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## **Eastside Baby Corner realizes mission of helping more kids in the region, opens branch in the West Sound**

Issaquah based nonprofit, Eastside Baby Corner (EBC), has opened a branch in the West Sound, realizing its vision of helping more kids in the region have the basics - like diapers, clothing and food - so they can have a better start in life. Grand opening ceremonies are scheduled for June 4<sup>th</sup> at the Bremerton location.

In Kitsap and north Pierce Counties, according to the American Community Survey - US Census, nearly 10% of residents receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits and 12% of local families with children are living below the poverty line. Sadly, 28% of children under age 5 live below the poverty level.

Eastside Baby Corner has been working to help families living in poverty and/or crisis for 26 years. Facing those statistics, EBC leadership knew they had to get involved when three West Sound residents approached them about starting a similar organization in the West Sound.

“It has always been our mission to serve as many children as possible, so when we were presented with an opportunity to help families in the West Sound, who desperately need our help, we couldn’t refuse,” says Eastside Baby Corner Executive Director, Renee Zimmerman. “What we were not certain about was how to best go about it. After much consideration, we decided the best way to serve families in the West Sound was to bring a branch of EBC to the area – rather than trying to reinvent the wheel. By having a branch there, we will be able to share, not only our 26 years of experience, but also resources – like bulk purchasing power, for example.”

The new EBC – West Sound is on target to have a substantial coverage area that extends from the Tacoma Narrows Bridge to the Hood Canal Bridge.

The EBC - WS grand opening, which is open to the public is scheduled for Saturday, June 4th from 1:30 to 3:30pm. The distribution center is located at: 1463 NE Dawn Rd, Bremerton, WA 98311. Those interesting in attending are asked to email [www.westsoundinfo@babycorner.org](mailto:www.westsoundinfo@babycorner.org) to RSVP.

Learn more about EBC - WS at [www.babycorner.org/ebc-west-sound](http://www.babycorner.org/ebc-west-sound), and about Eastside Baby Corner at [www.babycorner.org](http://www.babycorner.org).

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### **About Eastside Baby Corner**

Eastside Baby Corner helps kids thrive by providing basic necessities for children so that EBC's partners—schools, social service agencies, food banks, hospitals--can help families become stable, safe, housed, fed and employed. Relying almost exclusively on volunteers, EBC takes in donations of children's clothing and goods from the community and supplements donations with purchases of the absolute essentials for children: baby food, formula, car seats, port-a-cribs and diapers. As the vital safety net under family-assistance providers, EBC annually distributes over 60,000 items for kids from birth to age 12 directly to agencies serving families throughout King County. Founded by pediatric nurse practitioner, Karen Ridlon in 1990, EBC helps nearly 700 children each week. Connect with us: find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/eastsidebabycorner>. We are also on Twitter and Instagram, handle @babycorner.

**In the photo:** Nurses from Kitsap Public Health District, Nurse Family Partnership pick up their orders from EBC – WS.

