



November 2025

Dear Gently Hugged Friends,

As we close out another remarkable year, my heart is filled with gratitude for you, the incredible community that makes Gently Hugged possible. Your generosity, compassion, and belief in our mission have allowed us to reach more babies and families than ever before, providing comfort and care during a child's most vulnerable first year of life.

This has been a year of extraordinary growth. With the launch of our North Coastal site, Gently Hugged now operates from two locations, allowing us to serve even more families across San Diego County, including those in military communities. Together, our volunteers have prepared and distributed over 1,100 bags this year, the highest number since our founding. Each bag is filled with clothing for a baby's first year, a board book, handmade items, and the love and thoughtfulness of everyone who supports our mission.

Behind every bag is a story of generosity. More than 150 volunteers give their time and talents to make this work possible. Families share gently used clothing, and skilled individuals create beautiful handmade blankets, hats, bibs and booties. Gently Hugged continues to be entirely volunteer run, and it is the dedication and heart of this community that bring our mission to life every single day.

As you consider your year-end giving, please know that your support directly impacts the lives of local newborns and their families. Every contribution, large or small, helps us continue this important work, allowing us to provide warmth, comfort, and care to more babies in need.

Thank you for believing in our mission and for being such an essential part of the Gently Hugged family. Together we are making a lasting difference, one baby, one family, and one lovingly packed bag at a time.

With heartfelt appreciation and warm holiday wishes,

Kara S. Tidemann  
President and CEO  
Gently Hugged

