

The essentials for newborn babies—clothes, diapers, soaps, lotions and more—are loaded into vans and delivered to expectant mothers during the annual Bundles for Babies Community Shower spearheaded by HSHS St. Elizabeth's Hospital.

Since 2016, hundreds of community members have responded to the hospital's call for baby items for the Pregnancy Care Center (PCC) located on the hospital's Belleville campus. Due to COVID-19, the hospital replaced the in-person event with a gift card drive this year to benefit PCC clients.

St. Elizabeth's has a long-standing relationship with the center, which is run by volunteers and offers education and information to help women make the best decisions for themselves and their unborn child.

Services include:

- Pregnancy tests;
- Referrals for medical care;
- Information on available resources;
- Safe sleep classes to address infant mortality; and
- Baby clothes and supplies for women with financial need.

Community members who've attended the event also have toured the hospital's maternity unit, the Women and Infants Center, and met the healthcare professionals who work there. At the same time, PCC volunteers have provided education about pregnancy and prenatal child development.

"We cannot thank St. Elizabeth's enough for their years of continued support," said a centers volunteer. "They not only provide space for us to care for our clients, they also provide the tools we need to help others."

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