

The Diaper Drive hosts first metro-wide diaper collection on Dad's Day

Written by

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To celebrate Dad's day... and to help eliminate the diaper gap in the social services network, on Sunday, June 20 from 12 to 4 pm, volunteers with The Diaper Drive will collect donations at designated Rainbow Food Store locations across the metro area.

As a rising number of Minnesota families struggle to pay the rent and put food on the table, households with young children face the added burden of providing diapers, an often-overlooked expense that is not covered by food stamp or WIC (Women, Infant & Children) programs.

Low-income parents who are struggling to become financially independent cannot take advantage of free or subsidized childcare if they cannot afford to leave disposable diapers at childcare centers. Without access to daycare, parents are less able to attend work or school on a consistent basis. This in turn leads to increased economic instability and a continual cycle of poverty.

An adequate supply of diapers can cost well over \$100 per month. For a household with one parent and child, this represents nearly 25 percent of their cash assistance for the month, leaving even less for rent, child care co-pays, transportation, and other essential household goods and personal hygiene items not covered by food stamps (dish and laundry soap, shampoo, deodorant, baby cream, etc). For families lacking reliable transportation, buying diapers at an inner city convenience store rather than a large retailer can double or triple the monthly cost for diapers.

The Diaper Drive is Minnesota's first and only diaper bank partnering with family service organizations across the Twin Cities metro area to address the "diaper gap" in the social services network. The need for diapers extends beyond just babies. Seniors on Medicare and other government programs do not get subsidies for diapers when dealing with incontinence. Therefore, The Diaper Drive extends beyond young families.

Diaper-Day collection events are occurring at the following Rainbow Foods locations: Apple Valley, Blaine, Maple Grove, Plymouth – Rockford Rd, and Woodbury. Donations of ANY of the following items are needed in any brand or size: baby diapers, disposable training pants, swim diapers, diaper wipes, adult diapers, belted shields, men's guards and underpads.

About The Diaper Drive

The Diaper Drive is Minnesota's first and only diaper bank partnering with family service organizations across the Twin Cities metro area. It is a new 100% volunteer-led grass roots organization that was created to address the "diaper gap" in our social services network .

The purpose of The Diaper Drive is to: help prevent health issues for children by giving low income families access to fresh, properly fitting diapers; partner with the community, collecting diapers and or funds, to purchase diapers; act as a vendor to public service agencies with diaper needs; and advocate, through the use of technology and social media, that "basic human needs" include diapers and that these needs are not being met for many children and adults.

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For more information about how to get involved or volunteer, visit www.thediaperdrive.com