

Save the Date



Friends, dust off your space boots and shine up those cosmic spurs because **Boots and Ball Gowns 2026** is going to the stars! Saddle up for the 17th annual event, where the spirit of the rodeo meets the wonder of the galaxy.

Date: February 28th, 2026 **Time:** 6 - 11 pm

Location: Oklahoma City Convention Center



BABY STEPS

The 8th annual Baby Steps 5K and 1-Mile Fun Run is coming up! Each year, our Teen Associate Board plans this exciting event to fundraise for babies and toddlers in need.

Date: April 18th, 2026

Time: 8 am Fun Run / 8:30 am 5K

Location: Stars and Stripes Park



BINGO FOR BABIES

Big fun was had by everyone at Bingo for Babies! Congratulations to the **Infant Crisis Services Young Professionals Board** for putting on another fabulous night. Extra kudos to our event co-chairs **Annie Baze** and **Allie Dodson**. Thank you to our emcee **Malcolm Tubbs** – your special touches kept things exciting! The night was made possible by our generous sponsors. We are so grateful for all our sponsors and everyone who attended.

Thank you to our presenting sponsors:

American Fidelity Foundation
a different opinion



Make an Impact with a Qualified Charitable Distribution:

If you are over 70.5 years old, you can donate from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) directly to a 501(c)(3) qualified charity, like Infant Crisis Services, through a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) – without paying income taxes on the withdrawal! A QCD reduces your taxable income, which in turn could lower your Medicare premiums and decrease the taxable portion of your Social Security benefits. You can reap these rewards all while making a lasting impact on the lives of vulnerable babies in need. This donation method maximizes your charitable contribution because the full amount could go directly to ICS, without incurring taxes, and it simplifies your tax filing by eliminating the need to itemize deductions.

Before going forward with a QCD, please consult your financial advisor to help you navigate the specifics and ensure that your charitable giving aligns with your personal financial goals. For questions about the impact of a QCD for ICS, please contact **Lisa Perry, Senior Development Manager**, at 405-778-7638 or lisaperry@infantcrisis.org.



BABY TALK

The Special Edition Newsletter
of



Infant Crisis Services®
No baby should go hungry



A Family Tradition of Serving Babies

Supporting our community and the mission of Infant Crisis Services is a family affair.

Addie Page participated in our Summer Teen Program this year. Her mother, Erin, is a former ICS board member who helped fundraise for the building where Addie volunteered and served as a teen volunteer. Addie's grandmother, Debra Marshall, was also an ICS board member, who assisted in creating the teen volunteer program.

Addie, an 8th-grader at Classen SAS, said that she was able to see how her work as a teen volunteer could directly affect others who were not as fortunate.

"I enjoy that feeling," she said.

Erin remembered similar emotions when she used to pack diapers at ICS. She felt like she was a part of something bigger.

"It's fun to see that she connected the dots," Erin said.

Erin figured Addie had her sights set on volunteering at ICS. It still warmed her heart. Her daughter was indeed tapping into her family's longstanding outlook



(Addie and Erin Page)

on life. The family has hosted donation drives since Addie was a baby. Erin said it was evident to her that her mother had a passion to help those who needed extra support, in her work as a federal probation officer and her community activities. And like her mother's, Erin's past experiences took hold, shaped her outlook and birthed a desire for community involvement. It is ingrained her work as Founder/CEO of Page Creative, and before that, for 12 years with MetroFamily Magazine, as former CEO and publisher. Every day, she seeks to connect with groups and non-profits that are supporting the community.

"Strong families are what build strong communities," Erin said, **"ICS is a key part of that."**

Infant Crisis Services is very fortunate to have long serving supporters like the Pages and others, who pass on their dedication to our cause to the future generations.



(Addie assists with a collection drive for Infant Crisis Services on her first birthday.)

Mission Moment

with Miki



are only temporary. But that's exactly when we can be a benefit. Infant Crisis Services specializes in helping families with children fill in the gaps while they stretch their budgets.

