

FRESH START SUPPORT SERVICES

Spring 2020 Newsletter #2

Happy Mothers Day

Happy Mother's Day!

Dear Friends of Fresh Start,

With Mother's Day tomorrow, we celebrate the journey of mothers living at Fresh Start as well as mothers all over the world. While it is a day set aside to reflect on and celebrate the mothers and other women that have played a part in our lives, it also can come as a time of sorrow. Sorrow for children lost. For children desired but not yet conceived. Prodigal children that have left and not yet returned. Children that are living with different families. It can also be a time of grief for those who have lost their mother or mother figures. This year COVID-19 and social distancing makes Mother's Day even more difficult as we cannot be with or near the mothers and children that we wish to celebrate.

Paul wrote in Romans 12:15, "Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn." He speaks of an intertwining of the joy and pain that mothers might feel on Mother's Day. While this verse doesn't take away the pain or boost the joy that one might feel, may you turn to the Lord for peace and joy. We mourn and rejoice with you.

Wishing a Romans 12:15 Mother's Day to everyone. Whether this day brings you joy or pain or a mix of the two we love and honour you this day.

Sincerely,



Karen Schouten
Executive Director



COVID-19 UPDATE

Life continues at Fresh Start over the last seven weeks that COVID-19 has spread all over the world. It seems as though the babies grow and learn new tricks everyday. One baby has learned to walk. Two others will start crawling any day. A third is beginning to smile and interact with mom. Another is blessing mom by starting to sleep consistently through the night. And finally a baby and mom have moved back to their home community.

It is such a blessing to continue to support the babies and mothers during this time. All of Fresh Start's programs are still running and upholding the social distancing recommendations set out by Southwest Public Health and the Government of Canada. So far the babies, mothers and staff have all been healthy and happy. We have converted the delivery of some of the support programs to online programs so that we can to continue to support three mothers that are social distancing with their families.

While we have had to postpone the Banquet and Dessert Auction that was scheduled on April 24th until the fall and the Baby Bottle Drive that usually starts on Mother's Day until June 1st, God has been faithful. With your continued support, there has been no interruption to the services that the babies and mothers are receiving.

Thank you for the generous donors who have sent encouraging messages to the moms and staff, dropped off diapers and groceries and to those who have gone on hunts for formula and hand sanitizer. If you are able, we ask that you continue to generously support Fresh Start during this uncertain time. While we have been blessed with financial donations that have allowed the programs to continue to run, we hope to continue into the fall in a strong financial position. On June 1st, we will be running a virtual Baby Bottle Drive on Facebook, please consider donating to that cause. With churches not meeting, some churches have postponed their Baby Bottle Drive until the fall. Please contact your church to see if it is participating in our virtual Baby Bottle Drive starting on June 1st or participating in the fall.

Lastly, Fresh Start is very well connected with other community support agencies in St Thomas and Elgin County. If you are in a place where you need supports of any kind during this season, please feel free to contact Fresh Start so that we may support you. This is the season to spread our reach out and support our neighbours and local communities.

God Bless.