

CELEBRATING PARISH SUCCESSES



Diaper drives



PREPARES Bags



Community Baby
Showers



CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICES
OF WESTERN WASHINGTON

PREPARES is a program of
Catholic Community Services
of Western Washington

Check out our website at
www.preparesforlife.org



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A DOZEN WAYS

To get
involved in

PREPARES
Pregnancy & Parenting Support

PREPARES is a statewide initiative of the Catholic Bishops of Washington State. PREPARES provides pregnancy and parenting support services from pregnancy to the child's fifth birthday and is open to all.

1 ESTABLISH YOUR PREPARES TEAM

The heart of a Parish PREPARES ministry is its team of passionate volunteers led by a parish coordinator. All volunteers who will be working directly with families will receive training and ongoing support from the PREPARES staff. These volunteers discover the enrichment of their faith that comes from personal encounters with the vulnerable.

2 DONATION CRIB

The parish community places the Donation Crib in their vestibule for a month time. The parishioners fill the crib with baby related items such as diapers, clothing, blankets, and formula, anything that could be supportive to parents in their community. They can either choose to keep the items at their parish and distribute them or contact the area coordinator to find a program working with parents in their community.

3 CLOTHING CLOSET

Parishes provide a clothing and or/diaper closet that families can access at the parish. These closets provide much needed outreach and allow for relationships to develop within the community.

4 PREPARES BAGS

PREPARES Bags are filled with essential items for mothers and children from conception up to a child's 5th birthday. Parishes can collect items to fill the bags for families in need. These bags would then be distributed in the community by PREPARES volunteers.

5 BABY SHOWER

Hold a Baby Shower which celebrates life and brings volunteers together to donate items for families. By inviting pregnant and parenting moms these showers show the community's care for them and provide them with a few needed supplies such as layette baskets. Parishes may want to make these annual events.

6 FAMILY COMPANION & COMPANION TEAMS

Family Companions are volunteers who walk the journey with a parent in their community providing practical and emotional support and the ministry of presence to a family. Sometimes Companions partner with one another to form a team of 2 or 3.

7 PARENT SUPPORT

Start a parent support network. Parishes, through the efforts of their volunteers, can coordinate meals or times for parents to come together and establish community.

8 FATHERHOOD GROUP

Fathers in a parish can start a Fatherhood support group that meets and invites Fathers in the community to come for an evening of discussion and support.

9 PLAY WITH LOVE

Trained volunteers facilitate a play and learn group for parents and their children, ages birth to 5 years. These groups get together on a regular basis to focus on fun activities with toddlers and parenting support.

10 FUNDRAISING

Lead or support fundraising activities. Funds raised can support efforts at their parish or go directly to the PREPARES WW Fund which supports PREPARES throughout the Archdiocese. Events may include breakfasts or raffles.

11 PRAY FOR PREPARES

Organize a regular rosary, invite a parish group to pray for the ministry of PREPARES, or use one of our available prayer resources!

12 PREPARES EN ESPAÑOL

Implement "A Dozen Ways"