



Basically News

Summer 2010

Brayden's Story



Brayden is sporting a baby blue summer outfit that fits him perfectly.

Brayden was welcomed into the world on May 10, 2010 by his parents Tyler and Amanda. Basically Babies received a request for a layette from one of the nurses in the social work department at the Royal Alexandra Hospital. Tyler, Amanda, and Brayden agreed to meet with Executive Director, Theresa Jantzen Reed to share about their situation and express their gratitude for our 'layette' support.

Tyler and Amanda found themselves young, pregnant, with minimal family support, and unsteady employment. Their situation made the birth of Brayden a stressful time.

Exactly one week from Brayden's arrival, a chocolate brown and baby blue-colored layette was delivered to them by their nurse at the Royal Alex. Amanda commented that the only baby items they had prior to the layette were old, stained, hand-me-downs. Amanda couldn't believe that some of the items were used baby clothes, "I thought they all were brand-new! It's really nice to get new stuff."

Tyler also shared, "the basket came in layers and I like how it was packaged. It made me feel like I was opening a gift."

Amanda expressed that her dream is to finish her high school diploma and become a music teacher, once the baby gets a little older.

Basically Babies is proud to support Tyler and Amanda and wish them all the best as they raise their beautiful son.



New dad, Tyler, sharing a special moment with Brayden

Volunteer Events

- Office Closed
July 1-16
- Work Night
Tues, July 27, 6 PM
- Work Night
Tues, Aug 24, 6 PM
- Volunteer Training
Tues, Sep 14, 7 PM
- Work Night
Tues, Sep 23, 6 PM

RSVP to confirm attendance

Garage Sale Success

Thank you to all who supported the 2010 Basically Babies Charity Garage Sale on May 29th and 30th. Over the course of the weekend, there were more than 80 volunteers who participated in the event and countless bargain shoppers from the community. The event truly sold anything and everything imaginable!

Despite the wintry weather conditions, the sale was a tremendous success and raised a record \$15,574.45. The funds raised will go directly to the Basically Babies layette program, which supports families with newborns who are living in extreme need through the gift of a first year infant wardrobe.



Did you know?

In order to commemorate the start of the World Cup, a South African couple named their daughter 'FIFA'. She is named after the world football organization because she was born 10 minutes after the first World Cup game in Africa. 'FIFA Ntshinga' was born at Rahima Moosa Hospital in Johannesburg. Another couple named their twins while the opening match between South Africa and Mexico was on. Their lucky twins were named Bafana (the name of South African's National Football team) and Mexico. The father doesn't know much about the game but stated the names were his commitment to become a bigger soccer fan. I hope the twins share his passion!



Volunteer Q & A

Executive Director, Theresa Jantzen Reed, recently caught up with Lori Mathieu, a valuable new member of the "Wash and Iron" team. The two discussed how Lori got connected with Basically Babies, her favorite layette colors, and the wonderful city of Edmonton.

BB: Why do you volunteer at Basically Babies?

LM: I checked the Basically Babies website and thought that it would be a good fit. It would allow me to teach Lucie how to give back to the community and doing the baskets at home allowed me flexibility. With a young child, it's nice to have the flexibility.

BB: As a member of the wash and iron team, what is the most 'unique' item that you've found in a layette?

LM: I think that I am most

astonished by the variety of items that are in the baskets: blankets, toys, swimwear, snowsuits. The quality is amazing as well.

BB: Do you ever get your 10-month-old daughter's clothing mixed up with our baby clothing?

LM: (Laughing) Luckily, I most often wash boys clothes, so it's easy to keep the clothes separate. I haven't yet gotten them mixed up!

BB: What is your favorite layette color scheme?

LM: All of the color schemes have been beautiful but there was one that was orange, brown and green. Those are actually Lucie's baby room colors, so I was really partial to that one.

BB: You moved here from San Francisco. What is your favorite

thing about living in Edmonton?

LM: I am amazed at the volunteerism here in Edmonton. It's been a delight to make new friends doing volunteer work. I have worked with teens, seniors, males and females at many different types of events.



Take Me Out to the Ball Game

Are you energetic? Do you love baseball? Do you simply enjoy a summer night at the ballpark? Basically Babies is partnering with the Edmonton Oilers Community Foundation to run 50/50 draws at the following three Edmonton Capitals Baseball Games at TELUS Field.

Wednesday, July 21 @ 5:30

Wednesday, July 28 @ 5:30

Thursday, July 29 @ 5:30



If you are interested in participating, please call the office at 780.989.0180.

This event is great publicity for Basically Babies so spread the word! For Capitals ticket and schedule information, visit

<http://www.capsbaseball.ca/web/guest>

Basically Babies Receives Stronger Together Funding

Basically Babies has recently been awarded \$9,700 by a new funding group called Stronger Together 2010. Stronger Together 2010 is a cooperative granting initiative of eight Canadian foundations and individuals, working together to strengthen and help grow Canadian faith-based charities.

www.strongertogether2010.ca

Stronger Together Project Director, Brent Fearon says,

“Stronger Together 2010 is pleased to award a grant of \$9,700 to Basically Babies to increase the capacity of its website to better meet the current and future needs of this Edmonton-based charity. In their application, and during our research, we found Basically Babies to be an extremely well run organization that has a great potential for growth. With strong leadership in place, and a good number of volunteers serving alongside, they are providing a tangible service to new-mothers and families with tangible needs. Through this grant, we are expressing our confidence in both the mission of Basically Babies and the effectiveness of their work. We hope that others, too, will see the tremendous gift that they are to so many in greater Edmonton.”



You can expect a newly designed and enhanced website in the coming months.

Volunteer Position Needed

Baby Sale Coordinator

Did you know that each layette contains 14 sleepers and 9 baby undershirts? This question makes a person wonder where we get the bulk of our baby clothing supplies.

The majority of the baby clothing comes from individual families who donate their baby clothing as their children grow. This usually happens through word of mouth and publicity that the charity receives.

Another key source of baby clothing comes from our presence at local baby sales. Through the fall and spring months, Basically Babies has volunteers drop by the majority of sales in Edmonton and surrounding area to hand out information cards and collect any unsold, donated items from vendors. As the number of baby sales grows, we are looking for a dedicated volunteer to liaise with the local baby sales and coordinate pick-up efforts.

If you are interested in this position please contact Theresa Jantzen Reed at 780.989.0180