



Recently Council 710 donated \$2,000 toward the installation of a Safe Haven Baby Box to be installed at Fire Station 3 in Manitowoc. Details relating to the Baby Box are included in the press release below. The attached photo shows Council members Tony Holzinger and Joe Debilzen presenting the check to Belinda Esquinas, Executive Director of The Crossing. The Crossing is serving as the Fiscal Agent for this project and donations are welcome to support the Safe Haven Baby Box. You may have heard on the news that recently the first baby surrendered in Wisconsin using a Safe Haven Baby Box occurred in Racine.



A Safe Haven Baby Box is being installed in the city of Manitowoc.

Manitowoc, Wisconsin October 8, 2025

Community members have worked together to secure financial resources and backing to install a Safe Haven Baby Box in the city of Manitowoc. The Manitowoc Fire Department received approval from the City of Manitowoc for installation at Fire Station 3, which is located at 3820 Dewey Street, Manitowoc WI 54220, making it only one of six such boxes in Wisconsin.

Wisconsin's "Safe Haven" law also known as "newborn relinquishment," allows parents to leave their unharmed newborn (under 72 hours old) anonymously and without fear of prosecution with a law enforcement officer, emergency medical services practitioner, a hospital staff member, or in a newborn infant safety device, also known as a safe haven baby box.

The Safe Haven Law has been in effect in Wisconsin since 2001 but the addition of Safe Haven Baby Boxes was added in 2023. This allows for additional protection and privacy to parents who are making the decision to safely relinquish their newborn. Once a newborn is placed inside the box, 911 dispatch is immediately alerted. The newborn will be taken to a hospital, and the adoption process begins.

Community members working on this project include The Crossing, CASA of East Central Wisconsin, Manitowoc County District Attorney's Office, Manitowoc County Human Services Department, City of Manitowoc Fire Department, City of Manitowoc, and the Two Rivers Police Department. Financial assistance and resources have been provided by the Knights of Columbus, The West Foundation and Mike Howe Builders, Inc., and Matt Lenzer of Lenzer Electric, LLC.

It is hopeful that the Safe Haven Baby box will be installed and ready for use by the end of 2025. More information will be provided when installation details are confirmed.

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