

Tiny Tykes

essentials

Every child deserves the essentials.

1425 S. Market Street Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

www.TinyTykesEssentials.org



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Hello!

Tiny Tykes Essentials is a volunteer-led nonprofit providing essential items for babies and children so families can stay together and thrive. We supply shoes, clothing, diapers and wipes, diaper bags, toiletries, car seats, high chairs, strollers, cribs, bassinets, and beds—because every child deserves the essentials.

Founded in February 2023 by foster moms Jenna Garvin and Beth Wenrich, TTE began as a small foster care resource closet and quickly grew as requests poured in. We now serve the broader community while keeping our focus on little ones' needs. Along with practical items, we offer each family a Bible and the opportunity for prayer.



Since 2023, we've assisted hundreds of families across Central Pennsylvania, including:

- Foster families with new placements
- Families referred by school districts, New Hope Ministries, women's shelters, and Safe Families for Children
- Households working with county Children and Youth services
- Teen moms, single parents, grandparents raising grandchildren, and others facing hardship

Our rapid-response model often fulfills referrals within 24–72 hours, providing thousands of essential items that prevent placement disruptions, support safe sleep and car seat safety, and help families remain together.



Location & Demographics

Tiny Tykes Essentials serves Cumberland, Dauphin, York, Adams, Franklin, and Perry Counties—about 1.3 million residents across suburban and rural communities—where timely access to child-specific essentials is limited, especially large safety items (cribs, beds, strollers, car seats) and consumables (diapers, wipes, formula, toiletries, clothing, shoes).

Caseworkers and partner agencies come directly to us for items that keep families together and children safe at home; most referrals are filled within 24–72 hours at no cost to families.

Key demographics (PA Kids Count)

Population (6 counties): ~1.3 million residents

Poverty (at or below FPL): ~9–13% overall; higher among households with children and single-parent families

Primary source

PA Kids Count (Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children):

<https://www.papartnerships.org/kids-count/>

(Data Center and County Profiles provide latest county-level indicators for poverty, single-parent households in 2024.)

Location & Demographics

ALICE (working poor): Many households earn above poverty but below the cost of basics (housing, childcare, transportation, food)

Single-parent households with children under 18:

Cumberland County: ~ 13,000 (24–25%)

Dauphin County: ~19,000 (35–36%)

York County: ~24,000 (30–31%)

Adams County: ~6,500 (23–24%)

Franklin County: ~8,500 (29–53%)

Perry County: ~2,400 (22–23%)

Our role

By coordinating referrals and supplying essentials quickly, Tiny Tykes Essentials reduces placement disruptions, eases reliance on government-funded services, and strengthens child safety and family stability across Central Pennsylvania—particularly for families in poverty and ALICE households.

98% of the families we serve are at or below the poverty line.

Community Impact

Every week, our volunteers show up to get essentials into the hands of families. Their steady, compassionate work keeps children safe and families together.

In 2025 our volunteers served over 625 hours. We expect that to more than double for 2026 as we continue to grow every week.

Since launching in 2023, Tiny Tykes Essentials has:

- Provided more than **2,200** essential items
- Supported over **350** families across Central Pennsylvania

Who we help

- Domestic violence survivors rebuilding safety and stability
- Teen moms navigating new parenthood
- Grandparents stepping in to raise grandchildren
- Foster parents receiving same-day or short-notice placements
- Families facing job loss, housing instability, or other economic hardships

What we provide

- **Safety items:** cribs, beds, car seats, strollers, high chairs
- **Daily necessities:** diapers, wipes, toiletries, clothing, shoes

How we make it happen

• **Direct coordination:** Caseworkers and partners come to us for items that keep families together and children safe at home.

• **Volunteer power:** Daily and weekly volunteers move requests from intake to pickup, so no child goes without—strengthening families and easing demand on public services, one essential at a time.



Marketing & Awareness

Tiny Tykes Essentials actively markets both to families in need and to donors and sponsors.

We were recently approved as a nonprofit volunteer opportunity for Liberty University students, and we have 5 interns for the 2025-2026 winter semester (many of whom are helping remotely).

Social media: We run ongoing campaigns to connect families with resources, share urgent needs (diapers, cribs, car seats), and highlight impact stories that inspire giving. Targeted posts and reels help us reach those in need, caregivers, caseworkers, and local supporters.

Advertising: Thanks to a gifted billboard from Lamar, Tiny Tykes Essentials was featured throughout November 2025, reaching an estimated 226,100 viewers in Mechanicsburg and Carlisle.

