



Crocker Road Designer Showhouse Thank You

Chris Weske, Event Chair

In September of 2004 a board of ambitious volunteers gathered together to begin planning a Designer Showhouse that they hoped would raise community awareness and help secure the financial future of the Sacramento Crisis Nurseries. One year later the Showhouse exceeded our expectations because of the group of dedicated volunteers who put in countless hours making it a success.

Thank you to **Bobbe Brown, Paulette Trainor** and their team of 19 talented designers who transformed the home into a unique design experience.

Thank you to **Robin Gay**, the homeowner, who was a gracious hostess to the 432 community volunteers recruited and expertly scheduled by **Ruth Fields Messersmith** and **Sandy Hoover**.

The site co-ordination was flawless thanks to **Marnie Badgley** and **Carol Leury**.

Abby Hewitt and her graphic designer, **Sue Gross**, at California Connections professionally produced our program and



handled our advertising and public relations outreach.

Thank you to **Nancy Garton, Abby Hewitt** and **Rebecca Conner** for an outstanding advertising sales effort.

Donna Chipps spent countless hours perfecting our Showhouse website.

Kim Hunt, Alycia Harshfield and **Linda Witt** did a fabulous job co-coordinating ticket-sales.

Thank you to **Gloria Eller** and **Karen Field** for keeping us on budget and han-

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Our Showhouse Sponsors

We couldn't have done it without you! Successful events don't happen without the participation of considerate and generous sponsors. Our grateful thanks to the following:

Gold Sponsor:

- Cassano Kamilos Homes

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- Joanne & Frank Ramos
- Sacramento Magazine
- Lillian & Jack Sioukas
- Trainor Robertson

Event Underwriting

- Gary & Jeri Lardy

The South Nursery Gets a Facelift!

This February marks the 10th Anniversary of the opening of the South Nursery. This fall the Nursery has undertaken a makeover with the help and support of **Richard A. Wilkins Construction Inc.**, **Leadership Sacramento** headed by **Lorcan Barnes** and the **Fair Oaks Presbyterian Tugboat Mariners**.

While surveying the house for a new paint job, it was discovered that dry rot had formed in places and the garage roof was badly in need of replacement.



Volunteers worked on landscaping at the South Nursery

Wilkins Construction stepped up to donate all the materials and labor to do the jobs. They replaced all the needed siding on the house and gave the garage a new roof. **Frazer Paint** of Rancho Cordova donated the paint and the **Sacramento Leadership Team** gathered to do the painting. During the last weekend of our "facelift" the **Presbyterian group** worked on landscaping at the Nursery. They spent the day trimming and planting shrubs, cleaning up the flowerbeds and redoing

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President's Message

Sandy Hoover, President - Friends of Crisis Nurseries

A few years ago there was an advertisement for a Motel chain that ended with the comforting promise, "We'll leave the light on for you".

That promise always seems to emanate from the Nurseries. They offer a warm, safe and welcoming environment for small children while their parents are helped to confront the crisis in their lives. As we run around looking for more volunteers and more money, we sometimes forget the children and how they might react to an unfamiliar environment. They are dropped off and left by a parent(s) at a house they have never seen before, staffed with people who are totally unknown. Yet, at any one time, you can drop into the Nurseries and there are children doing what children do – eating food they enjoy, playing with favorite toys or maybe exciting new toys, making friends, caring for friends being cradled for comfort.

Will you pass this message on to people you know? Our Nurseries will only survive with the time, talent and money of an ever-growing base of caring people in our community.

There are many ways to help:

- Let us know the names and addresses of people who might like to receive our **Newsletter**.
- Investigate the possibilities of **Volunteering at the Nurseries**.
- Keep the "Wish List" accessible so that you can refer to it when shopping.
- Request a speaker from our **Speaker's Bureau** when it seems appropriate for the clubs or organizations to which you belong.
- Or schedule a **Tour of the North Nursery** for your group.
- If you are a grandmother, join the **Gifting Grandmas** who meet twice a year with an interesting speaker and an opportunity to share pictures!
- Check our **Web Site** for the opportunity to give to the Nurseries with your Credit Card on a confidential and secure site: www.crisisnurseryonline.org.
- **Planned Giving** is a big item now. We have a professional volunteer on our Friend's Board who is an expert in that field and able to answer questions without any commitment on your part.
- And finally, when you are considering your **Charitable Gifts** for the year, remember our children – how you personally can contribute to their well-being, and the potential that they represent.

