

BABY BAGS



What's inside?

At present, each *Baby Bag* contains the following:

A hand-crafted baby blanket

A package of size 1 Luvs diapers and a package of Parent's Choice Fragrance Free baby wipes

6 various (new) back issues of *Above Rubies* magazine

A special edition hardcover copy of the book *Let the Little Children Come to Me*

A card encouraging mother to embrace the calling to love and train her children along with a reminder that mother, baby, and family members will be kept in prayer.

A note acknowledging that each *Baby Bag's* contents are donated by different families and individuals within the Body of Christ and giving the mother opportunity to share a specific prayer request with the prayer team.

What can I do to help?

- *If you knit, crochet, or sew*, you are invited to make a baby blanket. Please make the blankets between 32 and 36 inches wide and between 42 and 46 inches long (measurement includes fringe, if one is included). Please refrain from attaching buttons or other small pieces that could pose a choking hazard. Additionally, if sewing, please make sure to have removed all pins from the final project and to have chosen cloth motifs carefully (avoiding the peace symbol, yin-yang, immodest/dubious/violent characters, etc.) If you are purchasing a hand-crafted baby blanket at a craft fair to donate to *Baby Bags*, please make sure it meets the guidelines just given.
- *If you would like to donate a store-bought physical item*, we would be grateful for any of the following:
 - Luvs diapers, size 1, 48 count package or Parent's Choice fragrance-free baby wipes (soft pack) 100 count
 - Above Rubies* back issues (new copies) – especially helpful in sets of six varied issues. While the magazine cost shows as \$0, there will be a shipping charge added to your cart for each copy requested. If desired, copies can be shipped directly to the *Baby Bags* project at the address given on the request form.
(<http://aboverubiesbookstore.mybigcommerce.com/magazine-back-issues/>)
 - 24" x 30" clear basket bags (These come in two-packs and are available at Dollar Tree.)
 - wide fabric ribbon (5/8" or 3/4") in blue, pink, and gender-neutral colors
 - a copy or copies of *Let the Little Children Come to Me*
(available at <http://store.roots-by-the-river.com/books-all-ages#ltlcc> at cost plus PayPal processing fee)
- *If you are willing to pray*, sign up for the prayer team. Once a month you will receive an e-mail with the first names of ladies who have received bags recently. Commit to pray for each name on the list frequently throughout the coming year.
- *If you would like to donate cash*, a donation of any amount can be made in person, by mail, or via PayPal and will be used to make up *Baby Bags*. (http://www.roots-by-the-river.com/baby_bags)

PLEASE NOTE: *Baby Bags* is not a 501c3, therefore donations (whether in-kind or in cash) will not be tax-deductible. The ministry is home-based and run entirely on volunteer labor and contributions of time, skill, and finances of the Body of Christ. If items are donated that fall outside the scope of those requested, we will do our best to use them to generate revenue toward future *Baby Bags* or donate them to another charity/use them for charitable purposes, but they will not be packed in *Baby Bags*. It is our desire that the bags have a personal touch and yet maintain an overall uniformity to prevent problems of comparison/jealousy as much as possible.

Who can receive a bag?

The bags are especially intended for the young Christian mother who is expecting/adopting* and who could benefit from the encouragement of the older women in the Body of Christ to love her husband, to love and teach her children, and be a joyful keeper (guardian) of her home. (Titus 2 and Psalm 113). While a young mother who is not a Christian is also eligible to receive a bag, we ask that you carefully consider before requesting a bag on someone's behalf whether she would be receptive to the overt Christian content. It is not our desire to offend those outside the faith or misuse the resources entrusted to us; it is our desire for *Baby Bags* to encourage and exhort those within the Body of Christ as well as any others who have "ears to hear." (Matthew 13:1-9)

Where are the bags distributed?

At present, we are limiting the distribution to Maine. If the Lord provides more than enough to fulfill the need in Maine, then the project may be able to expand in time. Statistically, Maine is one of the most secular states in the nation and, because of that, much of the message that even young Christian mothers hear as they embark on the journey of parenthood comes from a secular viewpoint. As the Body of Christ, together we can share a Biblical vision for strong and godly homes with a new generation of Christian women, many of whom may be largely in the dark about all that God desires a Christian home to be.

Can I request a bag on behalf of a young Christian mother who lives in Maine?

Yes, if you are willing to do two things:

#1 You would need to fill out and submit the brief request form, and,

#2 You would need to either pick up the bag on a designated pick-up day (which will most often be in Washington County, but also occasionally Hancock and Penobscot counties), then deliver it to the young woman yourself *or* pay to have the bag shipped directly to your home and then deliver it in person. Shipping a *Baby Bag* requires a donation of \$12.00. Because each blanket is different, shipping weights vary. The shipping cost is an estimate. If there is any overage remaining after shipping and the PayPal processing fee, it will go toward making up another *Baby Bag*.

All requests will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. If there are no bags available when a request comes in, we will hold the request for up to 3 months in hopes that the Lord will choose to raise up donors and laborers to help fulfill the need within that time.

Can I request a bag for myself?

No. Requests need to come from a family member/friend/neighbor/sister in Christ who is willing to pick it up or pay the shipping and then deliver it in person. This way there is a personal element involved of another Christian demonstrating availability to be the hands and feet of Christ to mother and baby. Thank you for understanding.

Information about *Baby Bags* can be found at
http://www.roots-by-the-river.com/baby_bags

Please note: Roots by the River is for-profit company.

Baby Bags is a Christian ministry run by the same family, but generating no income.

All donations are used for filling *Baby Bags* for mothers and newborns.

* At present what we have prepared for *Baby Bag* contents are most appropriate for newborns; however, if the mother you are requesting a bag for is adopting and her baby will be a little older on homecoming, please let us know this on the request form and we'll see what we can do.

Baby Bags Request Form



First Name and Last Initial of Mother: _____ Town: _____

Month Due: _____ Baby's Gender (if already known): _____

Full Name of Person Making Request: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

- I am willing to both arrange for pick-up (or pay to ship the *Baby Bag* to myself) and then deliver it in person.
- I understand that *Baby Bags* is a Christian ministry and that each bag contains overt Christian content. I believe that the recipient will be encouraged by the contents and the message and that she would be willing for her first name, town, month due, and baby's gender to be included on *Baby Bags* prayer list.

A request form can be submitted in person, by email (contact@roots-by-the-river.com), or by postal mail to Attn: Baby Bags Project, Roots by the River, PO Box 134, Franklin, ME 04634.

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Samples of a few of the initial baby blankets made for *Baby Bags*.

