



# WHITEWATER FIRE & EMS DEPARTMENT

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To: Whitewater Common Council  
From: EMS Chief Jason Dean  
Via: Fire & EMS Chief Kelly Freeman

22 Feb 2024

SUBJ: PROPOSAL TO PROCURE SAFE HAVEN BABY BOX

Encl: (1) Safe Haven Baby Boxes 2024 Informational Packet

## Executive Summary

Whitewater Fire & EMS Department in cooperation with the City of Whitewater, Whitewater Police Department, and Whitewater Community Members are planning to procure a Safe Haven Baby Box to provide a safe and anonymous way to surrender a baby in accordance with Wisconsin's Safe Haven Law. The internal impact is minimal as 24/7 staffing is maintained at Whitewater Fire & EMS. The financial impact is approximately \$15,000 for procurement, training and marketing. Additional fees of \$5,000 - \$7,000 are anticipated for installation and alarm integration and there is an annual fee of \$500 which includes services and maintenance of the box. The total expected financial impact is approximately \$20,000 with an annual fee of \$500. The ROI potential on this project can only be measured in the lives of surrendered babies.

## Background

Wisconsin Statute 48.195 amended in 2023, allows a parent to relinquish custody of a child 72 hours old or younger to a law enforcement officer, EMS worker or hospital staff worker, while remaining anonymous. The previous law required a face-to-face surrender of a baby by the mother. Following the tragic events that occurred in 2023 where a baby was abandoned in a field and was discovered deceased, our local legislator introduced the bill. There is currently no place in Whitewater that is safe for a mother to surrender a baby anonymously.

A Baby Box is a climate-controlled safety device provided for under state's Safe Haven Law and legally permits a mother in crisis to safely, securely, and anonymously surrender if they are unable to care for their newborn. A Baby Box is installed in an exterior wall of a designated fire station or hospital. It has an exterior door that automatically locks upon placement of a newborn inside the Baby Box, and an interior door which allows a medical staff member to secure the surrendered newborn from inside the designated building.

## Solution

Our plan is to procure and install a Safe Haven Baby Box on the external wall of Whitewater Fire & EMS building. Following approval, Whitewater Fire & EMS will immediately fund the procurement and



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installation of the box. A community lead fundraising effort will be launched to reimburse Whitewater Fire & EMS.

Safe Haven Baby Boxes provide training for EMS and support for fundraising. Additional funds received over repayment of Whitewater Fire & EMS will be utilized for promotion of the baby box which will increase community awareness.

Once installed, the baby box will be powered and linked to our current dispatch system that will create a call for EMS to respond immediately to the box from the inside of the building and retrieve the baby. Whitewater Police Department will be notified directly following EMS and will respond to the fire bay. The baby will then be medical evaluated by EMS and transported to the closest appropriate hospital.

## Timeline

- Begin – Gain approval for capital expenditure from Whitewater Common Council
- Sign contract with Safe Haven Baby Box and send for review. Four weeks for production.
- Search for contractor to install Baby Box.
- Once received, contractor installs Baby Box.
- Alarm is set up and tested. It must be successful for seven consecutive days of testing.
- EMS is trained on Safe Haven Baby Box.
- Unveiling and blessing occurs.
- Baby Box goes live.

## Financial

- Initial fee: \$15,000 – Includes the box, pre and post- installation services, inspections, training, marketing & advertising, and optional fundraising assistance.
- Other fees: \$5,000 - \$7,000 – Includes delivery of the box, electrical and alarm installation and integration, and permits.
- Annual fee: \$500 – Includes continuing services, recertification of the box, maintenance from expected use, and unlimited repairs and parts as a result of malfunction.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "JD", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jason Dean  
EMS Chief

# SAFE HAVEN BABY BOXES 2024 INFORMATIONAL PACKET

Thank you so much for your interest in Safe Haven Baby Boxes! We are so grateful for your dedication to changing the outcome for mothers in crisis and infants. We dream of Safe Haven Baby Boxes in all 50 states, which is possible with help from incredible supporters like you! The complete process of obtaining a Baby Box for your community is detailed in this packet.

