

50 Baby Basics Centres

This year Baby Basics opened its 50th Centre, to mark the occasion each centre was profiled on the Baby Basics national social media pages, including our own. It was a lovely opportunity to reflect on the work of our volunteers and health teams across the area.

1000th Basket



In February it was our busiest month completing 30 referrals in 28 days! We were also delighted to hand over our 1000th basket to the Midwives at West Middlesex Hospital.

Rev Kan Yu, Minister at Sunbury Methodist Church (where Baby

Basics Sunbury is based) said: *'The team has worked through both lockdowns to provide these wonderful baskets to mothers in our local community and surrounding areas. We know the baskets make a huge difference, reducing anxiety for new mothers and offering love and care when times are hard.'*

7th Birthday

In May this year we marked our 7th birthday, during which time we have supported 1400 families. Thank you to everyone involved in the work we do, especially our volunteers, the midwives and health teams who refer to us and our many supporters, near and far.

Fundraising and Donations



We have continued to receive corporate donations via our head office in Sheffield with generous deliveries from a range of companies sending through clothes, toiletries and toys.

We have received grant funding from various organisations, including Spelthorne Council Better Neighbourhood Grant, The National Lottery Covid fund, Nucleus Lodge, Midas Foundation, and Tesco Community Grants. We are grateful too for the support we have received from local companies including Sunbury and Shepperton Rotary Club Integrated Design Ltd, Waitrose and Teddington Methodist Playgroup.

The “21 challenge event” may have been socially distanced but was very successful! We are delighted that £5,290 was raised which will be split equally between Baby Basics Sunbury and The Extra Mile.



In addition to grants and fundraising events, we have a wide range of regular donators, including Project Linus who make beautiful quilts for our baskets, a number of knitting groups, a group from Farnham and a craft group based in Kent. **If you knit or like to sew we have pattern books available.**

We have also received donations from other Baby Banks (Stripey Stork and Brentford Baby Bank), Angels of the Hood and people who live locally and bring donations to the church.

We have a new donation system in place, as storage space is limited, so we ask that anyone looking to donate please emails us first on donations.babybasicssunbury@gmail.com

Thank you to Baby Basics

"I am a maternity support worker from West Middx Hospital based in the community.

The area we serve includes really deprived places. I visit many families living in 'beds in sheds', bed and breakfast emergency accommodation and home office accommodation for asylum seekers. A great many new parents live in multi occupancy homes where they literally only have sole use of one room.



A great proportion of these families have no access to public funds, no relatives and sometimes no friends in the UK. I see asylum seekers, people on short term visas, single parents, teenage parents, those who have lost jobs during the pandemic, women who have escaped abuse and human trafficking.

When I bring these families the beautiful Moses baskets filled with newborn necessities it brings such joy and pleasure.

Without your invaluable work, I don't know how many of these families would be able to afford even the basics like nappies. This is how community should

work with every one helping each other. I encourage my mums who have had items to donate items back when finished with, so they feel they also contribute to society.

A huge thank you to all the volunteers who sort out my many requests for items. Every gesture of kindness is much appreciated by families. I have even seen the 'congratulations on your baby boy' card still up in a room six months later as that was the only baby card that mum got.

A special thank you to the creative knitters and seamstresses who have made such beautiful cardigans, quilts and blankets with love. You have collectively made an invaluable, amazing contribution to giving so many babies the best possible start in life and showing families that they are thought of and cared about." Alison Baker

Meet the volunteers: Pam



"I started volunteering in 2016 asked by a friend at Church if I would be interested in joining the Baby Basics Team. The reason I volunteered was because I'd heard about the charity and its work in helping new mothers and babies in providing a basket of articles needed for 0-3 months of baby's life.

It has been my privilege to help on our team for the past five years. It has been such a good team as we have all dovetailed so well together. When lockdown came and we started to work alone it was not the same but we were glad we could continue.

I mainly help to pack the Moses baskets, wash and iron, and pack away. I also sort donations, and help with fundraising events. As I am the oldest team member I now have to ask for the baskets on high shelves to be brought down!

Thank you to all of our volunteers who do a brilliant job responding to queries, arranging referrals, sorting donations, packing baskets, delivering baskets and supporting fundraising activity.

How to Get In Touch

Find out more about us on our website: <https://e-voice.org.uk/sunbury-methodist-church/baby-basics/>

Arrange to make a donation by emailing:
donations.babybasicssunbury@gmail.com

Referrals are received through health and social work teams, to make a referral or if you have a press or general enquiry please email:
babybasicssunbury@gmail.com

You can also follow us on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/BabyBasicsSunburyOnThames>


