Baby Bag Committee—Jeanne Pless
Friends and Volunteers of the Ocean City Free Public Library

The Baby Bag Committee supports and maintains a library program instituted by Becky Greene of the OCFPL. It involves assembling materials suitable for new mothers and includes a read-aloud book, a growth chart and information sleeve, age-appropriate book mark and small magnetic photo frame for the newborn as well as informational materials about the OCFPL and its children's programs.

Fifty bags are filled monthly and delivered to the Maternity Division of Shore Medical Center in Somers Point as a gift from the OCFPL to new mothers. The number of bags is adjusted monthly according to the needs of the maternity department.

Duties of the Chair include maintaining an adequate supply of items, which involves notifying Becky Greene when additional materials are needed (baby-themed plastic bags, books, magnetic frames, bookmarks, charts) and making copies of library information as well as extra information supplied by the Children's Librarian, Leslie Clark. All materials are paid for from library funds. A monthly report is printed by the Chair for the F&V meetings and e-mailed to the F&V president, president of the library board, library director, Becky Greene, and any member of the committee who worked on the bags that month.

The previous chair found it difficult to schedule a convenient time for volunteers to fill the bags, especially in the winter. I find it easier to assemble the bags myself but I do rely on committee members to deliver the bags to the hospital on a rotating basis. As Chair I try to set aside two to three hours a month to fill the bags and complete the printing and report.

If committee members are used to assemble the bags they would need to commit to two to three hours a month. We have found that a maximum number of three members filling bags at any given time affords the most efficient use of manpower. A fourth member is needed to deliver the bags to the hospital which should take no more that an hour.