

The St. Joseph County
Great Start Parent Coalition

presents:

Welcome Baby Program



The Great Start Collaborative (GSC) is part of the
St. Joseph County Human Services Commission

What is the Welcome Baby Program?



The Welcome Baby program was developed to embrace families with new babies to help them get off to a **Great Start!**

Families with new babies in St. Joseph County receive a "Welcome Baby" gift bag, complete with information on services available in the community, "goodies" for the baby (growth chart, booties, etc.) and information on how parents can engage themselves in their baby's everyday life to ensure a **Great Start** to their future!



The St. Joseph County Welcome Baby Program is facilitated by the Great Start Parent Coalition and run solely by volunteers. Please read inside to find out more about this important program and find out how you can help babies in St. Joseph County get off to a **Great Start!**

For more information, please contact:

St. Joseph County Great Start Parent Liaison

Anita Lopez Schlabach

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E-Mail: aschlabach@sjcisd.org

62445 Shimmel Rd., Centreville, MI 49032

Web Site: www.sjcgsc.org

Find us on Facebook

Yes! I would like to help provide bags of needed items for new moms and dads!

Please accept my enclosed donation of \$ _____ **Please make checks payable to: Early Childhood Implementation Fund**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

No, I'm sorry I cannot contribute at this time, but please contact me for other ways to volunteer for this important program.

Thank you for caring about children and families in St. Joseph County!

Please mail this form with your information and/or donation to:

Anita Lopez Schlabach, Great Start Parent Liaison, St. Joseph County ISD, 62445 Shimmel Rd., Centreville, MI 49032



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Welcome Baby Program

A. What is the Welcome Baby Program?

The Welcome Baby program was developed to embrace families with new babies to help them get off to a **Great Start!**

B. What do parents receive?

Families of new babies in St. Joseph County receive a gift bag to welcome their infant and give them important information. New parents will also receive a personal phone call from a parent of young children.

C. What is in the gift bag?

The gift bag includes information on available services, and gifts such as a growth chart, baby wipe containers, books, coupons, baby booties, hat, blanket, etc.

D. Who makes this program possible?

The St. Joseph County Great Start Parent Coalition facilitates this program, and is run solely by volunteers.

E. What do the volunteers do?

Volunteers are a vital part of this important program. A few of the tasks provided by volunteers are:

- ★ Putting together Welcome Baby Gift Bags and folders of information
- ★ Dropping bags off at local hospitals
- ★ Picking up information sheets from local hospitals on the new baby and his/her family
- ★ Making phone calls to the baby's new family
- ★ Hosting Community Baby Showers

F. What is a Community Baby Shower?

The Great Start Parent Coalition hosts several Community Baby Showers throughout the year. Community members and new parents are invited to attend to celebrate the new babies born into their communities.

Information on available services, give-a-way items, a diaper drive and break-out sessions are just a few of the fun activities held at the Community Baby Shower to help bring awareness to this important program.



How Can I Help?

There are many ways you can help support this important program:

- 1.** Volunteer to put folders and/or gift bags together
- 2.** Donate items for the Community Baby Shower give-a-way
- 3.** Knit or crochet baby blankets, hats and booties
- 4.** Join the St. Joseph County Great Start Parent Coalition and make phone calls to new parents
- 5.** Make a monetary donation to continue to provide gift bags and needed items for new moms and dads

*YOU can help give all kids
a Great Start!*

Volunteering or Donating is EASY!

Just complete the form on the back of this panel and mail with your donation or interest in volunteering to:

St. Joseph County Great Start Parent Liaison

Anita Lopez Schlabach

62445 Shimmel Rd., Centreville, MI 49032