We'll leave the light on for you!

Happy Holidays!



Nursery Tours

Many of you have expressed an interest in having a tour of one of the Nurseries. If you would like to arrange a tour for yourself or a group, please contact Edie Richmond at 916-243-5835.

2005-2006 Board of Directors

President - **Sandy Hoover**
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Carol Bone, B.J. Ueltzen

Sacramento Crisis Nurseries

Sue Bonk, Director of the
Sacramento Crisis Nurseries

Sacramento Crisis Nursery North

4533 Pasadena Ave.
Sacramento, CA 95821
(916) 679-3600

Sacramento Crisis Nursery South

6699 South Land Park Drive
Sacramento, CA 95831
(916) 394-2000

www.crisisnurseryonline.com



Sacramento Children's Home
SERVING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SINCE 1867

The Friends of the Crisis Nurseries is an
auxiliary of the Sacramento Children's Home.

Sacramento Children's Home

2750 Sutterville Road
Sacramento, CA 95820
(916) 452-3981 • www.kidshome.org

Volunteer Profile: Larry Thommen

Larry Thommen volunteers two mornings a week at the Sacramento Crisis Nursery South. He plays actively with toddlers and older children on the playroom floor and outside in the play yard. Larry enjoys reading with the children, giving them that special attention they need.

Playing outside games in the play yard with the children is where Larry really



Sue Bonk, Director of Sacramento Crisis Nurseries and Mr. and Mrs. Thommen

shines. Our Program Supervisor said, "Larry skips in every Tuesday and Thursday with a smile on his face and anxious to play with the children staying at the Nursery. While I have seen him holding and feeding babies, his real forte is playing with toddlers. He runs all over the yard engaging all the kids in fun and merriment. He seems to have an endless supply of energy, and the children adore him."

Larry is retired from the State of California, Employment Development Department as a research manager. He has adopted and reared several children and has worked with the Special Olympics for over a decade. Additionally, Larry has coached soccer and other sports for his children's teams. His love for children and enthusiasm for them being successful at whatever they attempt to do is very apparent to all.

Larry has been a volunteer at the Nursery for the past 19 months. This year he has been nominated as Volunteer of the Year by DOVIA (Directors of Volunteers in Agencies) for their Spirit Award. We all wish him the best of luck!

Director's Report

Sue Bonk, Director of the Sacramento Crisis Nurseries

The Sacramento Crisis Nurseries are brimming with crawling babies, busy toddlers, and active preschoolers. These children are well fed, secure in the safety net of the Crisis Nursery where they are nurtured and loved by child care staff and volunteers.

Sometimes there is a misperception that the children staying at the nurseries are troubled, unhealthy, or have severe behavior problems. The truth is these children are just like our children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews with the same needs and desires. They come in various sizes, shapes, colors and little personalities, but they want and need the same love, attention, freedom of expression and sense of security and well being.

The children at the nurseries are vulnerable because of the situation their families have found themselves in. As long as we continue to provide a safe, loving and nurturing temporary home for the most vulnerable children in our community while we help and support their family get back on their feet, we will be fulfilling our mission: to keep children out of the Children's Protective Service system. They will continue to thrive in a family where they are safe, nurtured and loved.

We rely on you, our supporters, to enable us to continue to provide our services to the children and families in our community. We need your financial and in-kind donations whether it is a check, item from the wish list or help maintaining the two homes and grounds.

Thank you for your continued support!



Showhouse continued from page 1
dling all of our finances.

Our sponsorship committee, **Maryanne Payne, Chuck Trainor** and **Abby Hewitt** worked with members of our community willing to make a financial commitment to the Nurseries.

