An open Letter from
Karen F. Dunigan, 100(+) Women Who Care Founder
(written spring of 2007)

It started with Baby Beds. Who would have ever thought that a group of outstanding women would be organized to meet such a basic and simple need?

Many of our new mothers with limited resources did not have the financial ability to purchase baby beds. So when they went home with their newborns, they made use of what they had: boxes, dresser drawers, sleeping with siblings or parents. The death rate of newborns was growing at a critical rate and we knew we could save lives if we provided a safe sleeping environment - a baby bed.

When the Center For Family Health (a local Jackson, MI, non profit that provides health care for the uninsured and underinsured), picked up the responsibility to care for these mothers and their newborns, they also took on the responsibility of supplying the baby beds. But, they lacked the additional funding needed for the 300 baby beds at a cost of $10,000.

I knew I could help - I knew I could raise the money - but, I was tired, I didn't want to organize a fundraiser and have meetings and everything that goes with it. I just didn't have the time. I needed to figure out how to raise sufficient funds quickly and easily. I continued to work on this idea, with friends, and knew that, with my friends' help, we had to know at least 100 women in the community who could afford to write a check for $100 – each- to reach the goal of $10,000. This simple idea gave birth to *100 Women Who Care.*

Through the help of my friends, we did it! Our first meeting was on November 15th, 2006 @ 5:30pm at Daryl's (a local restaurant that donated to us the space). The ladies arrived, heard my story and wrote their checks. We were finished and on our way home by 6:30pm. A one-hour meeting! At our first meeting we raised, $12,800 – far exceeding our goal and expectations. Since that meeting we have had two additional meetings with a total of $54,100 being raised and have changed our name to *100(+) Women Who Care* . Today our chapter now has 275 members. Plus, there are chapters in Wheaton, IL; Dayton, OH; Albion, MI;

Congratulations to all !!!

Hugs,
Karen
Karen F. Dunigan
Founder
100(+) Women Who Care