

2002 “Friend of Public Health Award” Recipient

ADVENTIST COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER

The Adventist Community Services Center, located on the campus of Andrews University, has been providing assistance to needy clients in Berrien County for well over two decades. From the 1980’s through today, the Center has provided assistance to Health Department moms and babies in need. From the early Health Department Pre-natal clinics, to the Maternal Support Services and Infant Support Services programs and to the newest program – the *Nurse-Family Partnership* program, hundreds of moms and babies have benefited from the Center.

The Center provides items such as baby formula, diapers, personal hygiene supplies, soap, cleaning supplies and clothing. Furniture and appliances are also made available.

The service that the Center is best known for is the newborn layette. Each layette is filled with baby items. Receiving blankets, undershirts, baby booties, a rattle, sweaters, caps and a newborn outfit are just a few of the items found in the layettes. The crown jewels of the layettes are the beautiful, hand-made baby quilts. The women of the Community Center make the quilts. Each quilt is unique – showing the dedication, the caring and the talent of these women.

Assistance with referrals for other needs that the Center does not provide is another service that the Center helps to facilitate. Referrals to the Pioneer Memorial Church and the Christian Social work Services are coordinated by the Center.

The speed at which services are provided is unequalled anywhere else in Berrien County. The years of continuous service and the hundreds of community residents who have benefited from the Adventist Community Services Center reflects the spirit of the Berrien County Health Department’s Mission Statement and its population-based approach to health status enhancement.