**CHECK OUT OUR PSA  
(click below):**

**[Safe Haven Baby Boxes PSA](#)**



# ABOUT US



Monica Kelsey founded Safe Haven Baby Boxes in 2015 after an inspiring trip to South Africa. During this trip, Monica saw a Baby Box in action and saw how it provided a safety net for parents in crisis. Monica made it her mission to help parents in crisis as her own birth mother was when she abandoned Monica as an infant. The first step is raising awareness and educating the public about the Safe Haven laws.

Safe Haven Baby Boxes is the only organization providing an anonymous option for parents to safely surrender their infant. Illegal abandonments show us that mothers are seeking to keep their identity secret. We seek to rewrite the story by giving mothers and innocent infants a better chance. The infant will go through a closed adoption and the parents free from prosecution.

Our organization staffs a 24 Hour National Crisis Hotline, 1-866-99BABY1. The hotline has provided counseling for over 7000 callers from all over the United States. This service has led to over 130 babies surrendered at Safe Haven locations and 39 babies thus far surrendered in a Baby Box.




# HOW DO THE BABY BOXES WORK?

The Safe Haven Baby Box is a state of the art device. It legally permits a mother in crisis to safely, securely, and anonymously surrender her unwanted newborn. The Baby Box is a climate controlled safety device provided for under a state's Safe Haven Law. The installation of the box occurs on the exterior wall of a firehouse or hospital.

Prior to the box being active, tests occur at every stage of design, development, and deployment. It features multiple alarms in the device which alert first responders there has been a baby surrendered. The boxes alarms are tested weekly to ensure there will be no failures. None of these alarm systems have ever failed. The staff responsible for the box is trained on how the device operates.


The parent opens the door to the Baby Box, which triggers a silent alarm and a call goes to 911 dispatch. The infant is placed in a medical bassinet. A sensor located on the inside of the box triggers a second 911 dispatch call. The exterior door automatically locks upon placement of a newborn. Within five minutes the infant will be rescued by first responders. An interior door allows a medical staff member to secure the surrendered newborn from inside the designated building. The infant will be quickly taken to the hospital for medical evaluation.





It provides the community the opportunity to proactively save the lives of children since many are not aware of the Safe Haven Law.

Lack of knowledge about the law and prohibiting anonymity has historically produced catastrophic and devastating results of babies being abandoned.



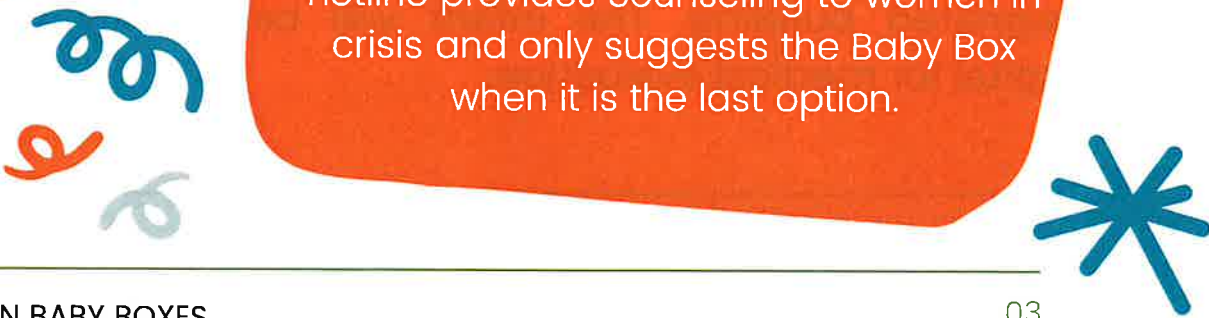
Many women in crisis want and need anonymity when surrendering an infant, either because of fear of being recognized, the stigma associated with the surrender, or fear of prosecution due to the lack of knowledge and misunderstanding of the Safe Haven law.



## WHY DO COMMUNITIES NEED A BABY BOX?

The Baby Box is tangible, and the Safe Haven law is not. By having a Baby Box in the community, you are providing an opportunity to further educate about the law.

