# 2021-2022 Annual Report: Building Blocks for Better Babies

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#### BBBB in the Pandemic

BBBB transitioned from a face to face program to a virtual program within 2 weeks of the pandemic announcement.

3 weekly virtual classes led by **Registered Dietitians** and Public **Health Nurses** 

nutrition \* healthy eating \* food skills participants receive: menu planning \* labour & delivery breastfeeding \* prenatal fitness mental health \* self care infant development \* newborn care safety for mom and baby

# **Food Security Initiatives**

Weekly \$5-\$10 food vouchers

Monthly **FRESH food** deliveries

Free vitamin D for breastfed babies

Menu

planning

classes

Skill building virtual cooking classes

cookbooks Free prenatal vitamins

Shopping on a

budget

Family-

friendly

recipes and

#### **Program Statistics**

**100** FRESH food delivered client food vouchers 35.500 vitamins provided

16,500 total client contacts 12,000 client emails

1350

1150 resource mailings

160

120 new clients

**In-kind Supports** 

33%

In-kind

Staff

102 60

9%

**Program** 

Space and

**Promotion** 

\$110,000

client phone calls

virtual classes

58%

Client

Resources

client texts

lients/week on Zoom

# 2022 Client Survey

Most helpful services include:

- Food vouchers
  FRESH food deliveries
- Free vitamins
  Health classes, talking with staff

food vouchers

community

food deliveries

vitamins

referrals

Clients indicated interest in participating in a hybrid virtual and face to face program in the future

#### Clients wrote "The BBBB program is important to me because..."

"It provides a community I would not receive otherwise as someone who has recently moved to Canada."

" It's reliable and helpful. My children and I always benefit from BBBB. It's a positive environment. And a safe place."

"They are a big loving support system."

" It kept my spirits up during COVID, providing both support and the social interaction I needed. Thank you to everyone!"

" It provides me with amazing education about my body, baby, partner, look fors, health, nutrition and so much more."

## Client **Demographics**

1 in 2 were born outside of Canada

1 in 4 are new to Canada (<10 years)



1 in 3 are food insecure

1 in 5 have less than Grade 12 education

3 in 7 struggle with mental health

Community Partners

University of Windsor | Windsor-Essex County Health Unit FRESH from the Downtown Mission | Jamieson Laboratories

#### Mission and Goals To assist pregnant woman in

Windsor-Essex County have healthy babies through nutrition support and health information.

#### **BBBB** aims to:

- · Improve the health of mothers, infants, children, and families
- Encourage and support breastfeeding
- Promote nutrition and food skills
- Support maternal & infant mental health

## History and Funding

The Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program (CPNP) was launched by the Public Health Agency of Canada in 1995. BBBB is sponsored by the University of Windsor, Faculty of Nursing, and received initial CPNP funding in 1996 to support a local part time prenatal nutrition program in WEC.

#### **Funding Limitations** BBBB has had the same budget of

\$174,150 for nearly 20 years, despite increased operation costs.

- The cost of eating well in WEC has risen over 100% in this time.
- Food vouchers of \$5 per week has minimal impact on food security for moms and families.

As operational costs increase, fewer resources are available for clients



# **Program Wishlist**

If funds increase:

- Full time programming & more sites
- \$20/week/client food vouchers
- Transportation support for clients
- Support for mothers' mental health
- Childcare support program · Permanent site as program hub
- total Agency Supports: free books, gifts for moms and children, and reduced rent