We have been following developments locally and nationally. In its update on SNAP benefits, Oklahoma Human Services asked Oklahomans to rally to support our neighbors. Because of your support, we are ready to answer that call by giving **extra visits above the regular four per year**. This is for all children aged younger than four and will continue through December 23. The change applies to **all clients** regardless of the number of times a family has visited us this year. Each baby or child will receive a week's worth of essential items free of charge. Extra visits can be made in-house and/or to the BabyMobile®.

ICS knows how dire the need is right now. Please, let your neighbors and others know that there is help to get life-sustaining necessities for their children. No baby should go hungry, even in uncertain times.

Always for the babies,

Miki Farns

During these uncertain times of furloughs, reductions in federal benefits, and rising costs, I sometimes worry that families don't know that Infant Crisis Services is here for anyone needing help with food, formula, and diapers for their baby.

People may think that they are not eligible for our services because of how much they make or because their financial struggles

Over 45k Diapers Donated!

We are so excited to share that Infant Crisis Services received **45,011 diapers**, beating our goal of 41,000. With the help of our co-sponsors **Children's Hospital of Oklahoma/OU Health** and **Quad Construction**, we coordinated a week of activities starting September 15 and culminating on September 21 with a Community Drop-Off Day at ICS. Local businesses, organizations, families, and individuals stepped up to support babies and toddlers in our region:

- 1,598 packs of wipes donated
- \$734 earned from give back nights at local restaurants
- \$420 in monetary donations

We also thank the National Diaper Bank Network for spearheading the annual national campaign to raise awareness of diaper need in our country. And we applaud all who continue the fight to end diaper need.



Inasmuch Foundation Fellow Spotlight: Kate Abney



When Kate Abney applied to be an Inasmuch Community Fellow, her eye was on Infant Crisis Services as the landing spot for her summer internship. She was thrilled that it worked out. So are we!

Kate is majoring in nonprofit administration at the University of Oklahoma. You could say she has a bit of a head start on her studies: Her mother, Jennifer Abney, is the founder and executive director of Angels Foster Family Network, a nonprofit which supports families and children in the foster care system in Oklahoma. (If you were to visit the Angels website, you would catch a glimpse of a young Kate in a video.)

Kate's home environment shaped her instincts to help others, especially children. Kate, 20, remembers helping deliver toys for holiday drives to foster families. In high school, she conducted a large philanthropy drive as a Student Council project. At OU, her sorority, Chi Omega, raises funds for Make a Wish. One of the good things about doing the internship at ICS was the chance to see another nonprofit's approach, Kate said.

"I really enjoyed working with clients in the boutique, and learning about the development side," she said. "It has been a learning process."

Kate quickly fit into the development team. "She readily provided helpful insight on high school giving weeks, eagerly tackled prospect research for new rural donors, and acquired support from local businesses for Diaper Need Awareness Week and Bingo for Babies," said Lisa Perry, ICS senior development manager. "Her efforts this summer will help ICS raise even more funds this year to provide food, formula and diapers to babies."

Thanks for choosing ICS, Kate. Come back anytime!



40th Endowment Fund Update

Infant Crisis Services launched our special 40th Birthday Endowment fund in June 2024 with a goal to raise \$4 million in the first phase. **We are currently at \$3,300,000 in pledges and planned gifts, which is 77% towards our goal.** We are grateful for every pledge and gift so far. If you have been considering contributing, doing so now would be incredibly impactful.

The purpose of the campaign is to provide ongoing support for the increasing needs of children in Oklahoma. By strengthening our endowment, Infant Crisis Services will be able to extend our services, ensure long-term sustainability and position us to respond in times of economic instability as we face now. This fund will make sure that future generations of infants and toddlers receive the same level of care and support that has defined ICS for the past four decades.

Thank you to our Visionary Partner and lead endowment donor, **Lauren Von Mingee**, of Quintessa Marketing and to everyone who has contributed to this campaign. To support the campaign, please visit our website – www.infantercrisis.org/endowment or contact **Lisa Perry** at (405) 778-7638 or lisaperry@infantercrisis.org.

