



SEPTEMBER 2018

BABY BASICS UPDATE

Baby Basics Belfast has now been providing help and assistance to vulnerable families in the Belfast area for just over a year and a half. We have seen the demand for the service grow considerably in the last six months especially, as several more referral agencies have connected with us and our existing partner agencies are continuing to make frequent referrals. These local health professionals and charity workers who support vulnerable families in their every day jobs often express how glad they are of the help that Baby Basics provides.

The agencies we are linked with to date are:

Sure Start, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, Family Nurse Partnership (specialist team within BHSCT), Prison Fellowship, Women's Aid, Salvation Army, All Nations Ministries, Extern, Homeplus NI.

We ask our referral agencies to fill in a referral form for each family which allows us to put together a pack of items tailored to meet the needs of that family. This allows us to make the best use of all the items that have been donated to us and avoid giving families items they already have. This is especially important with the larger items

Baby basics stats

**We partner with 9
referral agencies**

**We gave out 57 Baby
Basic packs in 2017**

**We have given out
107 Baby Basic
packs so far in 2018!**

**11 parishes in
Connor diocese have
supported us so far**

PRAYER REQUESTS

More donations urgently
required

Continuing to build positive
relationships with all our
referral agencies

THANKS

For our volunteer Heather

For the 11 parishes who have
helped us to date

For the positive impact Baby
Basics has made on lots of
families in the Belfast area

such as the Moses basket. Our packs are made up in either a Moses basket, Baby bath or laundry basket depending on what is needed.

In our first year, 2017, we supported 57 families and in 2018 to end August we have supported 107 families. That means 107 large packs filled with baby clothes, baby bedding, toys, nappies, wipes, and toiletries for baby and mum and dad have been sorted, packed and sent out to families all over Belfast who are struggling at that time to support their new baby.

Just recently, Heather Gibson has begun to volunteer for Baby Basics Belfast. Heather, who comes from Lisburn Cathedral, gives her time for one day each week, coming to the Connect Base and making up the Baby Basics packs. We are extremely grateful to Heather for giving her time and talents so willingly. Heather is a trained florist and makes up the packs with flair and creativity.

Having a baby is a time of tremendous change for families on its own but when families face other difficulties in their lives at the same time, getting some support can make a crucial difference. Some of the families we have supported so far have been faced with the following issues to name just a few; homelessness, refugees and asylum seekers, loss of employment, illness, relationship breakups, a parent in prison and so on.

“Axx has just arrived here from Africa and is expecting her first baby, she and her husband are living in a hostel and have little for their first child. Like any mum Axx is keen to have nice things for her first baby. We were delighted to provide a Moses Basket packed full of stuff for her baby. She was in tears with gratitude.”

It is wonderful to be able to provide much needed help for families but to do so we need the continued support of churches in Connor Diocese. A big thanks to churches who have supported us already. Your generous donations have meant that over 160 families so far have received a beautiful Baby Basics pack.

If you would like to know more about how to support us at Baby Basics, please contact us using the contact details on this page.

How your church can help Baby basics

Take part in our 4- week challenge

Sign up to support us on a yearly basis by doing the 4-week challenge one month a year

Encourage your knitting group to knit some baby clothes for our packs

Contact us about volunteering to sort and pack donations

BABY BASICS BELFAST

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