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ILLINOIS SAVE ABANDONED BABIES FOUNDATION CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

(Chicago, IL) August 17, 2011 – Today the Save Abandoned Babies Foundation (SAB) celebrates its ten year anniversary. However, Dawn Geras, President of the Foundation, cautiously adds, “A greater accomplishment may occur in three days on August 20th. If there is no infant abandoned between now and then, it will be one full year without and infant illegally discarded in Illinois.”

"The Save Abandoned Babies Foundation shows what can happen when good people decide to turn all the talk about helping children into action," said Illinois Department of Children and Family Services spokesperson Kendall Marlowe. "Their advocacy has helped save lives not just in Illinois, but across the country."

The Abandoned Newborn Protection Act, commonly referred to as the “Safe Haven Law”, was signed into law on August 17, 2001. The law offers a legal option to unsafe, illegal infant abandonment. An unharmed newborn, up to 30 days old, may legally be relinquished to staff at any designated Safe Haven with no questions asked or fear of prosecution. Illinois Safe Havens include all hospitals, emergency medical care facilities, staffed police stations and staffed fire stations, college or university police stations and any district headquarters of the Illinois State Police.

The proudest accomplishment for SAB are the 69 infants that have been legally relinquished and are now adopted and living with families who cherish them,

Other accomplishments are abundant. A few of those are:

2003: amended Illinois School code to require Sex Education classes teach about the Safe Haven law.

2004: law amended to add police stations as designated Safe Haven locations.

2005: Sunset Clause removed making the Act permanent.

2006: amended Illinois Comprehensive Health Education Program to require teaching grades 6 – 12 about the Safe Haven law.

2006: law amended to extend relinquishment to 7 days old or younger.

2007: law passed mandating all Illinois Safe Havens locations display a uniform sign indicating the facility as a designated Safe Haven. These signs are now being used in at least 26 other states across the country.

2009: law amended to extend relinquishment to 30 days old or younger.

2010: law amended to improve information offered to relinquishing parents to obtain medical information.

2011: And, just last week, Governor Pat Quinn signed legislation adding college or university police stations and any district headquarters of the Illinois State Police as additional safe haven locations.

Reviewing the profiles of women who killed their newborns, research discovered that the perception of a young, poor, unemployed, single woman is not borne out by evidence. The women typically had other children, did not show evidence of mental problems, had no record of being abused as children, and had regular jobs. Half of them were living with the baby's father.

Known age of mothers:	Age 14–17:	15.85%
	Age 18–24:	46.34%
	Age 25–30:	23.17%
	Age 31–41:	14.63%
Known race of newborn:	African/Black:	28.18%
	Caucasian/White:	44.45%
	Latino/Hispanic	19.09%
	Mixed/Other	7.27%

The Foundation is proud to remain a 100% volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. For more information, please visit <http://www.saveabandonedbabies.org/>.

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