

SAVE THE DATE

Bingo for Babies



Mark **October 16** on your calendar for the **13th annual Bingo for Babies** benefiting Infant Crisis Services hosted by the Young Professionals Board. Come enjoy a Palm Royale themed night at OKANA Resort.

Event Wrap-up: Baby Steps 5K



The **Infant Crisis Services Teen Associate Board** hosted another successful Baby Steps 5K and 1-Mile Fun Run on Saturday, April 18th at Stars and Stripes Park. A good group of runners and walkers attended, helping the event raise over \$30,000 -- enough to support the BabyMobile for a month. Combined with their other fundraising efforts, the group raised more than \$75,000 for the babies. Congrats, TAB! We hope to see everyone again next year for the ninth annual race in April 2027.



Infant Crisis Services®
No baby should go hungry

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2026 - 2027 ICS Board Members

Our Board of Directors for 2026-2027 is a collection of accomplished and dedicated individuals who wholeheartedly support our mission. We welcome our new members: Jason Henderson, Karlye Kelsey, Garrett King, and Michelle Rodriguez-Pico.

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SPRING 2026

BABY TALK

The Newsletter of Infant Crisis Services

Filling in the Gaps Helps Families Find Hope

In the face of ongoing health issues for her and her family, **Sarah Falk remains hopeful.**

In 2007, the March of Dimes referred Sarah to Infant Crisis Services to get help for her daughter, Allison, who was born with a severe case of bilateral cleft lip and palate. The condition has led to 25 surgeries for Allison, now age 19. Sarah endured her first marriage ending while remaining focused on Allison's needs.

Then in 2023, another serious medical condition emerged. Sarah was diagnosed with a brain tumor. Funds were tight for her as a stay-at-home mom because her fiancée, Ricky, had to take off work to help care for Allison and their two younger children, Kamille and Sir Kenji. Sarah suddenly had to stop breastfeeding her infant Sir Kenji because of the medication she was taking. Afraid that it would take a while before she began receiving WIC benefits, she came back to ICS feeling anxious. She didn't have any other family around and felt she had nowhere else to turn.

"I was so relieved to be able to get some formula. I didn't know what we were going to do otherwise."

Last year, more medical troubles came when Ricky was injured at work. For a while, he had no money coming in while waiting for his workers' compensation. Hopeful, Sarah came back to ICS to get diapers and clothing for her two little ones – and relief.

"We were feeling super blessed to have a place to go to."

For Sarah, ICS became the family that she needed because of the grace and compassion shown to her little ones when they came for services.

"The diaper supply for a week and the clothes were such a relief. (T)hen while you shop in a dignified way, the kids can play!"

As Sarah put it, **ICS was able to step in and fill the gap** when the family needed it. Filling in those gaps helps keep families like Sarah's on the path to a fulfilling future.

Thanks to her faith and resources like Infant Crisis Services, Sarah knows her "beautiful blended family" is going to be okay. She came by ICS in April. Kamille and Sir Kenji gleefully played in the toy area while Sarah did a video interview.

"(Infant Crisis Services) saved my life. They saved my baby's life," she said to the camera. "And they changed my whole world."





Celebrating Our Volunteers

National Volunteer Appreciation Week was April 20-24 and so we took the time to show love and gratitude to our ICS crew. A highlight of the week was the luncheon, where volunteers had a joyful time learning how to make professional flower arrangements with guidance from our special events manager, Heather Cole.

From January through April, 1,602 volunteers have contributed 5,001 hours of their time to ICS. This includes the individual volunteers who happily fill clients' orders or work tirelessly to take care of donated items in the "Hub". It's also the groups who pack diapers or sort clothes; our subcommittee members, who share their talents and expertise on fundraising, marketing, and community engagement; and our Young Professionals and Teen Associate boards, who work to raise awareness about our organization and raise funds to support the mission.

Our volunteers are indispensable: we typically need 4,000 a year to fully serve our little clients. We are super grateful to each one who donates their time.

For information on how to volunteer, visit our website - www.infantcrisis.org/volunteer or email volunteerinfo@infantcrisis.org

Andi Bledsoe: The Benefit of Volunteering is Two-Fold

Andi Bledsoe served 8 years on the board of directors at Infant Crisis Services, finishing her last term this past fiscal year. She shared this wise tip about joining a board or being involved in a nonprofit: While service to the organization is the primary piece, it is also a great opportunity to sharpen ones' career skills or to learn in a safe way entirely new concepts outside of your primary area of expertise.

For example, Bledsoe, a communications and public relations professional, chose to spend her early days with ICS serving on the finance committee. She considered it a growth opportunity. As it so happens, three years ago she received a promotion at work to support the CFO.

"Because of my time on the finance committee I could at least learn the terminology and walk into a meeting with our CFO and other finance leaders and be able to speak the language. And then turn that into something that makes sense for the rest of our 20,000-employee population."



Wish List: Our most needed items



Sippy
Cups



Wipes



Size 6
Diapers

Amazon Wish List



Mission Moment with Miki



My heart warms every time a former client's caregiver approaches me and shares how Infant Crisis Services helped them through a difficult time.

For sure, we as an organization are keyed in on addressing the immediate crises our little clients face. We also know that giving babies TODAY the essentials they need for healthy development keeps them on track to thrive in the FUTURE. That gets reinforced when at a speaking engagement or fundraising event, people tell me how they are seeing better days now.

People like Ashley Buck, who I met at Boots and Ballgowns in February. She was overjoyed to be able to attend with her company, Quintessa Marketing. Ashley came to us when she was a 16-year-old mother needing supplies for her son, who is now 21.

"I have always seen the event over the years and dreamed of going," said Ashley, now with Black Mesa Payments. "Then to be able to attend and meet Miki before I left by chance and share a little bit about me with her. Such a full circle moment that I will remember the rest of my life."

Hearing those stories of how clients and their families come out on the other end of a crisis serves as a great reminder of why we do what we do. It's why I am compelled to share them with you, so you can also be reminded of the impact of your support of our mission. It's the generosity of our community that equips us to help families hold on and persevere through tough times. Because of you, Ashley and many others go on to see brighter futures.

Special Tribute



Some people are angels on earth. **Dr. Mary Anne Nelson** was one of them. She was a family practice physician in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, for 47 years. There was nothing Mary Anne loved more than babies. Much of her life was devoted to supporting life from the very beginning. Although she and her husband, Don, did not have children, she loved everyone else's children with her whole heart. Mary Anne also led the **One Foundation**, her family's foundation, as executive director, working alongside her brother David Hull from Edmond. A recent bout with cancer took Mary Anne to her eternal home. She left behind a legacy of courage and conviction.

Before she died, Mary Anne wanted to make sure that babies in Oklahoma would receive the life-sustaining essentials they need. So, the One Foundation made a very generous gift to our Endowment Campaign. Mary Anne's legacy will live on in Oklahoma. She is helping babies even in her passing. I am so grateful for her generous heart.

Always for the babies,

Miki Farns