

Your participation in **First Step for Change** makes these stories possible:



After enduring several weeks of her new baby's colicky behavior, a working mom, "Chelsea," was informed by the pediatrician that her son was allergic to both dairy and soy. The doctor wrote a prescription for a specialized formula which is about \$30.00 per can. Chelsea's medical insurance refused to pay for the formula, saying it was not a "medical necessity." Even though Chelsea was working 30 hours per week, she was only making minimum wage and was unable to fit any extra expenses into her tight budget. Through the First Step Program, a case worker was assigned to Chelsea's case. Using funds from **First Step for Change**, Catholic Charities purchased 10 cans of formula to solve Chelsea's immediate need for formula. Since Chelsea's insurance provider refused to pay for the formula, a case worker helped Chelsea apply for special assistance through the formula's manufacturer.

A grandmother, "Anna," had lost her home as the result of a fire and was staying in a local shelter. As she was preparing to transition out of the shelter, Anna's daughter, who was struggling with drug addiction, abandoned her three children, ages 3, 1 and 9 months. Not wanting them to be in foster care, Anna took responsibility for her grandchildren. Catholic Charities helped Anna with the first month's rent and security deposit on an apartment. The First Step Program was able to offer case management until the family's situation was more stable, including support to help Anna manage her new, unexpected responsibilities as a caregiver for young children. Through funds from **First Step for Change**, Anna received a double stroller, pack-n-play crib, diapers and formula. Anna continues to rely on Catholic Charities' First Step Program for moral support and occasional material assistance.

