



*Fill a bottle.
Save a life!*

A WOMAN'S CONCERN

Baby Bottle Blessings

Guide for Campaign Hosts

Updated 9/16/2021

Baby Bottle Blessings

WELCOME (or welcome back) to our Baby Bottle Blessings campaign! We are humbled by your prayers for our ministry and your willingness to participate in this campaign. Please know all of your efforts help us save lives!

Overview

Hosting a Baby Bottle Blessings campaign is an easy way for your church, school, or organization to get involved with praying for and financially supporting A Woman's Concern. We will provide the number of baby bottles needed, depending on the approximate number of families in your church/organization. On the first day of the campaign, announce the campaign and distribute the bottles. Each person or family takes a bottle home and places it in a prominent location. During the designated time period, they fill the bottles with checks, cash, or coins.

Participants may also fill a virtual baby bottle by donating online at FriendsofAWC.com/support/virtual-baby-bottle/

At the end of the campaign, participants return their bottles to a designated area at your location. As soon as possible after collecting the bottles, your Ambassador* who is responsible for the campaign will return the bottles to A Woman's Concern. Once we have emptied the bottles and counted the contents, we will report the amount raised to the Ambassador. *See page 3 for more information about Ambassadors' responsibilities.

Preparations

We try to make the campaign easy for your church or organization to participate in, but we do recommend that you have an Ambassador in charge of this event to ensure that it runs smoothly. Your Ambassador handles the following details:

- Getting the bulletin information, announcements, posters, etc., to the proper people. Promotional resources that can be downloaded in PDF format are available at [FriendsOfAWC.com/join-our-team/groups/baby-bottle-blessings/](https://www.friendsofawc.com/join-our-team/groups/baby-bottle-blessings/)
- Obtaining the baby bottles from AWC. Bottles are available in crates of 25 to enable easy transport, distribution, and collection.
- Overseeing the efficient distribution of the bottles in the way that works best for your organization (setting up tables and recruiting volunteers as needed).
- Reminding participants when and where to return the bottles.
- Storing the filled bottles in a secure location until pickup.
- Continuing to collect and return stray bottles as needed.

How to have a successful Baby Bottle Blessings campaign:

- 1. Coordinate with your Pastor, Priest or Director** to gain approval and to find the best time and place to distribute the bottles.
- 2. Inform your congregation/members about the Baby Bottle Blessings campaign** using the methods that work best for you, such as:
 - **Pulpit announcements** — Coordinate with your pastor to make an announcement at the services on the weekends that your campaign is running, or—if you prefer and the pastor agrees—make a short presentation to the congregation at the services, describing the event and how it supports AWC.
 - **Email announcements** — Sent through your church’s/organization’s email program, if available.
 - **Posters** — On the date your campaign begins, make sure the bottles are in a special place along with signs posted around your church/building and near the

bottles. Letter-sized posters are available for download on our website. Larger posters are available from AWC, if needed. *Contact us for details.*

- **Bulletin inserts & announcements** — Coordinate with your Pastor and/or church secretary to put Baby Bottle Blessings announcements or a flyer insert in your church bulletin before and during the time frame that your campaign will run. Sample announcements and insert flyers are available on our website.
- **Social media posts** — Sample social media posts are available on our website.

3. Distribute the bottles to your congregation/members.

- At exits after church services
- In Sunday school classes or small group meetings
- Whenever and wherever your participants meet!

4. Collect the bottles and remind those who did not fill a bottle about the online giving option.

- At the end date of your campaign, gather up all of your bottles (empty or full) and put them in a safe storage place until they can be returned to A Woman's Concern. Also be sure to have a designated place to store bottles and donations that may come in early or late. Contact A Woman's Concern to arrange dropping the bottles off or having them picked up once they are collected.
- Encourage members to return any remaining bottles —empty or filled.
 - Pulpit & bulletin announcements
 - Email reminders
 - Posters

5. When the bottles are returned to AWC, **we will add up the donations and send an acknowledgement/receipt to each donor.** We will also report the total to your Ambassador to share with your congregation/group.

Thank you—again—for your efforts!

6. Coordinate with the Pastor and/or church secretary to **include a follow-up announcement and thank you in the bulletin.**

7. **Set a date for next year's campaign** (please). You can register online at FriendsofAWC.com/join-our-team/groups/baby-bottle-blessings/
 8. If you have any questions, **check the FAQs** below. You may also call us at 717-394-1561 opt 3, or email BabyBlessings@PregnancyLancaster.com.
-

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Where should I store the bottles?

A: It is a good idea to plan to keep any filled bottles that cannot be immediately returned to AWC in a locked and safe place in the church or in your group's facility.

Q: Are the donations tax deductible?

A: Yes, if the donor fills out the form inside of the bottle, he/she will receive an acknowledgment/receipt from A Woman's Concern for the contribution (for cash and checks—sorry, receipts are not available for donations of coins). Those who make online donations will receive a receipt via email.

Q: What will the donations be used for?

A: Donations to the Baby Bottle Blessings Campaign allow A Woman's Concern to offer the following services **at no cost** to women, men & families in our community:

- Pregnancy testing
- Pregnancy options information
- Ultrasound exams
- Pregnancy, parenting, and fatherhood education
- Breastfeeding support services
- Healthy relationship education
- Community referrals
- Material assistance & boutique supplies
- Abortion pill reversal information
- After abortion support and resources