



Welcome to the Burlingame Mothers' Club! We are so glad to have you as a member! This Welcome pack is designed to help you get the most out of your membership. It describes the various activities and services available to you as a member and provides the list of all discounts for our members.

What is the Burlingame Mothers' Club?

The Burlingame Mothers' Club (BMC) provides parents of children from birth through age six with support, information, friendship, and community. Our purpose is to provide support, socialization, information, and entertainment to mothers and their families within the community. We are a not-for-profit organization with membership that runs from September 1 to August 31 each year (no matter when you join).

The Club – Then and Now

The club was started in August 1991 and now has over 700 members. Our club continues to grow and welcome new members year after year. Our group is still run entirely by volunteers—40 of them now—all of whom are parents and BMC members, just like you.

Your membership provides you with the following services:

Online Forums - you have questions, our members have answers!

Playgroups - The BMC helps facilitate playgroups by matching members with other members whose kids are the same age. This is one of the many ways that BMC members socialize.

Monthly Newsletter - Receive our monthly newsletter full of articles, event information, activities and family resources.

Preschool Forum - Once a year we host a preschool forum free for BMC members where 35+ local preschools are present to discuss their programs and offerings.

Community Outreach/Helping Hands - We encourage you and your family to volunteer for the numerous volunteer opportunities BMC hosts throughout the year. It's a great way to meet other people, and give back to the community.

New Member Events - We offer frequent events for new members throughout the year as an opportunity to meet other new BMC members, learn more about the club and get a chance to be connected with other moms and BMC board members.

Playgroups - We offer over 20 playgroups which are special interest groups started by fellow members. Our Playgroups offer an opportunity to spend time with other like-minded moms and we hope you will take advantage of one or more of the BMC playgroups.

Social Events - We offer five social events per year, all of which are open to all BMC families.

Outings - Each month we offer a variety of outings for families and for moms. These occur both during the week and on weekends, some in the morning and others in the afternoon and evenings.

Speaker Series – Throughout the year we offer a speaker on a topic relevant to parenting. Most of these events are open only to BMC members.

Meal Train (former In-a-Pinch) - Any BMC member is eligible to receive up to two meals after the birth of a child or any other time she finds herself “in a pinch” (surgery, death in the family, etc.).

Discounts - BMC members receive monthly emails with exclusive discounts at local shops and services.

Online Forums

We have many different forums to ask questions from all parenting and pregnancy-related discussions to non-related parenting, such as home renovations, travel advice or general inquiries.

There are also caregiver & household help questions used to recommend or search for a nanny, au pair, babysitter, cleaner, etc. You should only recommend a caregiver that you have used personally.

Members can also post and subscribe to the online classifieds to buy, sell, borrow, trade, loan items of all sorts. This is a great place to get your money's worth of your membership!

Newsletters

How many BMC Newsletters per year?

The BMC newsletter is sent 10 times per year: September, October, November, December/January, February, March, April, May, June, July/August. It is posted online in .pdf format, and is also sent to all members who have requested that they receive a paper copy.

I'm a blogger/writer or know someone who is. How can I submit my work to be included in the Newsletter?

If you are interested in contributing to the newsletter, please contact the Newsletter Team at newsletter@burlingamemothers.org.

How can I support my business in the BMC newsletter or throughout the BMC?

BMC members are welcome to run paid ads. [Click here](#) to learn more about ad rates and reservation forms. Members are also permitted to run free classified ads of 100 words or less.

Additionally, businesses (members' and non-members' alike) are encouraged to contact the President at president@burlingamemothers.org if they are interested in sponsoring an event and/or are looking for premium access to members either through the newsletter or at an event.

For more information on the newsletter, please email advertising@burlingamemothers.org.

Playgroups

What is a playgroup?

A playgroup is a small gathering of moms and their children who get together on a regular basis for play and interaction. Joining a playgroup gives you a chance to meet, share experiences and learn from other parents—adding up to newfound friendships and a healthy, nurturing environment for kids. As such, most groups prefer that no caretakers other than parents attend a playgroup meeting.

How does a playgroup work?

Parents meet at members' homes, or in public places like parks or cafes for one to two hours often on a weekly basis. The playgroup leader(s) generally sets up these meetings, but all members are encouraged to set up informal meetings using discussion forums. During this time, parents talk, share stories, ask questions, and children play together and learn invaluable social skills as they grow. Participation by all members is key to maintaining the group.

How do I join a playgroup?

Members interested in joining a playgroup have three options to choose from:

1. **By Age.** Join a group of parents with similarly-aged babies by attending one of the quarterly in-person New Member events. The face-to-face meeting helps members get to know each other, share contact information and establish a plan to meet regularly. Events are announced in the newsletter.
2. **By Large Group Association.** Search for a Playgroup already established based on the age of your child. These groups tend to be larger as they are open to the club and are based on age only.
3. **By Special Interest.** Join a special interest group online anytime.

If you have questions or would like to request the creation of a new group, send an email to playgroups@burlingamemothers.org.

Social Events

Throughout the year, we host fantastic social events for our members and their families. We have a large Halloween Parade on Burlingame Avenue, host a Spring Fling Party in the Park in the spring and an Ice Cream Social in the summer. We also celebrate Kindness in November and the Holidays in December. These events feature entertainment and activities for the children. Once a year, we also host an incredible night out for parents (no kids allowed!). Watch for announcements for these events in BMC newsletter. Please note: these events are very popular. We recommend an early registration so we can be sure to have enough of everything to make all our little guests happy.

