

# Twice As Nice Mother & Child NEWSLETTER



Twice As Nice Mother & Child

OCTOBER 2014

## Dear Friends,

Fall has officially arrived! The leaves are falling from the trees like rain. The sights, sounds and smells of the season are all around us. The change in temperature reminds us to start our preparations for winter weather—and to begin thinking about the upcoming holidays. After all, there are just 5 weeks until Thanksgiving and 9 weeks until Christmas! And then, before we know it, another year will be behind us.

This time of the year is traditionally a time of thanksgiving, a time to reflect on the many blessings that God has bestowed on us. We have been incredibly blessed to take on several new partners within the past eight months. At this time last year, we had the pleasure of working with six fantastic organizations in Lake County. Now, nearly one year later, I am proud to say that we have over twenty-five partners! Through our relationships with social service and non-profit organizations in Illinois, we have been able to extend our reach to provide even more families with the help that they need to care for their children safely—and with dignity. I am so pleased—and humbled—with how far this organization has come, and I look forward to establishing many more amazing partnerships in the future. Together, we can better serve those in need in our communities.

In addition to being a time of thanksgiving, this time of the year is also incredibly busy for most people. It can be so hectic that we can easily lose sight of what matters—what is most important. In today's day and age, society tells us that we can "do it all" and "have it all". We allow ourselves to get caught up in our daily task lists and push hard to accomplish a staggering amount of things in a very short period of time. Each and every day becomes

a race that we must win. We simply cannot bear the thought of someone believing that we aren't nearly *perfect*—that we aren't capable of balancing a multitude of things with a smile on our face—that we don't "do it all" and "have it all". But are those things realistic or are we just setting ourselves up for failure when we realize that we cannot do or have it all? Do we determine or measure our self-worth by those things? Is perfection or the idea of it even attainable?

It can be difficult to admit that we are not perfect, no matter how hard we may try to be. If we are truly honest with ourselves, we know that we are all very far from it. We all have weaknesses that we hope others will never see. We are taught from an early age to "hide" the things that we do not like about ourselves. Perfection is what we are drawn to—and often what we seek—especially as women and mothers. For many of us, our self-worth hinges on being perfect in every way. Yet the truth is that we will not find our self-worth, dignity or purpose in professional accomplishments, personal achievements, domestic duties, parental perfection, social status or the number of friends that we have on Facebook. Our most important role and responsibility as women is caring for children. God blessed us with such an amazing gift—the opportunity to bring new life into this world. God places these tiny human beings in our wombs and trusts us to care for and love them unconditionally. And because God considers us worthy of such a huge undertaking, we tend to put even more pressure on ourselves to be perfect. It's a never-ending cycle that only leads to despair and disappointment when we realize that sometimes we cannot live up to such high expectations. We beat ourselves

## SPECIAL THANKS!

### Ad-Lib Restaurant

Partnered with us for a "dine and donate" event on September 13th

### Cacao Sweets & Treats

Partnered with us for a "baby shower" on September 27th

## CRITICAL ITEMS NEEDED

### GENTLY USED OR NEW

Car Seats  
Strollers  
Pack 'n Plays  
Fall Boys & Girls Clothing  
(Newborn to 5T)  
Fall Maternity Clothing (All Sizes)

## TESTIMONIAL

"Words cannot express the immense gratitude I have to you for your kind and caring gestures during the difficult time in my life. You have restored my faith in the human race with your selfless acts and giving heart. Since your assistance, my children and I are in a better place mentally and physically. They absolutely adore the bedding and clothes—and it has minimized my financial burden greatly. I still have not had to purchase diapers. Once again, thank you from the bottom of my heart."

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up about the most trivial things and lose sight of what really matters in our lives. None of us can have it all—and no matter what we tell ourselves or what society tries to tell us, none of us can do it all. We have to make choices as well as concessions every single day. We have to pick and choose the things that we do in the time that we have to do them, knowing that we just won't get to everything. There will be things that will be left undone and that's okay—no matter what anyone else thinks. There is only so much time in the day and as long as you make the most of it, consider that a success. The challenge for all of us is find a balance between the Hollywood definition of perfection and REAL LIFE.

As we prepare to move into the season of giving, perhaps we need to stop focusing on perfection and start focusing on being the best

version of ourselves. Maybe we should spend more time thinking about the things we do right and less time thinking about what we do wrong. We need to find comfort in knowing that none of us can do it all, but we can make sure that we are doing *enough*. We may not be able to have it all, but we can have what truly matters in life. We may not be perfect, but that doesn't mean that we can't be *great*. Stop chasing perfection and start making positive changes to lead a happier life. Worry less about yourself and care more about others. Forget about what you want and think about what you can offer to those in need. Instead of making excuses, start making a difference.

