

## SAVE THE DATE



Infant Crisis Services will host our annual Feed Babies fundraising campaign beginning Tuesday, September 14th with in-person, small group tours! We look forward to hosting guests at our main facility where we will unveil our 2021 agency video and share how we've continued to serve babies and toddlers over the past year. Tour openings are available throughout the month of September. For more information about sponsorship opportunities or to schedule a small-group tour, please contact Jillian at (405) 778-7638 or [jillianeville@infantcrisis.org](mailto:jillianeville@infantcrisis.org). We hope to see you soon!



PROST! Getting into the true spirit of Oktoberfest, we hope you will join us for the **8th annual Bingo for Babies presented by American Fidelity Foundation!** This fun event hosted by the Young Professionals Board of Infant Crisis Services will take place on Friday, October 15, 2021, at the Oklahoma City Golf and Country Club and will feature dinner, drinks, entertainment, silent auction, and of course—BINGO! For sponsorship opportunities and more information about the event, please visit [www.infantcrisis.org/bingo](http://www.infantcrisis.org/bingo).

## STRENGTHEN THEIR START



### It's Back-to-School Time!

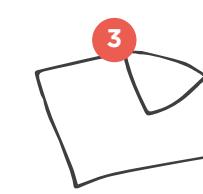
As you are purchasing items from your child's school supplies list, please consider adding a few of the items below to help the babies and toddlers served by Infant Crisis Services.



1  
Diapers  
(preemie - size 6)



2  
Baby wash



3  
Baby wipes



Scan to shop our  
Amazon Wish List

Summer 2021

The Newsletter of Infant Crisis Services

# BABY TALK

Presented by **COX** Bringing us closer

## Meet Leah and Nakiyah

Leah and Nakiyah both became new mothers and each other's support system during the height of the pandemic in 2020. Having gone to high school together, the women quickly discovered via social media that they had a lot in common. Leah's daughter, Kali, and Nakiyah's son, Naasir, were born only one month apart. Both women are single mothers who experienced emotional and physical abuse in past relationships. Nakiyah was in an especially dangerous situation. Her son's father had many violent outbursts including hitting her just minutes after she gave birth to their son and even becoming violent with her while she was holding him. Now, both fathers are incarcerated. With no support system, Leah and Nakiyah struggle to give their children everything they need.

The two mothers are always there for each other through every tough situation. During

a particularly difficult week for Nakiyah, Leah gave her friend the last three diapers she had so Nakiyah's baby could have a dry diaper that night. Leah said,

*“I do it for her because I know she would do it for me.”*

When asked about Infant Crisis Services, the women instantly had one word: **“Comfort.”**

After both coming to Infant Crisis Services in the early months of their children's lives, these women quickly realized that Infant Crisis Services was a place they could count on. When Leah's baby, Kali, developed colic, she didn't know where to turn. Thankfully, Infant Crisis Services had exactly what she needed. **“Infant Crisis Services had colic formula when I couldn't find it anywhere else during the pandemic,”** said Leah.

**Because of donors like you,** Leah and Nakiyah can keep their babies fed. At Infant Crisis Services, we know not all of our clients have someone to lean on. Some of our clients have no one at all. **But no matter their situation, all parents can find support and strength at Infant Crisis Services.**



Leah and Nakiyah pictured to the left.

## VOLUNTEERING

# Volunteers are back!

Are you interested in volunteering for Infant Crisis Services?

## Individual Volunteer Options

*Client Intake:*

### **WHO**

Anyone who meets the following requirements –

- Excellent customer service skills
- Some knowledge of working with children under four
- Can stand and move continuously
- Can lift up to 5 pounds of groceries

### **WHAT**

This position works with the families we serve to ensure their babies and toddlers have the food, formula, and diapers they need.

### **WHEN**

Tuesday and Thursday, 9am – 12pm or 1pm – 4pm

*Warehouse Assistant:*

### **WHO**

Anyone who meets the following requirements –

- Can stand/move continuously
- Can lift up to 5 pounds of groceries

### **WHAT**

This position completes as needed tasks in our warehouse including but not limited to –

- Packing food or diaper
- Sorting donations

### **WHEN**

Monday – Friday, 9am – 12pm or 1pm – 4pm

## Group Volunteers

### **WHO**

Businesses, corporations, churches, schools, civic groups, friends or family!

\*Due to COVID-19, we are only taking groups of up to 10 people.

### **WHAT**

Group volunteers are tasked with processing food, formula, and diapers in preparation for clients to receive them.

### **WHEN**

Monday – Thursday, 10am – 12pm or 2pm – 4pm



*Cathy Waldo, a regular Client Intake Volunteer, pictured to the left.*

## MISSION MOMENT WITH MIKI

### Putting Clients First.

*Always.*

Throughout this pandemic, we have done everything we can to keep our clients and staff safe, **and we have never stopped serving Oklahoma's babies and toddlers in need.** The state of this pandemic is always changing, **but the need of our clients is consistent and ever present.**

After a trial week of serving babies back inside our building, it is clear that at this time – **the drive-through service is the safest way to serve them.** I cannot wait to hold babies again and see their smiling faces but **prioritizing our clients' safety must take precedent.** As a mom myself, I know the lengths parents will go to keep their children safe. With COVID-19 cases increasing for children, it only makes sense to maintain the safest form of services. For many of our clients, one hospital trip can have devastating financial consequences. It is still our goal to serve clients inside our building, but for now, safety is our utmost concern.

It's been a challenging year, but we owe it all to you. **Only with your support can we keep our doors open through all circumstances.**

We cannot thank you enough for your continued generosity.

Always for the babies,

*Miki Farris*

*Miki Farris, Executive Director & Co-founder*



## Q&A

### Andi Bledsoe

*Board Member*



### Andi Bledsoe

*Board Member*

**Q: What do you do, & what is your connection to Infant Crisis Services?**

A: I was a volunteer first, but I've been an Infant Crisis Services board member for four years. I'm the Communications Manager at Cox Communications for the central region.

**Q: Tell us about the partnership between Cox Communications & Infant Crisis Services.**

A: Cox Communications has supported Infant Crisis Services with grants from our employee giving program, community grants, and different types of sponsorships. **Infant Crisis Services is an organization that we are extremely proud to support.**

**Q: What makes Cox so inclined to support organizations like Infant Crisis Services?**

A: **At Cox Communications, we want all of our communities to be as strong as they can, so that's why supporting the families that Infant Crisis Services serves is so important.** One of my favorite things about Cox Communications is our support, not only of our community, but also of our employees. Cox employees get paid volunteer hours to volunteer for any organization of their choosing. We've had several groups come to Infant Crisis Services to pack food bags and diapers. It's a great way that our company supports our employees and our community.

**Q: What are your favorite things to do when you come to volunteer?**

A: When I volunteer, helping our clients shop for clothing, toys, and books for their kids is my favorite thing to do because I get to hold babies... and *I love to hold babies!* It's an amazing experience to help another mother out in a time when she needs it most.

**Q: What is one thing you think everyone should know about Infant Crisis Services?**

A: The thing that I love most about this organization is, of course, the way we support children and families across OKC, but to me it's the financial stability of this organization. I know when I'm giving a personal gift, when my company is giving a gift, or when I'm asking friends and family to give a gift to Infant Crisis Services that the money is going to be used in the best ways. **Infant Crisis always puts their clients first.**



**Scan the QR code to learn more about volunteering and apply to be a volunteer!**