



SAFE HAVEN BABY BOXES

Annual Report 2018

2018

SHBB has a powerful local impact, thanks to a army of dedicated volunteers, 10 active safe haven baby boxes and being legal in four states. We strive to educate every American about the importance of knowing the Safe Haven Law Nationwide.

This report highlights the stories of real people making a difference with and through SHBB.



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Letter from the CEO

2018 will be remembered as the year SHBB ignited a nationwide movement to educate our youth throughout America on the Safe Haven Law and to help women in crisis remain 100% anonymous.

At SHBB, we recognize that the way people are viewing life is changing, but many of the old stereotypes and behaviors about life have not changed. Statistics show that women who find themselves (in this kind of) crisis pregnancy situation and call our 24 hour hotline have ignored the signs of being pregnant. Now they are in labor or have just given birth and they are “freaking out”. Most want to remain 100% anonymous and will go to great lengths to make this happen. One woman drove 51 miles to place her unharmed newborn in one of our Safe Haven Baby Boxes so she didn’t have to look anyone in the eye.

Our goal was to challenge those outdated stereotypes and behaviors and spark new solutions so more people can choose how they want to surrender their unharmed newborns giving women a last resort option with our Safe Haven Baby Boxes. In 2018, we focused on innovation to advance our social media impact including Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, Facebook and more. We expanded our billboard campaign launching in Ohio which has Safe Haven Baby Boxes in some of their facilities and last year had 8 dead newborn abandonments.

We also confronted the issue of lack of education on the Safe Haven Law with captivating videos, and blogs reaching tens of thousands of viewers. At SHBB, we help people face the challenges that come with unwanted pregnancies, but we do more than that—we help them see there are options. Dumping their newborns in a trashcan or dumpster can be deadly and allowing people to see the advantages of a safe and legal surrender can empower them to make the best choice for them.

As you read this Year in Review, you will discover the many ways we have engage the younger generation about their views on adoption and surrendering under the safe haven law.

Sincerely,
Monica Kelsey
CEO



Letter from the Board Chair

Friends,

2018 was a record year for ending abandonment in the United States. For the second consecutive year, Indiana has not had a reported illegal or deadly abandonment. In addition, 3 mothers courageously chose to place their infant in a Safe Haven Baby Box. Nationally, we supported 49 women surrendering face to face and facilitated 6 adoption referrals. Legislatively, Ohio has modernized their Safe Haven law to include Safe Haven Baby Boxes to facilitate anonymous surrender and the Safe Haven Law modernization is occurring in states like Michigan, Arkansas and Pennsylvania.

Infant abandonment and the underlying cause of mothers-in-crisis is an issue that cuts across age and socioeconomic lines in a way that is unparalleled. Within a community, Safe Haven Baby Boxes is working to educate leaders, citizens and first responders about abandonment and Safe Haven surrenders. With mothers-in-crisis, we promote and reach out to them directly through our National Safe Haven Crisis Hotline (1-866-99BABY1). It is this work that assists in providing access to resources that stabilize the crisis situation and give these courageous mothers the time and space to make the best decision for themselves and their infant.

Support for this endeavor is never easy or simple. Thank you for your interest, prayers and support. This support is critical to ending abandonment. After you have finished reading this, please share it with someone who can assist. Spreading the word, education and direct engagement are the only way we, as an organization and community, will be successful. You are that critical key to success. If you have a bible handy, I would urge you to read James 2:14-17.

Thank you.

Walter Peycha

President - Board of Directors





EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

Education & Awareness Continued

There are many important elements when running a non-profit organization. We are all aware of the obvious need for fundraising, or marketing. However, education is one of the most valuable, if not, the most essential component...especially, when it comes to Safe Haven Baby Boxes (SHBB). It is through the process of educating and raising awareness, that one can understand the need for safe haven laws and the SHBB program.

The first Safe Haven law was enacted 20 years ago in the state of Texas. Within a few years, all 50 states had some form of safe haven law. These laws were put in place, in order to provide options for parents who would like to legally surrender their infant, without fear of criminal prosecution. Nonetheless, newborns were still being found in toilets or left to die in dumpsters.

The problem is, when the safe haven laws were written, the writers missed one of the key underlying causes of abandonments- the fear of being seen, and shamed. Preventing anonymity has historically produced tragic and disastrous consequences of babies being abandoned, half of them-die tragically.

