

INFANT, Inc.

1108 Oak Street Winnetka, IL 60093

MISSION STATEMENT - HISTORY, FOCUS, METHOD OF OPERATION

During the winter of 1983 the local news media featured several stories on the problem of infant mortality in Chicago and on the effects of malnutrition on the city's infants. At that time, for a variety of social, economic, and political reasons, federal funding for the WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Program had been curtailed, causing large numbers of formula-dependent babies to become dangerously undernourished.

In response to the publicity a group of women, who are friends and fellow-graduates of The Immaculata High School in Chicago became interested. After meeting with professionals in the field of child health they were convinced that the problem was serious and that some help from volunteers might be useful and appropriate. They formed INFANT (Infants Need to Find Adequate Nourishment Today). INFANT was incorporated as an Illinois charity in April 1983 and has 501 © (3) tax status.

INFANT, Inc. solicits donations for the purchase of baby formula at the lowest available cost and delivers it promptly to food pantries and to shelters for the homeless. The formula is distributed at the discretion of their directors, who are knowledgeable in their communities and professional in the administration of their programs. Their distribution policies are non-sectarian. INFANT, Inc. delivers to 60+ agencies throughout the city and in some suburbs for their emergency formula needs.

Infant formula, though vital to the proper nourishment of non-breast-fed babies, is seldom donated to food drives and is not regularly available at many food pantries. Establishing a program to provide formula for needy infants is time consuming and often takes several weeks. Some babies are undersupplied by WIC or require special formulas that are difficult to obtain. INFANT, Inc. can respond to this need in a timely fashion.

INFANT, Inc. also distributes layettes for newborn babies. For the most part, layettes are given to mothers living in shelters for the homeless or in residences for expectant mothers. The social worker will call us when there is a mother in need, and we deliver the basket close to the baby's birth. Each layette consists of baby outfits, onsies, receiving blankets, sweater, a blanket, sleepers, bibs, diapers and a toy. When possible, we try to include handmade items, such as blankets and/or sweaters and caps.

Volunteers do all the purchasing and delivering of formula and layettes. Because we solicit only by direct mail and do not use professional fundraisers, our total operating and administration costs are minimal - less than 2% of our expenses. Our funding at present comes from foundation and church grants (about 40%) and from individuals (about 60%).

We are told that INFANT, Inc. is unique in the Chicago area and has been helpful in relieving serious malnutrition. As long as the need exists for this voluntary, highly personalized service, we will do our best to meet that need.