Thank you to the remainder of the Friends' board, **Christine Mattos, Edie Richmond, Chris Bohannon, Chris Lucchetti, Kathy Palmer, Vi McNally** and **Marilyn Parker** for your continued support of the event.

Without the hard work and support of the Showhouse committee members we would not have had the opportunity to create awareness about the very powerful child abuse prevention program provided by the Sacramento Crisis Nurseries.

We have not closed the books on the Showhouse account, but at this moment we can (joyfully) report a net donation to the Crisis Nurseries of over \$155,000.

Clean-up continued from page 1



Volunteers gave the South Nursery a fresh coat of paint.

the ground under the play equipment.

Thanks for the help from all of our new friends around town. The South Nursery shines like a new penny! It is because of this support from our community that we are able to take care of children and will continue to do so for many years to come.

Health Net Golf Tournament Helps Families in Crisis

Health Net Volunteer Associates in Rancho Cordova held another successful Charity Golf Tournament at Timber Creek Golf Club in Roseville, California on Saturday, September 24, 2005. They raised a record \$55,500 to support the Regional Crisis Nurseries. All proceeds go directly to the Regional Crisis Nursery Collaboration (RCNC) for the care and protection of infants and young children.

One hundred and fifty Health Net golfers, volunteers, Crisis Nurseries supporters, and sponsors turned out to enjoy the beautiful 80-degree day. There were two hole-in-one car prizes donated by Folsom Lake Ford, Folsom Lake Toyota and a boat from Barry Paulson Marine. The golf tournament featured place prizes and individual awards for the longest drive and closest to the pin.

Sacramento Crisis Nurseries Director, Sue Bonk thanked Health Net at the awards banquet following the tournament. "Thank you to Health Net for your continued support through this wonderful event. Every year it gets bigger and better! Your efforts are truly needed and appreciated."



Foursome: Sue Bonk, SCN Director; Edie Richmond, Vi McNally, Donna Chipps

It was a heartfelt moment during the golf auction when President Jim Woys, acting as auctioneer, opened the bidding for a complete layette set for a newborn donated by the Friends of the Sacramento Crisis Nursery. Jim explained that the amount raised would go to the RCNC but the layette would go to a Hurricane Katrina family. Paul Gilbertson, Operations Office, suggested, "Rather than one person winning the layette, why not give everyone the opportunity to be a part of the giving.

Stand up if you would like to give \$100 to the cause." The excitement in the room was electric. In a matter of minutes bids on the crib brought in a generous \$3,275!

The layette will be shipped to the Sanchez family, who lived in St. Bernard Parish, LA, a New Orleans suburb



completely devastated by Hurricane Katrina. The couple had just finished decorating their nursery when the hurricane destroyed everything they owned. They are currently living in Abita Springs, Louisiana with an aunt.

"A fund-raising event takes a well-organized team of dedicated people working hard to achieve success. The committee and I feel great knowing our efforts will help support the valuable work of the Crisis Nurseries; and this year we've had an added bonus by helping a Hurricane Katrina family too," stated Golf Committee Coordinator, Bev Chinello.

Giftng Grandmas' Gathering Goes Great

On a beautiful October Saturday afternoon the **Giftng Grandmas** and prospective Giftng Grandmas gathered at Northridge Country Club to enjoy lunch and learn more about the Sacramento Crisis Nurseries. Some of the GGs wore creative nametags with photos of family, grandchildren, and pets. The GGs enjoyed meeting 'new' friendly grandmas and seeing 'old' familiar Grandmas. Several of the Grandmas in attendance pledged to become new members of the GGs by signing the pledge cards to support the Nurseries monthly (\$25), quarterly (\$75) or yearly (\$300). Prizes were awarded to Grandmas with the most grandchildren (10), the youngest grandchild (6 weeks) and the grandchild who lives the greatest distance from Sacramento (Spain).