SHBB promotes awareness of the safe haven law and provides assistance to women experiencing crisis while pregnant or after giving birth- by offering an option for anonymous surrender. By removing the face to face interaction out of the surrender, we provide the parent with no shame, no blame, no names, and essentially protecting the parent's identity. Our first priority with any parent who contacts us, is to get him/her the help they need to make a good and informed decision. We believe that through education and awareness of all other options first, our baby box will be used as intended, a last resort option. Our hotline and counselors are supervised by a clinical staff psychologist with over 25 years of crisis pregnancy hotline experience. We will not ask for a name although we will ask for a general location so we can provide information on the laws that apply and resources that may be available. Our goal is to provide the mothers-in-crisis with the resources that allow themselves to stabilize their situation and have time to make a decision that is in the best interest of themselves and their child.

SHBB is on a mission to educate the public. Since April 2016, our representatives have spoken to schools from coast to coast. Our travels brought us to the conclusion that we must increase awareness of the safe haven laws throughout our country, and provide parents in crisis with more options. There is an undeniable absence of programs educating youth on safe haven laws. Considering these laws were ordained twenty years ago (before this generation was born), our youth understand on a small-scale about safe haven laws, if anything.

If SHBB were to install a baby box without educating the residents in the area, the baby box would be useless, similar to what happened twenty years ago when the first safe haven law was passed in TX. The initial absence of a public education campaign contributed to the Texas law's failure to achieve its intended goals in the year following its enactment. Zero infants were surrendered under the Texas law until private citizens and state officials launched a public education campaign during the summer and fall of 2000, a full year following the law's enactment. This resulted in the first baby surrender 17 months after the law originally passed, proving that education is critical.

For this reason, when SHBB launched in 2016, we introduced an education and awareness campaign working with Pam Stenzel (a world renowned speaker), Priscilla Pruitt (Mrs. International 2016-2017), Teri Grothaus (Mrs. Ohio 2016-2017), and Monica Kelsey (Founder of SHBB, also a survivor of infant abandonment). We understand that education and awareness of the baby boxes are of the utmost importance. Since then, our team has been speaking to youth at high schools, colleges, Boys & Girls Clubs, rehabilitation centers, youth groups, and more. In addition, we advertise our 24-hour crisis hotline, safe haven laws, and our baby box locations on billboards in areas surrounding our SHBB locations, thus ensuring that the public knows where our baby boxes can be found.

After studying safe surrenders and abandonments reported in Indiana for the last 10 years, Indiana averaged approximately two abandonments a year. Following the first Baby Box installation in April 2016, no deadly infant abandonments have been reported, and the number of safe surrenders has increased dramatically. In addition, through education efforts and our crisis hotline, we've helped over 3,000 mothers in crisis since our launch. Of those 3,000, over 500 of them have been crisis pregnancy referrals, 6 adoption referrals, and 49 safe haven surrenders and 4 babies saved through our baby boxes. This is a testament and the evidence that our education and awareness efforts are on the right track and working. Through your help, and our continued education achievements, we plan on taking SHBB to the next level, nationwide by 2025.



Training First Responders

Safe Haven Baby Boxes travels to fire stations and hospitals to educate first responders on the safe haven laws. Since the law was enacted 20 years ago, we found most first responders have not had adequate training for safe surrenders and with their response to the mothers in crisis.

The training given to first responders include an overview of the law pertaining to their particular state, as well a step-by-step process of how to care for and maintain the proper chain of custody of a newborn surrendered to their care. In addition to this, we also educate first responders on how to properly engage a mother who wants to surrender her newborn under the safe haven law.

As an organization we feel that not only is it important to educate our first responders about the safe haven laws but also equally important is educating the public in general. That is why we also spend time in school assemblies and charitable organization meetings speaking about the safe haven laws and increasing awareness of the problems this country is facing with infant abandonment and mortality. Our mission is to continue to increase our efforts with education in schools, colleges, and other venues to reach the ultimate goal of eliminating infant abandonment.

National Hotline Report

Safe Haven Baby Boxes operates a 24 hour National (including Canada) Hotline, 1-866-99BABY1. In 2018, we received 758 calls to this hotline. Many calls are inquiries about the boxes and where they are located and how they work. Every caller receives info about the Safe Haven Law and general information about how to surrender an infant safely in their state. This is an important educational tool, because many people do not know that there is a Safe Haven Law in every state. This means that every call is taken seriously, and even if they are not looking to surrender a child themselves, we make sure that each caller understands the law for the future and will continue to help with awareness efforts in their community.