Events and sponsorships: Our annual Walk for Families engages the community and secures corporate sponsors, expanding both awareness and funding.

Partner referrals: A growing network of organizations refers families directly to us, including Cumberland County Children and Youth, foster care agencies, Bethany Christian Services, Safe Families for Children, Mechanicsburg School District, New Hope Ministries, UPMC social workers, Pinkies, Shippensburg School District, and many others.

Together, these efforts keep our pipeline strong—connecting families to essentials quickly, mobilizing donors, and sustaining year-round support for children across Central Pennsylvania.



Walk for Families



Budget & Fundraising

Projected 2026 Improvement Expenses (\$41,500)

- Safety Resources \$30,000
- Shelving for Storage \$1,000
- Washers & Dryers \$2,000
- Clothing Racks \$1,200
- Laundry Detergent and Dryer Sheets \$300
- Social Services Emergency Fund \$7,000

Projected Yearly Expenses (\$55,500)

- Items/Resources to Distribute \$40,000
- Rent/Utilities \$12,000
- Operating Expenses \$1,500
- Marketing Materials \$2,000

Projected Yearly Income/Fundraising (\$97,000)

- Fundraisers \$30,000
- Crossroads CC Rent Donation \$12,000
- Other Grants (not received) \$53,500

Maintaining Momentum

Year One (2023)

Goal: 50 families served.

Evaluation: Officially began in October but over the full year, we met our goal.

Year Two (2024)

Goal: 104 families served.

Evaluation: By connecting with other nonprofits, we were able to meet this goal. Continue to get organized and build a team of volunteers.

Year Three (2025)

Goal: ~250 families served.

Evaluation: We have built a name for ourselves in the community and partnered with local sponsors to make serving families possible. We will exceed this goal with 15-20 families coming in each week.

Year Four Goals (2026)

Goal: 800 families. With our current rate of families per week, we will meet or exceed this goal.

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Billboard gifted from Lamar for November 2025



Every Child Deserves the Essentials
Serving Families With Small Children
In Central PA With FREE Resources

Tiny Tykes
essentials

TinyTykesEssentials.org



Small Marks-Mighty Impact Grant

First Small Marks-Mighty Impact Grant Awarded to Tiny Tykes Essentials



Making Our Mark – Helping Tiny Tykes Thrive

The RETTEW Make Your Mark Team is proud to announce **Tiny Tykes Essentials** is the first recipient of our newly launched ‘**Small Marks – Mighty Impact**’ grant program with a **\$1,000** donation. This gift will help provide babies and toddlers with essential items, including diapers. We’re especially grateful to Kristen Bodkin, PT, HSE Team, for bringing this meaningful opportunity to our attention and connecting us with such an impactful cause.

Why diapers? They may seem like a small item, but diapers are among the least donated essentials for families in need. Without enough supplies, parents face difficult choices, and children’s health and comfort can suffer. Thanks to this generous gift, dozens of families now have the diapers they need, allowing them to focus on what matters most: helping their little ones grow, thrive, and feel cared for.

Here’s what Jeana Grebbien, Make Your Mark Team Chair, and Kristen Bodkin, PT, had to say about supporting Tiny Tykes Essentials:

“At RETTEW, giving back isn’t just something we do; it’s part of who we are. Supporting Tiny Tykes Essentials means we’re helping families meet one of the most basic needs for their children, and that’s something we can all be proud of.” — Jeana Grebbien

“I love supporting a cause where I can see the impact. As a mom, I understand how expensive children can be and how many unexpected costs pop up. I love that this cause directly helps families in my community. It’s so special to see a Christian organization actually live out their values. — Kristen Bodkin

This donation reflects the ongoing impact of the Make Your Mark Foundation in our communities, and we remain committed to finding new ways to serve where we live, work, and play.

Employees are encouraged to follow the Make Your Mark Team here on the Charitable Giving Axis page and explore opportunities to get involved. Together, we can continue to make a difference — one project, one partnership, and one act of kindness at a time.

11/10/2025

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with great enthusiasm that I write this letter of recommendation on behalf of **Tiny Tykes**, a valued partner and tremendous community resource to **Safe Families for Children in Central Pennsylvania**. Over the past several years, Tiny Tykes has consistently demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to supporting families in crisis through the provision of tangible resources, compassion, and collaboration.

