

## **Baby Care Packages**

### **Project for Outreach Ministry Grant Williamstown Lutheran Church, Vermont**

It's hard to imagine an outreach ministry more needed, local, and ongoing than changing the diapers of a baby—a baby that might have never been born except for the exceptional work of the Care Net Crisis Pregnancy Center of Central Vermont. For many years now, the members of Williamstown Lutheran Church have shown their ongoing commitment to the lives of the unborn by supplying diapers and other baby needs to Care Net.

Many of the young women who receive counsel and aid from Care Net are young, single, and poor, yet they have chosen to bring their children into the world rather than abort them. We try to assist them in their choices by donating baby supplies, such as diapers, baby wipes, lotion, and the many essentials a baby needs to stay healthy and thrive. These supplies are then brought to Care Net where they are distributed to the young mothers.

Care Net has recently acquired sonogram capability and anticipates an increase in the number of choices for life once the young women have an opportunity to see live images of the babies they carry. While the Care Net staff is excited to be able to encourage more women to give birth, they know it will strain their resources to provide the necessary supplies to raise their babies. It is a good problem to have, and a grant of \$500 or \$1,000 would enable Williamstown Lutheran Church to increase our help over the coming year and meet the growing needs of Care Net.

#### **Our Pilot Project: Baby Care Packages**

A committee of our members is already in contact with Care Net and will work with Care Net staff to forecast the greatest needs of the mothers. Once a list has been drawn up, the committee will shop for the supplies to create "Baby Care Packages," and we will also include a Bible story book and a card with words of Christian encouragement. Our goal is to supply 25-30 packages for \$500 and 50-60 packages for \$1,000.

The plan is to be in close contact with Care Net to monitor how well the Baby Care Packages work for the mothers. If they work well, we would like to see our pilot project become a permanent outreach to women with unplanned pregnancies to encourage them to give birth to their babies and not abort them.