Some of the highlights from hotline calls in 2018 were mothers in crisis that we assisted in making a safe surrender of their child. One young mother called at 2:00 a.m. on a Saturday morning. She said she was in Indiana and had just delivered. She wanted to utilize the Safe Haven Baby Box but she had no transportation. She was close to an hour away from the nearest box location. Her main fear was someone recognizing her as she lived in a small town. Lacking transportation and fear of being identified were her biggest concerns. After exhausting every option, I suggested she simply call 911 and have the paramedics come to her. Later that day we found out she did just that and safely surrendered her newborn unharmed.

Another caller, a frantic young woman, from the St. Louis area, called wanting to surrender in one of the boxes. She had hid her pregnancy from everyone, and was panicking. We did not have long to encourage her to do the right thing and surrender at a hospital or fire station, but we later learned that she took our advice and safely surrendered at a local hospital.

Another Indiana woman called our hotline, she was given instructions and directions to the closest baby box, and chose to safely surrender her newborn in our Coolspring Township Fire Department location. She later reached out to our hotline wanting information about her baby and if she could assist in making the adoption placement. We were able to follow up with her and get her help in the process of placing her child for adoption. This was important to this mother who felt much more peace with her decision by having this involvement. This mother has assisted our organization immensely in understanding women in crisis and how to reach out to those women who are at risk of unsafe abandonment.





Social Media Outreach

Social Media is very important in helping us raise Safe Haven Awareness and to educate people on their state's safe haven laws. In 2018, we spread our message on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Tumblr. We gained more than 2,000 followers on Facebook in 2018, and our Twitter traffic has surged as well. We are slowly building up our Instagram followers and getting our message out to high schoolers and college students. Our social media platforms have allowed us to easily share articles of both positive and negative aspects of safe haven awareness. Our #SafeHavenSaturday posts continuously inspires our followers to share and helps us convey lifesaving options to our readers, including our National Hotline number.

It goes without saying that social media has given us a chance to interact with our followers. Our website offers a way to send messages if they need to contact a SHBB representative for information. Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter also gives us an outlet that makes it much easier to respond to people quickly and answer questions. For example, on Facebook alone in 2018, we received and responded to more than 500 messages, answering questions that ranged from 'Where is the location of your next box?' to 'How can I adopt a baby that has been surrendered?'. While we update our website with locations of our baby boxes, you will also find that our social media platforms give us the opportunity to share the events ahead of time, as well as posting live feeds of the dedication. Finally, our social media outlets have made it easy to notify our followers about upcoming events, including our fundraisers and annual banquets. If you have not connected with us, we encourage you do it very soon!

Fundraising

Fundraising for Safe Haven Baby Boxes has become not only a means of raising money for our programs, but also provides a new approach to raising awareness of Safe Haven Baby Boxes and the safe haven law. Providing more options for raising funds and gaining more support from local communities wanting to support a baby box resulted the overwhelming success of fundraisers in 2018.

We are grateful for the support from our volunteers at all the 2018 fundraising events and encourage others to host events in 2019. Our creative efforts directly impacted the increase of funds for our programs by 72% from 2017. The funds raised continue to support our programs including billboards, education for young adults, literature and marketing efforts, and assisting approximately 10 communities with implementing the Safe Haven Baby Box program.

2018 Fundraising Events:

- Safe Haven Baby Box Annual Banquet
- 5 Purse Bingos (1980's Theme)
- 27 Speaking Engagements
- 6 Community Sponsored Fundraiser (to support a local Baby Box)





Emails, Emails and more Emails

Safe Haven Baby Boxes receives hundreds of emails with regard to education about the boxes, opportunities for new box locations, media interviews, and speaking opportunities. We are also often asked about the process for the placement of the child once a mother makes that very difficult decision to place the child in the safety of a baby box. Email inquiries are handled with kindness, care, and concern no matter if the person is not clear or if the content is vague. It is always a possibility that a mother or father who is reaching out for help would be inquiring through email, and we want to make sure that they receive the necessary resources. One such example was from a woman in crisis who inquired about the location of the boxes because she was considering placing her newborn child in it and anonymity was important to her. The response given to the woman was to call our toll-free hotline (1866-99BABY1) and speak directly to a professional counselor. The woman was receptive to this and thankful for the compassion extended to her when she was in crisis.

