

special Baby Amber

Two years ago today (15 February 2013) a baby girl was born on a river bank under a bridge in Andries Pretorius Street, Somerset West – and then promptly abandoned.

Barely a couple of hours old, she was sniffed out by a vagrant's dog and this caring man then flagged down a passing police vehicle.

They called it in on the Somerset West Neighbourhood Watch radio as they'd been unable to raise an ambulance.

Wrapped in an old rag and just breathing, her umbilical cord was still attached and wrapped around her neck, and there were ants feasting on her mucus membranes.

A neighbourhood watch member attended the scene within minutes and wrapped her in a blanket, wiped her face and cuddled her while awaiting the arrival of paramedics.

She was named Amber, after the ambulance who transferred her to the Helderberg Hospital for immediate care. She was placed with a Kanga Mom and then successfully adopted by a loving family.

This emotional incident kick-started a chain of events that led to the creation of a safe place for desperate mothers to place an unwanted baby.

In August 2014, the Helderberg Baby Saver was born – a safe shielded from the elements and electronically rigged to trigger an emergency response should a baby be placed in it. Neighbourhood watch, Emergency Medical Operations, Secure Rite Security and a team of volunteer responders are the permanent, around-the-clock support team – all doing this without financial compensation.

It is installed at Choices, the Crisis Pregnancy Counselling Centre in Schapenberg Road, Somerset West and was used for the first time in October last year, when a baby boy was placed there by a distraught mother.

Happy birthday Amber! We know you are safe, happy and healthy with your special family, and we want you to know your journey has already saved the life of another.

This is your legacy.

For more information, visit www.babysaver.co.za.

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