Safe Families for Children works to surround families in crisis with caring, compassionate community. Through this mission, we often encounter parents facing urgent material needs—such as cribs, car seats, clothing, diapers, or other essential baby and child items. Time and again, **Tiny Tykes has stepped in to fill these gaps**, ensuring that no child goes without what they need and no parent feels alone in their struggle.

Their responsiveness and generosity have made a tangible impact. Families we serve often share how these resources have given them hope and stability during difficult times. The staff and volunteers at Tiny Tykes operate with professionalism, empathy, and a deep understanding of the challenges families face. Their efforts directly contribute to the well-being and safety of children across Central Pennsylvania, aligning beautifully with our mission and the broader goals of family preservation and community care.

We are profoundly grateful for Tiny Tykes' partnership and wholeheartedly support their application for grant funding. Investing in their work means investing in stronger, more resilient families throughout our region. I am confident that with additional resources, Tiny Tykes will continue to expand their reach and impact even more lives in meaningful, life-changing ways.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at johndizon@bethany.org or 717-645-7623 should you need any further information or insight into the invaluable role Tiny Tikes plays in our shared community mission.

With deep appreciation and full endorsement,

John Dizon
Church Engagement Coordinator

In Representation of
Safe Families for Children – Central PA

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH





Cumberland County Children & Youth Services

Hello!

I just wanted to reach out and say what a great organization Tiny Tikes is! I am Adrienne Spigler and I work with Cumberland County Children & Youth. We receive KFA's from our caseworkers with families in need of items, such as clothing for children, baby items, beds, food, gas, etc. I reached out to Tiny Tikes about some items, and they were great to work with! They are very responsive and welcoming! They provided the items we needed for this family in need. The family was overjoyed that they received 2 brand new bunk beds and mattresses! Along with door locks, baby gates, and cabinet locks! This is just such a great team of people to work with. They have helped us greatly in the past as well. This is just the most recent time they have helped! 10 out of 10!!!

Thanks!

Adrienne Spigler



Adrienne Spigler

Cumberland County Children & Youth Services | Case Aide

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To Whom It May Concern,

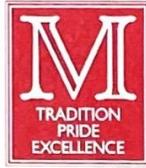
It has been a true privilege to partner with Tiny Tyke Essentials. In the Emergency Department, we frequently care for patients and families facing crisis situations and in need of immediate support. On numerous occasions, we have reached out to this trusted organization, and they have responded promptly and compassionately, providing essential resources such as diapers, clothing, and other vital items.

Tiny Tyke Essentials is making a meaningful difference in our community by addressing practical needs with dignity and care. From the initial referral to the pickup and distribution of supplies, their team demonstrates remarkable dedication and empathy. Their work helps ease both emotional and financial burdens for families during some of their most difficult moments.

It is an honor to endorse and support the outstanding efforts of Tiny Tyke Essentials. Their compassion, reliability, and commitment to serving others truly change lives.

Sincerely,

Kyra Gonzalez, MSW, LSW
Discharge Plan Manager
Clinical Care Coordination and Discharge Planning
UPMC Pinnacle Harrisburg Hospital
C: 223-369-3876



DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
600 South Norway Street, Second Floor
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
717-691-4500

MECHANICSBURG AREA
SCHOOL DISTRICT

11/11/2025

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to offer my recommendation for Tiny Tykes, an outstanding organization dedicated to supporting the safety and well-being of children and families in our community. Our district has had the pleasure of partnering with Tiny Tykes, most notably in their efforts to provide car seats for families in need.

Through their collaboration and generosity, Tiny Tykes has helped ensure that children in our schools are transported safely, regardless of their family's financial circumstances. Their team has demonstrated professionalism, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to community service. They respond promptly to referrals, communicate effectively with both families and staff, and go above and beyond to meet urgent needs.

Beyond their direct assistance, Tiny Tykes plays a vital role in promoting awareness of child safety and access to essential resources. Their impact extends far beyond individual donations—they strengthen the network of support available to our families and reinforce our shared mission to create a safe and nurturing environment for every child.

For these reasons, I strongly endorse Tiny Tykes in their application for grant funding. Their dedication, accountability, and proven record of service make them an ideal recipient of continued financial support. I am confident that any investment in their work will yield significant and lasting benefits for the families they serve.

With Wildcat Pride,

Jeremy Eastman

WWW.MBGSD.ORG

INSPIRED TO EXPLORE. EMPOWERED TO INNOVATE.