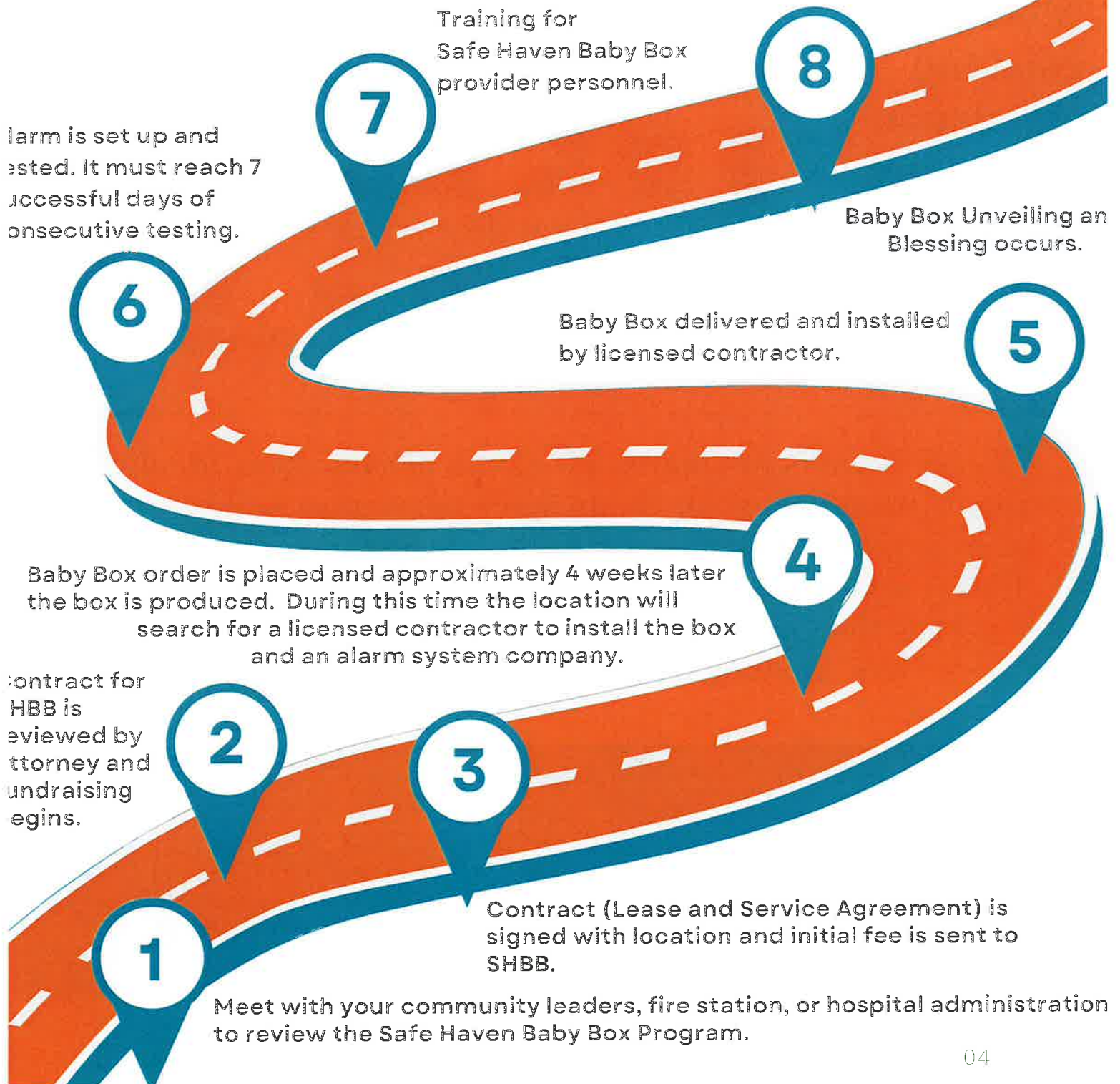
We hope and pray for a face-to-face surrender as it benefits both the mother and infant. The Safe Haven Baby Box hotline provides counseling to women in crisis and only suggests the Baby Box when it is the last option.