Abigail Hewitt, past president of the Friends of the SCN, explained the purpose



Giftng Grandmas Ruth Messersmith, Carol Klein and Abby Hewitt

of the Nurseries and how it is funded. The GGs were introduced to Judy Laird, a children's books specialist and owner of Treasured Time. Judy entertained the GGs with several short readings from some of her favorite books and stressed the importance of reading to children, beginning at infancy! The GGs lined up to purchase some of these wonderful

books, just in time for the holidays. The fall gathering of Giftng Grandmas was deemed a success with nearly 50 grandmas and 'wanna be grandmas' in attendance. Plans are under way for another gathering of the GGs in the Spring. If you are interested in becoming a GG, please email: glendaahill@earthlink.net.



GG's chair, Glenda Hill and Debbie Jones

The Nurseries' Employees of the Year

Olivia Gamboa and Mai Lee were chosen by their peers as the Crisis Nurseries 2005 Employees of the Year. Olivia has been at the South Nursery since March 2003 and Mai at the North Nursery since July 2002. Olivia and Mai are dedicated staff members who take pride in their work at the Nurseries. The following are statements from their supervisors about their fine work and dedication to the Nurseries.



"Mai has been with the Crisis Nurseries since July of 2002. Not only is Mai a dedicated and hard worker, but she also takes

pride in the nursery. Making sure children are well taken care of and the nursery has everything that is needed are Mai's priorities and it shows each time she works."

Raquel Bonella, House Supervisor,
North Crisis Nursery



"Olivia Gamboa has worked for the Sacramento Crisis Nurseries since March of 2003.

In that time she has befriended every child and staff member she has come in contact with. She was chosen by her peers as the South Nursery 2005 Employee of the Year."

Kate Stoner, Program Supervisor,
South Crisis Nursery

Dawn's Story

Chizu Kaneko, Case Manager, SCN-South

When Dawn called the Crisis Nursery South, she started the conversation by saying "I don't know if you remember me..." Of course, I did remember her.

I met Dawn about a year before, when she knocked on the door at the South Nursery in tears. She had escaped from her abusive husband on that very day. She left her children with us while she found a new job and a new apartment. When she was ready she picked up her children with a smile. Within a couple of months, however, she went back to her abusive husband.

Dawn's two daughters had turned 3 and 5 years old since we saw them last and the baby she was pregnant with last year was now 2 months old. She had lost her new job and her apartment and she was about to start her life over once again.

When Dawn came to the intake this time, she appeared to be much more determined.

She said, "I'm going to make it this time."

Dawn worked hard to complete the documents for a restraining order and she went to interviews with prospective employers to replace the job that she had lost. The car that had been stolen by her husband was returned to her. Her children's stay at the Crisis Nursery was shorter this time; after they were released to her she started receiving services from Beanstalk (a subsidized childcare program) as she continued searching for employment.

While the children were with us, we were able to use donated tickets to send Dawn and her two daughters to the circus. When her children left the Nursery, we assured Dawn that we would always be there for her if she ever needed us again. Then we provided her with two bus passes, a telephone card and hugs.

A Special Supporter

When Richard Wilkins read about three year old, Christopher Thomas, who was killed by his godparents, he knew he had to do something. He called the Sacramento Bee reporter who wrote the story and asked how he could help. She suggested he call the Sacramento Crisis Nursery. Richard and his daughter-in-law, Jamie, visited the North Nursery and made a commitment to support the program.



In addition to a monthly monetary donation, Richard made it clear that whenever the Nurseries needed any type of construction work to call his company, **Richard C. Wilkins Construction**. We have called, and Mr. Wilkins and his family of subcontractors have come through for us without hesitation. Their work at the South Nursery is acknowledged in the article about the facelift in preparation for our 10th anniversary. A beautiful plaque was placed on the outside wall of the North Nursery in memory of the short tragic life of little Christopher.

It is only through the continued generosity and support of local business people like Richard Wilkins that the Sacramento Crisis Nurseries can continue providing help and support to our children and families.

**Have Your
Holiday Luncheon
at the Casa Garden
Restaurant!**

2760 Sutterville Road • Sacramento
452-2809

Thank You to Our Donors (July - October 2005)!