Blessings,

Ann Marie Mathis  
Executive Director

## NEWS & NOTEWORTHY

### Recycling Initiative

Did you know that the average person throws away 70 pounds of clothing each year? 85% of textiles end up in the landfill—and only 15% of all textiles get donated or recycled. Twice As Nice Mother & Child relies on clothing donations to serve families in need. While most of the clothing that we receive is in good condition, there are times when we are unable to use certain items due to stains, holes or damage. And if we are unable to use those items, chances are that other organizations will not be able to use them either. Instead of discarding the items that we cannot use, we have partnered with Chicago Textile Recycling to establish a recycling program. Chicago Textile Recycling provides textile recycling outlets and fundraising opportunities for area organizations, businesses and municipalities. By collecting used clothing, shoes and household items for reuse and recycling, they are able to divert over 2.5 million pounds of waste from area landfills annually. As the dedicated recycling division, Chicago Textile Recycling works symbiotically with their parent company, Wipeco, Inc., to provide a closed-loop recycling solution for the local Chicagoland area.

Chicago Textile Recycling sends a driver to our warehouse every week to pick-up the items that we are unable to use and sells them to recyclers by the pound. Chicago Textile Recycling pays for all of the goods collected based on the weight and then issues a check to our organization once a month.

What happens to the clothing?

- 45% is used as second-hand clothing
- 30% is recycled into wiping cloths
- 20% is recycled for fiber
- 5% is unusable



We are proud to be a part of this wonderful program!

## FIRST AMERICAN BANK WINTER COAT DRIVE



We are partnering with First American Bank for a winter coat drive!

**Date:** October 25th, 2014  
**Time:** 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
**Location:** 1906 East Grand Ave  
Lindenhurst, IL 60046

First American Bank will be accepting new or gently used coats, hats, gloves and mittens for women and children during this event. Bring your items to the bank and drop them into the donation boxes in the lobby! All donations are tax deductible. With your help, we can provide warmth and comfort to families in our community this winter.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are in need of volunteers to help with sorting and organizing item donations. Ideal candidates will be available 1-2 weekdays for four hours per day (10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.). High school students looking to earn service hours in the evenings or on weekends are also welcome.

If you are interested in donating some of your time to help our growing organization, please contact us via phone (1-866-546-0693) or email ([info@twiceasnicemc.org](mailto:info@twiceasnicemc.org)).

# NEWS & NOTEWORTHY

## GuideStar Participation

We are pleased to announce that we are now a Bronze Participant on GuideStar, which is a 501(c)(3) public charity that collects, organizes and presents information about every IRS-registered non-profit organization. GuideStar provides as much information as they can about each non-profit's mission, legitimacy, impact, reputation, finances, programs, transparency, governance and much more. Non-profit organizations are encouraged to not only register with GuideStar, but to share information about their organizations openly and completely. GuideStar combines the information that the non-profit organizations supply with data from several other sources. For that reason, many potential donors often visit [www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org) when making decisions about charitable giving. Our listing on GuideStar is critical to us being recognized as a legitimate charitable organization—and people can feel confident about making donations to us.



## Car Seat Safety / Recycling Program Available in Lake County

As you know, there are safety regulations for car seats. In most cases, car seats are only considered to be "safe" for a specific period of time—and that timeframe is 6 years from the manufacture date. Car seats include a label with the model number, serial number and the manufacture date. Users should pay close attention to the manufacture dates of any car seats that they own. As the seat ages, the foam inside the seat begins to deteriorate and break down—and that creates a safety issue. In addition, seats are commonly used beyond their service life or purchased second-hand without the owner knowing the history of the seat (i.e., whether it was involved in a crash). Be sure to take some time to check your car seats and make sure that they are still safe for your children.

If you find that you have car seats that are unsafe, you should stop using them immediately. Instead of throwing them in the garbage, consider RECYCLING them. If you live in Lake County, Illinois, the Gurnee Police Department offers a car seat recycling program. They will accept outdated/unusable car seats and bases. They dismantle the seats and send the plastic to a company that melts it down and recycles it.

Anyone interested in recycling a car seat can drop it off at the Gurnee Police Department located at 100 O'Plaine Road, Gurnee, IL, 60031, or call the police department directly at 847-599-7000.

## Little Lake County Charity Media Partnership

Little Lake County is a website by parents, for parents, about everything Lake County (Illinois). They maintain a calendar of local events and do reviews on the places that they have been. Their goal is to share their honest take on the places they visit with their kids as well as providing Lake County's parents with a one-stop resource for what to do and where to do it.

Every quarter, the Little Lake County Editorial Board votes to adopt one local charity as their media partner for one quarter. Charities must be based in Lake County and have a focus on women, children and/or families. We are pleased to announce that Little Lake County has selected Twice As Nice Mother & Child as their partner for October, November and December! Little Lake County is the go-to online resource for families in Lake County, averaging almost 30,000 page views per month with over 7,000 unique visitors and a weekly Facebook reach of over 10,000. This partnership will provide our organization with exposure to a significant number of Lake County families, which will increase awareness about our charitable work as well as donations so that we can better serve those in need.

We are looking forward to working with Little Lake County!