# Road to Active Baby Box

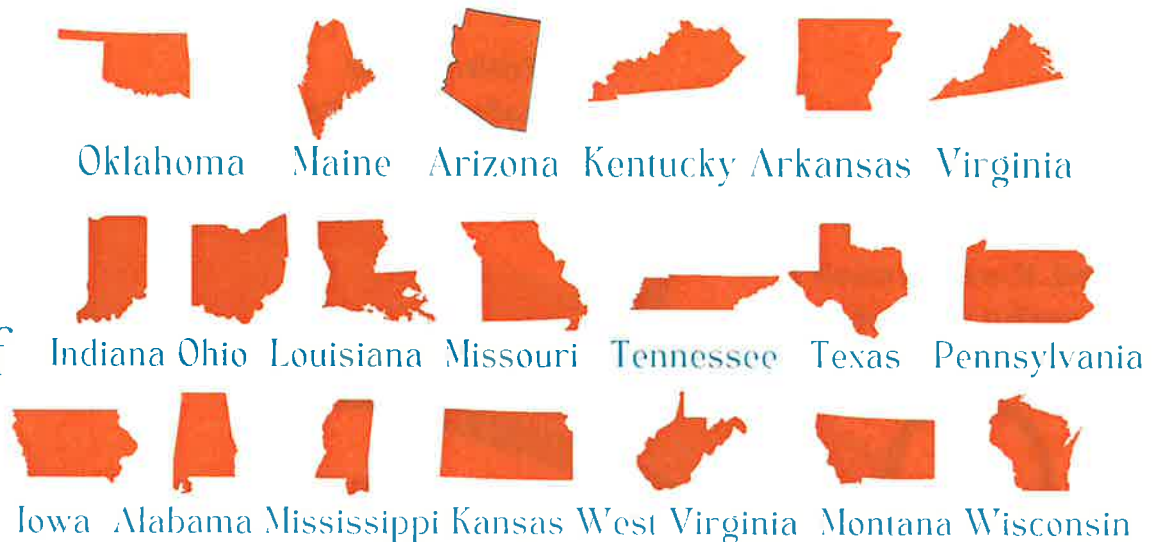
Baby Box goes live and available to aid infants with parents in crisis.



# CAN I PLACE A BABY BOX IN MY COMMUNITY?

Yes, however, some states have made it easier than others.

States with  
existing  
legislation  
permitting  
placement of  
Baby Boxes



If your state is not above, do not be discouraged. Ideally all states would allow for anonymous surrender and we have a team in place to work on passing legislation at the state level. Please reach out to your state representative and senator to express the importance of updating your state's Safe Haven Law to allow for the placement of Baby Boxes.

The fees for Safe Haven Baby Boxes start around \$15,000 depending on installation and location.

\*These prices are good for 90 days after the receipt of this informational packet \*



# THIRD PARTY DONATION SOLICITATION POLICIES

Safe Haven Baby Boxes Inc. (SHBB) appreciates individuals and organizations as they solicit donations to benefit its programs and services. Any individual or organization (outside of Safe Haven Baby Boxes Inc.) that organizes and hosts an event, promotion, sale, or donation drive on behalf of Safe Haven Baby Boxes Inc. is defined as a “third-party fundraiser.”

Prior to Collection of Donations:

1. The third-party fundraiser is not allowed to solicit for donations without acknowledgement from Safe Haven Baby Boxes AND local leaders, such as the mayor, fire chief, council member, and/or hospital administrator/staff. The third-party fundraiser should notify Safe Haven Baby Boxes via email or mail with intent to solicit donations in advance of the proposed start date.
2. The third-party fundraiser will not personally collect any donations. All donations should be sent directly to SHBB. Upon acknowledgement from a SHBB representative of the intent to campaign for donations, the third-party fundraiser will be provided a link for online donations specific to the fundraiser's campaign.
3. The third-party fundraiser is responsible for providing donation instructions to solicited donors.
4. The third-party fundraiser is responsible for expenses associated with printing and promotion of the donation solicitation.

5. The third-party fundraiser is not a representative of Safe Haven Baby Boxes and should not claim to be.
6. Safe Haven Baby Boxes retains the right to decline any solicitation activity if it conflicts with its mission or other fundraising efforts.
7. The third-party event organizers should not provide tax advice to third-party event contributors. Organizers should refer individuals to tax or legal counsel for information.
8. The third-party fundraiser may not keep any portion of a donation as profit or compensation for organizing the campaign.
9. The third-party fundraiser or anyone associated with the event cannot set up a temporary bank account in his/her name or Safe Haven Baby Boxes name for the collection of donations.
10. Safe Haven Baby Boxes, Inc. may only issue tax receipts for checks made payable to "Safe Haven Baby Boxes" or donations paid online at [www.shbb.org](http://www.shbb.org) or designated link for campaign.
11. The third-party fundraiser must submit all publicity and promotional material containing Safe Haven Baby Boxes name and/or logo to Safe Haven Baby Boxes Fundraising Department for review and approval prior to publication and distribution of these materials. Please allow Safe Haven Baby Boxes staff ten (10) business days to review these materials. PLEASE NOTE: Third-party donation campaigns that are approved by Safe Haven Baby Boxes may be advertised on Safe Haven Baby Boxes website and/or social media sites.

