Miriam Ministry, Inc.

P. O. Box 301

Sandersville, Georgia 31082

Miriamministry22@gmail.com

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 Dear Community Supporter,

We are excited to announce **Miriam Ministry, Inc.,** a new non-profit 501c3 Corporation which distributes diapers, sensory toys and age-appropriate books to Washington County low-income families with infant children. Diapers are a basic hygiene need of families and having books and toys in homes supports the early cognitive needs of children. Miriam Ministry has an aspirational goal of improving the health of these families -- physically, emotionally and spiritually-- by focusing on early development of very young children.

# Our Partners

Miriam Ministry, Inc. purchases and delivers diapers, age-appropriate books and sensory toys to WIC, which is located in the Washington County Health Department. WIC and the Health Department then distribute these items to about 80 WIC-eligible families. In addition to the Health Department and WIC, we have recently partnered with DFACS to distribute to others who are served. Another partnership is with the Washington County Sheriff’s Department which also distributes these items as needed. Malone Street Books accepts book donations on our behalf in its bassinet. We have a partnership with Ferst Foundation to purchase age-appropriate books and to provide their expertise in helping families with literacy. We want to also seek new educational and health partnerships to help us achieve our goals. Our newly formed board also has representatives from six different churches from all portions of our County.

# We Intend to Make a Difference

About 27% of the population and about 35% of children live with poverty in Washington County. Poverty is intergenerational and it needs to be tackled early. There are strong correlations between literacy and poverty, so tackling the literacy issue is the same as tackling the poverty issue. Early literacy is strongly related to success in school which is related to success in adulthood. Our books and sensory toys help with development of children. Providing diapers to low-income families supports low-income families by lifting a huge financial burden. Diapers are not paid for by WIC, nor any other governmental program. Diapers are often required by day care centers and not having this need met can lead to missing work. For these reasons, Miriam Ministry is supporting the effort to overcome intergenerational poverty through its targeted ministry.

# How You Can Support the Miriam Ministry

You or your organization’s support is vital to the success of this ministry. Your regular or one-time contribution will be used to purchase the infant diapers and developmental books. You may send your tax-deductible contribution to:

Miriam Ministry OR you may use

P. O. Box 301 Pay Pal: miriamministry22@gmail.com

Sandersville Georgia 31082 Venmo: @miriamministry

Sincerely,

Chris Hutchings, Chair

Chair of Miriam Ministry, Inc.

Phone: 478-232-2950

**Miriam Ministry Quiz**

1. What percent of low-income families does not have a single book suitable for a child?
2. 21%
3. 41%
4. 61%
5. 81%
6. What is the single most significant factor influencing a child’s early educational success?
7. The Father’s Educational level
8. An introduction to books and being read to at home *prior* to beginning school.
9. Family income
10. Their school
11. Children who have not already developed some basic literacy practices when they enter school are how likely to later drop out of school later?
12. No difference in drop-out rate
13. 1.5 times as likely to drop out
14. Twice as likely to drop out
15. Three to four times more likely to drop out
16. The poverty rate of children in Washington County, GA is
17. 16%
18. 26%
19. 36%
20. 46%
21. The only behavior measure that correlates significantly with reading scores is:
22. The number of hours spent reading in school
23. Family income
24. Educational level of parents
25. The number of books in the home
26. The main benefits of sensory play by infants are:
27. There are no benefits of sensory play
28. They will grow up and become professional athletes and make millions of dollars
29. Cognitive Stimulation, Language Development Fine and Gross Motor Skills, Social Interaction, Calming and Comforting. Awareness and Good Fun!
30. The poorest 20% of families typically spend how much of their take home pay on diapers?
31. 4%
32. 8%
33. 14%
34. 20%

Answers:

1:C

2:B

3:D

4:C

5:D

6:C

7:C