Individual Donors

- Roni Adam
- Edna Ahlgren
- Gary & Maralyn Aldrich
- Heather Almy
- Denise & Benjamin Anger
- Charlotte Apostolo
- Robin Appelbaum
- Ellen Arabian
- Marina Argyropoulos
- Jessica Baldwin
- Melinda Bergstrom
- Vernita Bohannon
- Sherry Bonekat-Huester
- Denise Bopp
- Beth Brink
- D. Bullen
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- Michael Carlson
- Belinda Carter
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- Carol Leury
- Jeanne Linder
- Marian Love
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- Chris Lucchetti
- Beth Lusar
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- Jennifer Marshburn
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- Melody Sipes
- Jill Marie Smith
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- Constance Storm
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Organization & Business Donors

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- Albertsons
- Alpha Technology Middle School
- Arden Christian Church
- Assistance League of Sacramento
- Best Software, Inc.
- Brownie Troop #1649
- Busy Bee Preschool Moms
- CarMax Foundation
- Celtic Cross Presbyterian Church
- Certified Clinical Research
- Child Abuse Prevention Council of Sacramento, Inc.
- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
- Commission on Teacher Credentialing
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- Davis 7 Pediatrics
- Faith Presbyterian Church Ladies Craft Group
- Faith Presbyterian Church Presbyterian Women
- Farside Chapel Christian Ministries
- Folsom City Lioness Lions
- Frazee Paint, Rancho Cordova
- Girl Scout Troop 1582
- Girl Scout Troup 1257
- Girl Scout Troup 1863
- Goore's for Babies to Teens, Inc.
- Home Depot
- iGive.com
- In Him Ministry
- Inner Wheel Club of Carmichael
- Kaiser Pediatrics, Point West
- Kappa Kappa Gamma, Sacramento Valley Alumnae Association
- Kershaw, Cutter, Ratinoff & York - Vieira Settlement Fund
- Ladies Auxiliary to Town & Country Post 2324 VFW
- Lakeside Church, Mothers of Preschoolers
- LDS Church
- Leadership Sacramento
- Lion's Education Foundation
- Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse
- Martin Luther King Children's Center
- Meeting Professionals International
- Mercy San Juan Medical Center
- Moms Club of Carmichael
- Moms Club of Laguna
- Monitor Lodge 218
- New Hope Chapter No. 117 Order of the Eastern Star
- North Sacramento Womens' Club
- Olson, Hagel & Fishburn, LLP
- Olympus Junior High School
- Omega Nu Sorority
- Project Linus
- Raley's
- Richard A. Wilkins Construction, Inc.
- SAC MPI
- Sacramento Auxiliary VFW 85
- Safeway, Inc.

Organization & Business Donors (cont.)

- SBC Employee Giving, United Way Campaign
- Senior Gleaner CutUps
- Senior Gleanors
- Sheriff's Center District 2
- Sierra Moms Club
- Sigma Alpha Sigma
- Simas Floor Company, Inc.
- Society of the Divine Savior
- Soroptimist International of Sacramento North
- Soroptimist International of Sacramento South, Inc.
- State of California, California State Prison, Sacramento
- Sutter Health, Sacramento Sierra Region
- Tate Propp Beggs & Sugimoto
- Tate, Propp, Beggs, & Sugimoto Employees
- The Order of the Eastern Star
- Tierra del Oro Girl Scouts
- Toys R Us
- Town & Country Lutheran Church
- Tug Boat Mariners, Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church
- United Methodist Women, First United Methodist Church
- United Way California Capital Region
- Veterans Affiliated Council
- W.K. Kellogg Foundation
- Washington Mutual Employee Giving Program
- Wells Fargo Foundation
- Womens Club of Campus Commons
- Women's Thursday Club
- Woodland United Way

In Memoriam

- Active 20/30 Club of Greater Sacramento #1032
 - Beau Collin Bixler
- Pat Borchardt
 - Edward Melia, Jr.
- Jean & Fred Carnie
 - David J. Elliot, III
- Norma Coyle
 - Helen Petruccio, M.D.
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 - Dean (Red) Nelson
- Norm & Karen Eilert
 - Eugenie "Jean" Puck
 - Robert Forsythe
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- Kathryn Sanders
 - Margaret Christ
- Delight Trotter
 - Dinah Osborn
- Alice Wallack
 - Benjamin (Bob) Wallack
- Ann Wingerd
 - Kimberly Bitsko