12. The third-party fundraiser cannot advertise locations of future baby box installations (i.e. address of fire station or hospital).

13. Promotional materials that use Safe Haven Baby Boxes name should incorporate the following statement: "Proceeds to benefit Safe Haven Baby Boxes Inc."

14. The third-party fundraiser agrees not to use Safe Haven Baby Boxes' tax exemption in any manner or as part of the donation campaign, nor will the third-party represent any rights or privileges of tax exemption to the public, nor will the third-party state that any portion of the purchase price for any goods or services at the event is tax deductible for charitable purposes.

15. Prior to starting a fundraising campaign, please send [SHBB@SafeHavenBabyBoxes.com](mailto:SHBB@SafeHavenBabyBoxes.com) your fundraising campaign plan for approval.



Any additional funds raised will remain in your community promoting your local Safe Haven Baby Box. A billboard campaign will raise awareness for safe surrender and include our National Crisis Hotline number.



Please keep in mind that all donations that are solicited for a Safe Haven Baby Box must be sent to SHBB to be used for your city's baby box and/or marketing and education. If your fundraising efforts exceed the amount needed, per the IRS guidelines, this money has to be sent to SHBB. Sending money raised for a Safe Haven Baby Box to another entity is a direct violation of IRS guidelines.

Safe Haven Baby Boxes name and logo are a registered trademark. Any use of these would need SHBB approval. For questions or more information on third-party donation solicitation, please contact a Safe Haven Baby Boxes representative at 1-888-742-2133 or [shbb@safehavenbabyboxes.com](mailto:shbb@safehavenbabyboxes.com). Thank you very much for your interest in supporting Safe Haven Baby Boxes programs and services!

**By signing below, you understand SHBB fundraising policy and will ensure that the funds are handled according to this policy.**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Donation for a Safe Haven Baby Box located in

\_\_\_\_\_  
Amount needed: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail check to:

SHBB

PO Box 185

Woodburn, IN 46797

Once a check is received you will receive a letter from SHBB for you to use for tax purposes. SHBB is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization by the IRS so all donations are tax-deductible. Thank you for your support!

# Safe Haven Baby Boxes Policies and Procedures for Association with Foster Care and/or Adoption Agencies

## Purpose of Policy

Safe Haven Baby Boxes (SHBB) is a registered 501(c) 3 charitable organization whose express mission is to save babies from illegal abandonment and provide a truly anonymous option for surrendering parents in accordance with each individual state's statutes.

Safe Haven Baby Boxes is not a governmental agency and is not involved in the infant's care and placement process following the legal surrender of an infant as defined by the State Statute. Safe Haven Baby Boxes expressly prohibits any affiliation, endorsement, or official connection with any placing agency, foster care agency, or adoption agency, private or public.

SHBB and its board, staff, contractors, or volunteers are not affiliated, associated, authorized, endorsed by, or in any way officially connected with any child-placing agency or adoption attorney.

This strict policy is in place in order to prevent even the "appearance" of SHBB profiting in any way from the surrender of an infant in one of the baby boxes, or directly to personnel at a fire station, hospital, or EMS provider with a baby box installed.

This policy includes, but is not limited to the following:

- No child-placing agency, or private adoption attorney will pay fees to SHBB for the installation and ongoing operation of a Safe Haven Baby Box.
- No child-placing agency, or private adoption attorney will donate money, goods, or services to SHBB directly.
- No child-placing agency or private adoption attorney will be given preferential treatment by their state's Department of Children Services or its equivalent by paying a fee or claiming affiliation with Safe Haven Baby Boxes
- No child placing agency, or private adoption attorney will raise funds using Safe Haven Baby Boxes name, or by alleging association with Safe Haven Baby Boxes.

