



Out of Difficulties Grow Miracles

By Kim Mervine

Kim Amato, Founder of Baby's Bounty, is just that to many new Moms and babies throughout the Vegas Valley....a miracle!

In July of 2008, Kim recognized the need in our community to provide Moms and babies at risk with the essential clothing and gear to ensure that they would thrive in the most crucial months of their new lives. And so, Baby's Bounty was "born."

Through collaboration with social service agencies, hospitals, homeless shelters, safe havens and family courts, new mothers at risk are identified by their caseworkers who carefully screen them to determine what items are needed. Baby's Bounty typically gives each new mom a diaper bag filled with a collection of new and gently used infant clothing, blankets, bottles, hats and bibs, and even a toy. Depending on the need, a client can receive an infant stroller, bassinet or porta crib, swing or bouncer and a bathtub filled with toiletries. Volunteers sort donated clothing and fill the diaper bags. Caseworkers are contacted when the requested items are ready and they deliver everything to the new Mom.

Baby's Bounty works with over fifty referring agencies including Department of Family and Child Protective Services, Department of Welfare and Supportive Services, Clark County School District, Nurse Family Partnership, Sunrise WIC Foundation, Safe Nest, Baby First at HELP of Southern Nevada and area hospitals.

"Since starting Baby's Bounty, we have helped over 500 families with the items they needed most to ensure their babies could thrive", says Kim. "The caseworkers I deal with on a daily basis share with me the heart wrenching stories of these moms and the difficulties they have encountered. By providing them with a safe place for their baby to sleep and to play, it helps relieve some of the stress and despair they are experiencing and enables them to take better care of their new babies."

Baby's Bounty is always in need of donations for items such as newborn clothing, diaper bags, new or gently used infant strollers, bouncers, swings, bassinets and portacribs, as well as financial donations. For more information, visit the website at www.babysbounty.org or call 485-BABY (2229). Remember, these items can be gently used, so if you have baby gear that you no longer need and would like to donate, Baby's Bounty would love to hear from you!

As Eda J. Leshan once said, "A new baby is like the beginning of all things—wonder, hope, a dream of possibilities." Through Baby's Bounty, they are providing that and more to many babies throughout the Vegas Valley.