

Baby Moses Dallas Progress Report July 2010

This report details activities of Baby Moses Dallas from our formation as a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization in 2004 to July 2010. These activities reflect our efforts to meet stated goals for educating the Dallas area public about the Texas Baby Moses/Safe Haven Law. This vital legislation provides a responsible alternative to mothers who might otherwise harm or murder an infant. We wish to thank our many supporters for their tax-deductible contributions and the volunteers who have helped to reach the following goals and support our continued efforts.

Goal 1: Place Safe Baby Site signs at every designated site in Dallas County. (Fire stations and hospitals, as designated by law.) Delivered signs to all Dallas County 24/7 fire departments and major hospital systems of Dallas County plus some fire departments/hospitals in neighboring counties. A number of the presentations received coverage by the local media. Reports and pictures appeared in local newspapers and on local television news to publicize the law to the community. We delivered a total of 226 signs and now direct sign requests to Rep. Geanie Morrison’s offices. (See back page for her contact information.) As new stations and hospitals are built and opened, we work with them to secure appropriate signage.

Here is a collage of some of the Safe Baby Site sign presentations:



Goal 2. Educate personnel in “safe sites” about how to receive an abandoned baby and provide them with information. ~~and basic baby supplies.~~ Slideshow CDs have been given to numerous fire departments and hospitals to use in staff development in-services. We have determined that fire departments transport babies quickly, so will not need baby supplies; and hospitals already have appropriate supplies available. We amended the goal to reflect this change and to stress our education efforts. Presentations and/or training sessions have also been made at a number of fire stations and hospitals including:

- Balch Springs Fire Rescue
- DeSoto Fire Department
- Collin County Firefighters Quarterly meeting
- Wylie Fire Department
- Waxahachie—we presented information for a group to start a Baby Moses Ellis County.
- Dallas County Emergency Nurse Association meetings.
- Presented Baby Moses programs for CEU requirements to groups at Lewisville Medical Center and RHD Memorial Medical Center.
- Presented CEU programs for NP Updates at Parkland Memorial Hospital, Parkland Clinic Managers.
- Shared information with various individual hospital program coordinators and fire department coordinators: Lake Pointe Medical Center, Hillsboro Fire Department, Lewisville Fire Department, Wylie Fire Department, etc.
- In addition, shared our Baby Moses Dallas materials and information about obtaining Safe Baby Site signs with hospitals and fire departments from across the state, including: Austin, San Antonio, Galveston, Round Rock, Commerce, LaGrange, Harlingen, El Paso, Lubbock, McAllen, Houston, etc.

Goal 3. Inform the public, particularly young women, about the law through educational material in schools.

- Continued our partnership with the Dallas County Emergency Nurses Association (DCENA) to take Baby Moses materials into high schools in the Dallas ISD and Garland ISD. We continue to be in discussions with other districts and schools about using our materials.
- In addition to our brochure, we created/distributed a colorful four-page “Baby Moses Worksheet” in English and Spanish versions, a full-color 18” x 24” poster (printed in both Spanish and English) that can be displayed in schools and other locales.
- Provided information to students at various colleges and schools for class projects (both undergraduate and graduate level) or for use in clinics, including: University of Texas at Arlington, Texas Wesleyan College, Texas A& M, Texas Tech University, Navarro County Community College, Mountain View Community College. (One graduate theological student took our materials to a conference in Rome, Italy, for use in a presentation.)
- Sponsored a booth and distributed information at Oak Cliff Earth Day, 2010. Made new contacts with fire department and police personnel in attendance.
- Participated in the West Dallas Community Fair, sponsored by the Dallas Police Department; distributed information.
- Provided materials for the Wylie Fire Department, Port Arthur EMS, and Texoma Medical Center to distribute in public forums.



Display at the 2010 Mountain View College Employees Wellness Fair.

Goal 4 & 5: Print brochures (in English and Spanish) aimed at young women for distribution to schools, libraries, recreation centers, clinics and other public places—informing the public of the law and helping them locate Safe Baby Sites.

- 20,000 copies of a 3 3/4 inch by 8 1/2 inch “Don’t Throw Away Your Baby” brochure (aimed at mothers in crisis and printed in Spanish and English) have been printed and are being distributed. Some hospitals provide a copy to each new mother when discharged, and copies have been placed in plastic brochure holders at sites including RHD Memorial Hospital, Presbyterian Hospital, Medical Center of Plano, Renaissance Hospitals, etc.
- DCENA members placed the brochures in Emergency Department waiting rooms.
- DCENA officer Mr. Loren D. Larkin took packets of our material to a state meeting of ENA committee chairs in Houston.
- Sue Vanek, Parkland Regional Advisory Council (RAC--trauma information and training) Coordinator, took 100 packets of our information to a North Texas RAC meeting; then they were taken to a Trauma Forum in Austin, TX for distribution.
- In addition to the brochures we have printed, some communities have printed their own copies (Plano, for example) and are distributing them through local channels.
- Shared materials we’ve developed (brochures, slideshow, PSA, Medical Disclosure forms, press packet) with interested parties inside Dallas County and outside Dallas County: Denton, Nacogdoches, San Antonio, Hamlin, San Marcos, Fort Worth, Brenham, Port Arthur, McAllen, Harlingen, San Antonio, El Paso, Lubbock, Hillsboro, Houston, Terrell, and others.

