



JD Denton, a Crisis Nursery board member, encourages Nugget shoppers to use scrip cards to benefit the nursery. The free cards are available at Denton's store, Fleet Feet Davis. Just show them at checkout and the Nursery earns a percentage of the sale.

At the Nursery, saving a child's life is part of a day's work

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By Karen Adams
Member, Yolo Crisis Nursery Board of Directors

Just over a year ago, a distraught young mom named Jess first came to the Yolo Crisis Nursery. Today, we can tell her story, and fortunately for all, it ends well.

The story began nine days after the birth of Jess's second child. Home alone with her newborn and her toddler, she realized she was having trouble caring for them both by herself.

Jess's decision to call the Nursery probably saved the baby's life.

Over the phone, our staff invited her to bring both kids to the Nursery, where we could care for them at no cost and give her a much-needed break.

Once the family arrived, the situation took a dramatic turn. Heather Sleuter, our executive director, looked at the baby and saw that he was far too listless. She asked when he had last been fed. Jess said she couldn't remember.

Sleuter acted rapidly. She directed one of our caregivers to comfort and care for the toddler. She then drove both the baby and mom to the hospital.

The emergency room staff attended to the child, successfully treating him for severe dehydration.

"The doctor said we had come within hours of losing him," Sleuter says. "It was harrowing."

Meanwhile, Jess received the medical attention she needed. County authorities made arrangements for both children to move into temporary foster care.

Time passed, with county officials and the young mom working toward family reunification. With her health stabilized, the children eventually returned home.

At that point, we met up with them again. They enrolled in our Family Life Skills Program. A Nursery staff member visited the family's home for two hours a week for 12 weeks for hands-on parenting education.

"We partner with CommuniCare to offer this county-funded program so that parents can keep their children healthy and safe once children return home after foster placement," Sleuter says. "It's tailored to individual families' needs and based on a research-validated program used extensively in the United States."

Families that complete the program significantly increase the likelihood that they'll remain together, Sleuter says.

Today, a year later, the family in our story is doing well. Jess is working and the children are enrolled in day care and preschool, Sleuter says.

"I am very grateful there is a program like the Crisis Nursery in our county that families can turn to for help," Sleuter says. "It's not every day we can say we helped save a child's life, but every day we do meaningful work that truly makes a difference in the lives of children and families. Thank you to everyone who helps support our programs."

Learn more about the Yolo Crisis Nursery and its programs designed to prevent child abuse and build strong and resilient families at www.yolocrisisnursery.org.

On July 1, the Nursery will begin its third fiscal year as an independent nonprofit. We are still rebuilding our programs and like any nonprofit, our fundraising never ends. To that point, we'd like to share two easy ways to support the Nursery at no cost to you:

(bullet) If you are a Nugget Market or Food 4 Less shopper, use a scrip card. Just show it at checkout: The Nursery will get a cash payment equal to a percentage of your purchases. The more you spend in a given month, the higher that percentage will rise. Nugget scrip cards are available at Fleet Feet Davis and by emailing hturner@yolocrisisnursery.org. We'll provide easy instructions on how to register your card with Nugget.

(bullet) If you are an Amazon shopper, the giant retailer will donate 0.5 percent of the price of your eligible purchases to the Yolo Crisis Nursery through the Amazon Smile program. Just start every online shopping trip at smile.amazon.com. On your first visit, you can link your existing Amazon account to the Amazon Smile program, then select the nursery as your nonprofit of choice. You can also sign up by going directly to the nursery's Amazon participation page at <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/47-1006055>.

Finally, we offer thanks to two local groups – Soroptimist International of Greater Davis and Soroptimist International of Woodland – who staged a diaper drive last month for the Nursery. They surpassed their goal of collecting 10,000 diapers, which they delivered by the truckload to our door.

In particular, we thank the local businesses who provided collection bins. In Davis, they were 3rd Street Jeweler, Brooks Painting, Carlton Senior Living, Edward Jones on Spafford Street, and Union Bank. In Woodland, collection bins were placed at Mojo's Lounge and 428 Kitchen Restaurant; National Town & Valley Properties; and Uvaggio Wine Bar.

While diapers are in good supply for the next few months, we are currently in need of new or gently used summer clothing for children, sizes 2T and up. If you have any to donate, please call the Nursery at (530) 758-6680 to arrange drop-off.

Thank you, and we wish everyone a happy and safe summer.