Many emails that have come in are inquiries about how to sponsor a box to be placed in a fire department or hospital. The information provided to them includes steps to determine if the location they are looking at is an appropriate location, if the law in that state allows a box to be placed, and what to do if their state does not currently allow baby boxes. This has contributed to support for the organization and opportunities for groups and individuals to become actively involved with the Safe Have Baby Boxes program.



MONICA KELSEY REPRESENTS THE UNITED STATES AT A WORLDWIDE CONFERENCE IN JAPAN.

SHE WAS ALSO ABLE TO MEET SOME ABANDONED BABIES WHO HAVE BEEN SAVED BY THE BABY BOXES IN JAPAN.



2018 BILLBOARD CAMPAIGN

21 BILLBOARDS IN INDIANA AND OHIO!

SHBB forms the Annual Ataya Kaser Memorial Scholarship



July 16, 2004 - October 7, 2018

Ataya Kaser was 14 years old when she was tragically killed in a car accident on October 7, 2018. Ataya was beautiful, full of life and loved her family and friends beyond measure. Ataya was a freshman at Leo JR/SR High School in Leo, Indiana and carried a 4.0 GPA, and was in the process of signing up for some college classes on line. Education was a top priority for Ataya.

Ataya was a huge supporter of Safe Haven Baby Boxes, attending events with her mother who is a SHBB volunteer. She was most fascinated by our purse bingo fundraisers and wanted to start volunteering to help with them when she turned 18.

The Ataya Kaser Memorial Scholarship Fund monies will go directly to scholarship winners determined by Safe Haven Baby Boxes Scholarship Committee. Every year Safe Haven Baby Boxes will put out scholarship details on Feb 1st to continue the importance of education that Ataya loved so much.



INSTALLATION OF SIX
MORE BABY BOXES!!!

Safety and Security



SHBB Safety Committee

The SHBB Safety Committee oversees the process for product quality control of our organization. In 2018, we worked to provide updated policies and procedures to follow for site selection and product design for the organization. After establishing and implementing the policies and procedures, we continuously worked to develop internal and external manuals. The manuals include inspection for location install and start-up, information about the annual recertification, an operations and maintenance manual, design and testing standards, and a shipping and receiving standard. Additionally, the SHBB Safety Committee worked directly with SHBB Board of Directors, our Founder, and the SHBB attorney to provide direct responses to both federal and state agency requests, including responding to State Legislators, the Department of Homeland Security, Food & Drug Administration, and Child Protection Services.



58 lives changed in 2018 with the help of our National Hotline and our volunteers!

- 3 newborn babies placed in Safe Haven Baby Boxes in Indiana
- 49 women surrendered their newborn safely and legally by handing their newborn to a fire fighter or hospital nurse with the help of our National Hotline
- 6 Adoption Referrals

2018 Board of Directors



Front (left to right):

- Joe Kelsey
- Monica Kelsey
- Pam Stenzel
- Chanel Cunningham

Back (left to right)

- Teresa Bertke
- Don Bertke
- Priscilla Pruitt
- Kevin Albin
- Walter Peycha
- Pascal Arnes (not pictured)
- Kristi Hofferber (not pictured)

Safe Haven Baby Boxes hires Executive Team for 2019



Monica Kelsey
CEO



Chanel Cunningham
Operations Director

Summary of 2018 SHBB Consolidated Financial Statements

The following summary of financial information is derived from the audited consolidated statements of activities and of financial position for SHBB for the year ending December 31, 2018.

OPERATING REVENUE: SHBB's consolidated total revenues grew by 72% percent, increasing to \$225,149 in 2018, as compared to \$62,560 in 2017 .

EXPENSES: SHBB's consolidated operating expenses also increased in 2018, as strong revenue growth allowed us to spend more on activities to further advance our mission . Operating expenses in 2018 were \$160,501, as compared to \$68,659 in 2017 . Expenditures covered a wide range of initiatives, including baby box installations, literature for schools, speakers expenses, advocacy, billboards, and information and services on the safe haven law.

At year end, SHBB's consolidated statement of financial position (balance sheet) reflected total Net Revenue of \$64,647 for 2018 verses a Net Revenue loss of \$6,117 in 2017, enabling SHBB to remain well-positioned to advance its mission of empowering our youth with educated options regarding abandonment.



THANK YOU

Chanel@SafeHavenBabyBoxes