In Honor Of

- Ken Berling
 - Melissa McElheney
- Martha Bik
 - Grace Victoria Torrence
- Marian Brott
 - Glenda Hill
- Jean & Paul Brown
 - Carol Bone
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 - Carol Bone
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 - Hank Shimada
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- Rufus & Edith Smith
 - John H. Smith
- Sally Joan Whalen
 - LaGenia Whitfield

Congress in Gift Giving Mood

Congress recently passed the **Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act (KETRA)** which includes provisions that temporarily liberalize the rules for charitable deductions made between August 28, 2005 and December 31, 2005. This limited opportunity applies only to qualifying public charities and is only for cash contributions, not gifts of property such as stock or land.

Although Hurricane Katrina was the catalyst for this Act, contributions are not limited to Katrina Relief organizations. The Crisis Nurseries is an eligible beneficiary as a program of the Sacramento Children's Home.

In a nutshell, instead of limiting charitable deductions to 50% of adjusted gross income (AGI), gifts in this time period are deductible up to 100% of AGI on your Federal tax return. At this writing, the State of California does not have a provision for this temporary rule change.

For our Nursery supporters who are over age 59 ½, you can take IRA, 401(k), or retirement distributions and make a fully deductible charitable contribution! If your IRA trustee isn't local, you might want to make your distribution request in late

November or early December to allow for processing and mail time.

Moving now to a related topic, let's not forget some of the advantages to gifts of appreciated real estate, stocks, or other securities as 2005 draws to a close. A gift of appreciated property escapes capital gains to the donor, while still providing a charitable tax deduction based on the fair market value at the time of the completed gift. (The 30% AGI rule applies to these items.)

The babies send their thanks to all who have so graciously and generously shared their time and treasure this year to help support the Crisis Nurseries. All the successes couldn't be accomplished without our loyal supporters.

If you have questions about these strategies please call Nancy Garton at 916-921-2110. As in any tax planning, you should consult the appropriate tax and legal counsel.



Sacramento Crisis Nurseries Wish List

Food

- Pedialyte
- Juice
- Toddler Dinners
- Gerber Graduates
- Baking Ingredients & Mixes
- Canned Fruits, Vegetables, Soups
- Boxed Cereal
- Crackers, Fruit Snacks, Jello
- Ham

Formula

- Similac Advance W/ Iron
- Similac Neosure
- Similac Advance Low Iron
- Enfamil With Iron
- Enfacare Lipil

Gift cards

- Target
- Raley's, Bel Air
- Costco
- Winco

Children's Clothing

- Boys & Girls Clothes 4,5,6T (New)
- Boots Sizes 7-13 Youth 1-5
- Tennis Shoes - Child 3-13, Youth 1-3
- Gloves

Bathroom /

Personal Items

- Pic Combs / Lice Combs
- Hairbrushes – child size
- NIX Lice Treatment
- Baby Shampoo (Johnson & Johnson)
- Baby Wash (Johnson & Johnson)
- Children's Toothpaste

- Antibacterial Hand Soap
- A & D Ointment
- Band-Aids

Children's Items (non-toxic)

- Play Dough

Household

- Spray Bottles
- Clorox Wipes
- 33 Gallon Trash Bags
- Bleach
- Detergent
- Kleenex
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels

- PineSol
- Batteries – AA, C, D

Furniture

- High Chairs – New Graeco
- Bassinet

We are not able to accept used toys or stuffed animals. At this time we are accepting only new items. The Nurseries do not use baby powder.

Donations may be brought or sent to either nursery location.

Mon. - Fri., 8:30am-4:30pm

Join Us for Our Annual
Holiday Open House & Diaper Drive!
 Sunday December 11, 2005
 2 to 4pm at the North Nursery
 Tour the Nursery, meet the Staff and enjoy some Holiday Cheer.
 Bring disposable diapers or items from the Wish List.



**FRIENDS OF
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CRISIS NURSERIES**

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