

Blankets of Love

“A Child’s Hunger”



As told by Julia Means, Columbia St. Mary’s Parish Nurse

I was out recruiting for Blanket of Love, a prenatal and parenting education program for young women, at the near by Wal-Mart. I met a very pregnant young woman who was struggling to pay her bill. I approached her and invited her to join us at Blanket of Love where we create a community of support through the combination of a welcoming meal eaten together, an educational program presentation and time for sharing with staff and other members of the group. Following the meal, the group breaks out into prenatal education or parenting education groups.

The night of her first class she utilized our van service. To my surprise, this woman had two other children, boys, ages 5 and 2. As children are encouraged to come to the meetings, her children’s eyes got so big when they saw the food prepared for the welcoming meal. They all ate very well! She completed her Infant Care Plan, an assessment of her current situation and the amount of support she is receiving. She stated she had strong support from her family; however, a few weeks later, when she missed a class, we called her and her phone had been disconnected. The following Tuesday she came to class very late saying she had walked over 7 miles from her home to the church. She stated she had lost our numbers when her phone was disconnected. She explained how her food stamps had been decreased and she was out of food. She and her children were without food and were extremely hungry. The children began crying for food. We gathered food from the church kitchen to satisfy their hunger that night and also gathered money for her to buy food. After this, I could see there was a disconnect between the support she thought she was receiving from family and the support she actually had. As I drove her home, I talked to her and encouraged her to come to the local food pantry when she was out of food stamps so she and her children would not have to be in this situation again.

The Blanket of Love Program meets weekly from 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m. each Tuesday night.
Ebenezer Church of God in Christ,
3132 N. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive
For more information please contact Julia Means RN, Cell: (414) 793-0328