Oshkosh Chapter Motherhood Support

Bereavement Program

**Timing, duration, frequency of program**

Throughout the year as needed—based on contacts from hospitals or word of mouth

**Fiscal Information**

Budgeted expense total for program last year: $50

**Partnerships**

ThedaCare Regional Medical Center, Aurora Medical Center, Ascension-Mercy Hospital, St. Raphael's Church

What role does your partner(s) have in the program? Identifying those who would benefit; distributing the items

**Clients**

Number of children/families served your last fiscal year: 0

**Volunteers**

How many volunteers participate in this program (planning and working) 2

What roles do the volunteers have in this program? sewing, crocheting and knitting, communicating with partners and delivering items

**Program Description**

Overall goal of this program: To comfort families grieving the loss of a child through miscarriage, stillbirth or infant death. To provide garments for keepsakes or for burial purposes

What service/materials do you provide to your clients? Depends on partners' preferences—white gown and /or bib, hat, baptismal cloth, blanket; flannel bunting/blanket sets; Bobbie Jean blankets (eyelet/batiste fabric squares with rose or bow and label; prayer card

There are not many expenses associated with this program. It requires minimal supplies, most of which have been donated. Each hospital prefers a specific item, usually a garment, that a deceased baby may be dressed in for burial, for a photo or just as a keepsake. The chapter offers white cotton sewn gowns; flannel bunting and blanket sets and small knit or crocheted afghans. ThedaCare requests large quantities of the small fabric squares (Bobbie Jean blankets), which are put into folders given to women who have miscarried (along with information about resources, etc.) Hospitals contact the chapter when they are in need of items.

Items are also distributed to families through the church. Sometimes they learn of these losses through word of mouth and they receive special requests for items.

The chair feels more outreach to the hospitals would increase numbers.

Contact: oshkosh@nationalchristchild.org