



Valparaiso Fire Station Offers New Resource in Effort to End Infant Abandonment

VALPARAISO, INDIANA: Valparaiso Fire Station #1 installs a Safe Haven Baby Box located at 205 E. Indiana Ave, Valparaiso, Indiana 46383 in Valparaiso. The Baby Box is located in the alley on the West side of the fire station and will be available to the public starting on Tuesday, June 16th. This is the 30th Safe Haven Baby Box. [Click here for Safe Haven Baby Box locations.](#)

[Indiana's 2000 Safe Haven Law](#) allows parents to anonymously surrender their healthy newborns 30 days or younger without fear of criminal prosecution at any fire station or hospital. Until 2016, Indiana continued to average 2 reports of infant abandonments a year, with several of them reported in Northwest Indiana. [Safe Haven Baby Boxes Inc.](#) is a non-profit established as a result of these reports throughout the country. "So far in 2020, 4 babies have been safely in a Safe Haven Baby Box and we have assisted with 16 surrenders directly to hospital staff or first responders. We have been working tirelessly to support those in need, not only women in Indiana, but also in every state in the United States and in Canada." , says Safe Haven Baby Boxes Founder and CEO, Monica Kelsey.

The organization staffs a 24-hour hotline (1-866-99BABY1) offering counseling to a parent who might be considering surrendering their baby. While educating young adults, training emergency services personnel, and having a strong social media presence are effective methods for raising awareness of the Safe Haven law, the existence of Safe Haven Baby Boxes in communities continue to serve as a reminder of this law and the resources offered to mothers in crisis.

"The Valparaiso Fire Department is committed to serving our community through it's core values of honor, compassion, and commitment. I can think of no greater cause of compassion than the support of a child in a time of need, no matter what the circumstances.", says Valparaiso Fire Chief, Chad Dutz.

Nationwide, the organization has assisted with 76 women and infants with safe surrenders. Safe Haven Baby Boxes cost roughly \$15,000 with installation and are equipped with alarm systems to notify 9-1-1 immediately. Safe Haven Baby Boxes also have heating and cooling features and lock as soon as the baby is placed inside. Indiana is one of five states with updated Safe Haven Laws to include additional surrender options, such as the Safe Haven Baby Box.

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WHAT: Valparaiso Safe Haven Baby Box Unveiling & Community Blessing

WHEN: Tuesday, June 16th at 12:00 PM

WHERE: Valparaiso Fire Station #1 (205 E. Indiana Ave, Valparaiso, Indiana 46383)

SPEAKERS INCLUDED:

Monica Kelsey, Safe Haven Baby Boxes
Mayor Matt Murphy, City of Valparaiso
Trustee Jesse Harper, Center Township
Chief Chad Dutz, Valparaiso Fire Department
Linda Znachko, He Knows Your Name

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS:

[Safe Haven Baby Boxes Website](#)

[Safe Haven Baby Box Facebook Page](#)

[Safe Haven Baby Box Twitter Page](#)

[Valparaiso Fire Department Website](#)

[Valparaiso Fire Department Facebook Page](#)

[Valparaiso Fire Department Twitter Page](#)

[He Knows Your Name Ministry Website](#)

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