# Safe Haven Baby Boxes Ethical Code of Conduct

Safe Haven Baby Boxes is committed to the highest possible ethical standards and we encourage everyone associated with our Organization to commit to acting in the best interest of the organization and its mission. Our mission demands that we, Board and Committee Members, staff, and volunteers, as stewards of our mission, uphold the public trust and act in an ethical manner in all that we do in the name of our Organization.<sup>5</sup> These ethical values include integrity, openness, honesty, accountability, fairness, respect, and responsibility. These values are the basis of our Code of Conduct and commitment to act in a manner befitting the Organization and mission.

As a public charity, we rely on the public for funding and volunteer support, which is critical to the success of our mission. The public trusts us to carry out our stated mission and to act in the best interest of the Organization. If we abuse the public trust, our ability to fulfill our mission is severely weakened. Therefore, it is critical that we operate in a manner that is above reproach in all aspects, including governance, fundraising, mission operations, legal matters, and human resources. As a public charity, we are committed to:

- Acting responsibly and with integrity;
  - Following not just the letter of the law, but the spirit of the law as well;
  - Promoting financial accountability, transparency, and best governance practices;
  - Respecting the wide variety of people who support our mission through donations of their time, talent and money;
- Being responsible stewards of our Organization, its mission, reputation, and resources
- Being open and honest in all of our dealings with both internal and external audiences.

This Code of Conduct applies to all staff members, the Board of Directors and Committee Members, and volunteers of Safe Haven Baby Boxes.



# Goals of Safe Haven Baby Boxes

- Raise awareness of the Safe Haven law through the installation of Baby Boxes.
- Provide counseling to any parent in crisis.
- Use of billboards, social media, speaking engagements, and fundraisers to bring awareness to Safe Haven Laws.
- Provide a safe and anonymous option for surrendering an infant.
- Work with legislators in every state to pass a law allowing the installation of Baby Boxes.
- Install Baby Boxes in every state in the United States.

## Help Us Reach Our Goals

- Assist or host a Safe Haven Baby Boxes fundraiser
- Invite Monica to speak at your church, or community event
- Attend a Baby Box Blessing
- Follow and share our social media platforms

**Please contact us if you have any questions or need more information.**

**Email: [shbb@safehavenbabyboxes.com](mailto:shbb@safehavenbabyboxes.com)**

**Phone: (888)742-2133**

**Website: [www.shbb.org](http://www.shbb.org)**

# Services, Fees and Expense Schedule

## Full Time Fire Stations

INITIAL FEE: \$15,000	ANNUAL FEE: \$500	OTHER FEES NOT INCLUDED IN INITIAL FEE (ESTIMATED AT \$5,000-\$7,00)
Pre-installation Services	Annual Fee Services	*Fees vary based on location and/or services donated by local community members. The items below are estimates and not a guarantee of cost.
A. Examination of location B. Administrative/Legal resources C. Consultation on programs D. Assistance with raising funds to support cost of the Baby Box (optional)	A. Recertification of the Baby Box by a licensed contractor B. Maintenance of the Baby Box from expected use C. Unlimited repairs and parts replacement as a result of a malfunction and not as a result of negligence or vandalism	A. Delivery: Minimum \$500 charge if you would like to have the Baby Box delivered. You can pick up at our Fort Wayne, IN manufacturing facility to waive the delivery charge. (Must be pre-scheduled) B. Installation: Labor and materials: \$2000- \$3,500 (location may be able to have this donated)
Installation Services	<b>*LOCATIONS WITH ADDITIONAL FEES</b>  A. Volunteer fire stations must feature a camera in the Baby Box making the total initial fees \$15,500 B. Ohio locations total initial fee is \$16,000 as \$1,000 is paid to their health department C. Alabama locations must feature a camera in the Baby Box making total initial fee is \$15,500	C. Electrical and Alarm: hook up to internal alarm system (Internal alarm must go to 911 dispatch for use with the Baby Box) ~ \$1,200
A. Inspection of Installation B. Training to all emergency personnel		D. Annual Alarm Services: Annual fee for monitoring ~\$500 annually paid by location to Alarm Company
Post Installation Services		E. Transportation: Cost based on location and transportation from Indiana
A. Marketing of the Baby Box B. 24/7 Hotline available to community C. Advertising of the Box D. Efforts to support raising awareness on local, state and national levels supporting the Baby Box in each community		F. Permits or other requirements prior to construction. (varies)



**Safe Haven**  
Baby Boxes