

The Baby Story

One day two friends were enjoying a peaceful walk along a river bank. Suddenly they heard a disturbing cry. Looking out into the water, they saw a tiny baby coming towards them on a small raft. They knew they had to act so they jumped into the fortunately shallow water and brought the child to safety. They then figured out how to temporarily feed and care for the child.

(Above is an example of INTERVENTION or Direct Service)

The two friends were just about to head back to town with the found child, when from the river they heard even louder cries!! Quickly they ran to the shore and saw six babies in the same situation; all helplessly floating towards them on little rafts. So while one stayed to protect the first baby, the other hero jumped into the water and gathered up all the babies and brought them to safety. Now standing there, with seven crying babies, the two friends knew they needed help. One agreed to stay and protect all the children while the other went to town. While there, the alert would be put out to collect food, diapers, and bedding for the little ones rescued from the river. The community rallied and a huge building was built, laws passed, and an entire industry was created to protect the growing numbers of children being rescued from the river, each and every day.

(Above is an example of TREATMENT or Indirect Service)

Our story is not quite over. As the years went by, the building could no longer hold all the babies being rescued each year. People became tired and felt an overwhelming sense of helplessness that some labeled as apathy. There were calls to the community to raise more funds for bigger and better treatment centers. There

were calls for higher wages for the professional rescuers who were hired to wait by the river's edge. (Higher wages were considered because the rescuers needed more incentive to do the dreadful work of constantly rescuing babies, without an end in sight.)

One day, a wise and bold person was standing knee deep in the river, pulling babies to the bank. This wise person considered the pain of children, the helplessness of the people in the community, and the hopelessness of the situation. The wise person declared boldly to all those around, "You stay here and protect these children. I am going to go up river and find out who is throwing babies in the water. I will find the source of the problem and make sure it stops!!"

(Above is an example of PREVENTION or Advocacy)

-Anonymous