- Shared materials and information with the Children's Advocacy Center of Smith County in preparing that group to acquire and place signs in Smith County fire departments and hospitals. They duplicated/modified some of our materials to distribute to the public and created a public relations awareness campaign about the availability of this law.
- Shared information with the Johnson County Children's Advocacy Center for their preparation of materials.
- Shared materials with the HELP Center, an umbrella organization for several children's agencies serving Henderson County, after we provided Safe Baby Site signs to the East Texas Medical Center in Athens as well as the Athens Fire Department.
- Shared posters with all Dallas public libraries as well as all recreation centers in the Dallas Parks & Recreation Department with the permission of City Manager Mary Suhm.

Goal 6: Create and distribute Public Service Announcements (PSAs) to local radio and television stations (in English and Spanish.)

- The television PSA (both Spanish and English versions are available in DVD or BETA format) has been completed and distributed to major Dallas area television stations. These stations air PSA as time allows and have used our PSA as background footage for news reports on Baby Moses incidents.
- Copies of our PSA have been shared with groups across Texas and placed on *youtube* and *facebook* by several individuals and groups.
- The radio version of our PSA has been recorded and is currently being edited.
- Participated in Radio Ascertainment quarterly meeting and shared information about BMD and the Texas Safe Haven/Baby Moses Law to inform this group of our need to have our PSA receive airtime.
- Discussed with National Cinemedia a proposal to show our PSA and make brochures available in the theater lobbies in Dallas County movie theaters. (*There is no funding for this project.*)

Goal 7: Publicize the Baby Moses Law in other forums, such as at community events, schools, churches, service organization meetings, and other forums.

- Presented program to the local CAPCO (Child Abuse Prevention Coalition)—distributed materials to them to take to their local organizations. Arranged several speaking engagements as a direct result.
- BMD board members, including Alan Elliott, Patsy Summey, Vivian Skinner and Ed Spencer have appeared on local television and radio news programs to explain and publicize the Baby Moses Law.
- Project Coordinator Patsy Summey and Professor Susan Ayres, Texas Wesleyan School of Law, were part of a radio call-in talk show on KVRK, Christian Rock 89.7, Power FM.
- Participated in a major press conference/sign presentation at Children's Medical Center.
- Recruited two Spanish-speaking volunteers to be available for interviews about Baby Moses Dallas for Spanish-language radio and television stations.
- Distributed materials at Mountain View College Wellness Fair, 2008, 2009, and 2010.

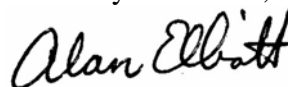
- Distributed materials at the world premiere of the movie *Angels Love Donuts* at the historic Texas Theatre in Dallas.
- Used the video projector we purchased for BMD to make presentations and in-services, such as the Trinity Basin Rotary Club and the “Live Longer and Like It” group at Cockrell Hill Baptist Church, Lewisville Medical Center, CAPCO, IBM Retirees Club, Henderson County Retired School Personnel, and others.
- Shared our materials with Rotary Club of Washington County (Brenham) and the Rotary Club of Port Arthur for them to duplicate and distribute as part of a Rotary state goal to prevent early deaths in children.
- Presented a program for the Silver Feathers at Dallas Indian United Methodist Church.
- Presented a program for the General Federation of Women’s Clubs local chapter, Les Causeuses of Hillsboro.
- Our web site www.babymosesdallas.org receives visits from Internet users not only from Texas, but also from all over the United States. Most notably, we’ve received contacts from the Oprah Winfrey Show, Nancy Grace (CNN), and the Montell Williams Show. The latter asked for and received a copy of our Public Service Announcement (PSA) for his nationally syndicated-television show.
- Published a 700-word opinion column by Patsy Summey in *the Dallas Morning News* (March 20, 2008).
- BMD officers were interviewed for an article about Baby Moses Dallas in *SouthwestNow* Magazine (July 2008).
- Contributed information for article in *Children’s Voice* national magazine, Child Welfare League of U.S. (March 2009).
- *The William & Mary Journal of Women and the Law* (Volume 15, Issue 2, Winter 2009) published an abstract by Susan Ayres, Professor of Law at Texas Wesleyan School of Law, Fort Worth, for which we supplied some information and photographs.

Goal 8: Create or secure a hot line for mothers in crisis.

- Currently, we do not have enough funds to run an independent 24-hour hot line.
- Other established emergency hot lines are being researched to see if we can partner with them to include Baby Moses information at their site.

As of July 2010, Baby Moses Dallas has received tax-deductible contributions from over **40** individuals and organizations including the MOMS Club of Coppell - North Texas, and a generous grant from the Hillcrest Foundation, founded by Mrs. W. W. Caruth, Sr. The board and volunteers of Baby Moses Dallas continue to be committed to, first and foremost, saving babies’ lives by educating the public about the Texas Baby Moses Law.

Sincerely submitted,



Alan C. Elliott
Executive Director

And Baby Moses Dallas Board members:

Vivian Skinner
Development Director

Ed Spencer
Media Director

Michael Brooks
Treasurer

Patsy Summey
Project Coordinator

E'Lynne Elliott
Secretary

Baby Moses Dallas, P.O. box 1169, Cedar Hill, TX 75106, 214-729-1574, Fax: 972-291-3400

For Additional Safe Baby Site Signs:

Contact Texas State Rep. Geanie Morrison's office in Austin (at the state capitol) or in Victoria (her home district) at the following numbers. (Usually her Office Manager Lisa Peterson handles these requests.)

In Austin,
Call 512-463-0456 or
Fax 512-476-3933 or
email her at geanie.morrison@house.state.tx.us
Mail to P. O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78768-2910

In Victoria,
Call 361-572-0196 or
Fax 361-576-0747 or
Mail to P. O. Box 4642, Victoria, TX 77903