Outings

What does the Outings Committee do?

We plan group activities for moms and children every month. Popular recurring events include children's music, gymnastics, dance, swimming and yoga classes, walks for moms and infants, as well as berry and pumpkin picking trips. Different activities are planned for our three target ages: newborn to walking, toddlers and preschoolers.

We also organize relaxing and entertaining events for moms to enjoy without their kids, such as private shopping events (make-up, bras, and baby products/clothes), lunches, dinners, group cooking/baking classes, wine tastings, Sunday brunches, game nights, movie nights and happy hours. We are always looking for fresh ideas, new locations, volunteers and your favorite activity to re-discover as a mom with other moms. Please send us a note if you have something to contribute to outings@burlingamemothers.org.

How do I participate in an Outing?

We generally require our members to register, and pay (if applicable) in advance for all Outings events so we can secure group discounts, ensure we don't overbook an event and adequately prepare for our members' enjoyment.

Speaker Series

What does the Speaker Series Committee do?

Our speaker events are focused on the specific challenges of parenting young children. We offer classes on topics such as children and infant CPR, discipline, language development, lactation, sleep training, potty training, kindergarten, preschool, etc. We select topics of interests based on our members' feedback, look for reputable speakers to organize the class and negotiate the best possible pricing for our members.

How does Speaker Series Committee work?

We are always looking for new topics, subjects and speakers. We'd love to hear your ideas and if there is any particular class you'd like to see in our listings and we are always open to new volunteers. Please send us a note if you have something to contribute to speakers@burlingamemothers.org.

How can I participate in a Speaker Series event?

As space is limited, registration is required for all of our events.

Helping Hands/Meal Train

What does the Helping Hands Committee do?

Helping Hands activities ensure our interaction with our community at large and provide fundraising for our community partner non-profit organizations. Activities include preparing Thanksgiving baskets and other assembled bags for needy families, conducting holiday toy, used clothing and baby supply drives, "adopting" less-fortunate families at the holidays, drives, holiday toy drives for and other community-focused events. The Helping Hands team also organizes the annual BMC Flea, which provides a wonderful place to find good-condition, second-hand products related to parenting and children, or a little something to spruce up your home with admission and table renting proceeds going directly to our community partner non-profit organizations.

How do I request a meal from Meal Train?

As moms, we all find ourselves in need of a helping hand. Whether you just brought home a new bundle of joy, are laid up on bed rest, your partner is out of town or just plain overwhelmed, email mealtrain@burlingamemothers.org and request meal to be delivered. The Meal Train Coordinator will contact you regarding the details of the delivery and to confirm.

How do I sign up to deliver a meal for Meal Train?

If you would like to deliver a meal to a BMC member, please contact mealtrain@burlingamemothers.org to volunteer. We are always looking for volunteers as these meals are incredibly important to our members. Meals can either be prepared at home or purchased or you can utilize an online delivery service. Volunteers who complete the meal delivery are mentioned in the newsletter.

Community Partnerships

What is the Community Partnerships Program?

The BMC Community Partnerships Program offers our members valuable discounts and exclusive benefits from participating local and online retailers and service providers. In addition, Seasonal Promotions highlight select vendors who are offering a significant discount or benefit for a limited time only. Look for these offerings at the beginning of each month in the BMC Community Partnerships Email.

What do I need to do to receive a discount?

Most brick and mortar businesses just require proof of membership. Your membership key fob or a copy of your BMC newsletter showing your name and address will suffice. In some cases, a physical coupon or a specific sign-up process may be required. Any special requirements will be noted in the vendor listings.

Online retailers usually have a coupon code to enter during checkout. A list of these codes can be found in the monthly email. Again, any special requirements will be noted in the vendor listings.

My favorite store, website, service provider is not in the program – what can I do?

Just let us know! We are constantly adding vendors to the program and want to make sure the program reflects the needs of our members. Just send an email to: partnership@burlingamemothers.org, and we will contact the business and get them in the program.

I would like to participate in the program as a vendor. What do I need to do?

We love to include our members' businesses in the program. Just email partnership@burlingamemothers.org to speak with our Partnership Coordinator.

Contact Information

Again, thank you for joining the Burlingame Mothers' Club. We hope you find the support, information and resources you need to help you make the most of your BMC membership. If you run into any trouble, feel free to send us an email:

President president@burlingamemothers.org

Vice-President vp@burlingamemothers.org

Membership membership@burlingamemothers.org

Social social@burlingamemothers.org

Treasurer treasurer@burlingamemothers.org

Newsletter Editor newsletter@burlingamemothers.org

Advertising Manager advertising@burlingamemothers.org

Outings Coordinator outings@burlingamemothers.org

Playgroup Coordinator playgroups@burlingamemothers.org

Meal Train (In-A-Pinch) Coordinator mealtrain@burlingamemothers.org

Helping Hands helpinghands@burlingamemothers.org

Speaker Coordinator speakers@burlingamemothers.org

Website Manager online@burlingamemothers.org

First Time Moms Coordinator firsttimers@burlingamemothers.org

Volunteer Coordinators volunteers@burlingamemothers.org

Working Moms Coordinators workingmoms@burlingamemothers.org

Community Events & Voice communityvoice@burlingamemothers.org

Moderator moderator@burlingamemothers.org

e-Bulletin ebulletin@burlingamemothers.org