



February 14 – April 6, 2015

Diaper Need Facts

Diapers are as essential as food and shelter. Yet, they are not recognized as a basic need. Diapers cannot be obtained with food stamps or WIC, and are classified with cigarettes, alcohol and pet food as disallowed purchases.

WHAT IS DIAPER NEED?

The struggle to provide babies and toddlers with an essential need: diapers. Diaper need is the lack of a sufficient supply of diapers to make sure babies and toddlers remain clean, dry and healthy. Some families face having to clean out and reuse soiled diapers or have to choose between diapers and other basic needs like food. In our community, families struggle with diaper need every day.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

- 1 out of 3 families struggle to buy diapers.
- Diapers can cost over \$100 per month, per baby.
- Food Stamps and WIC cannot be used to buy diapers.
- Infants and toddlers need about 8-12 diapers per day.

WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF DIAPER NEED?

- Babies who remain too long in a soiled diaper are exposed to potential health risks.
- Most childcare centers require parents to provide a day's supply of disposable diapers.
- Many parents cannot go to work or school if they can't leave their babies at childcare.
- Diaper Need causes emotional stress for parents.

WHAT'S THE GOAL OF THE AMHERST-AREA DIAPER DRIVE?

18,000 diapers and 54,000 diaper wipes.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE DIAPERS COLLECTED IN THE DRIVE?

They will be distributed to families and babies in need through the Amherst Survival Center's Food Pantry, which distributes personal care items, when available. The Food Pantry serves households in Amherst, Belchertown, Deerfield, Granby, Hadley, Leverett, Pelham, Shutesbury, South Deerfield, South Hadley, Sunderland, Whately, and Ware. The Amherst-Area Diaper Drive helps to ensure that children's diapers will be available.

Amherst-Area Diaper Drive Co-Sponsors: Amherst Survival Center, Family Outreach of Amherst, the Office of State Representative Ellen Story, Amherst College's Center for Community Engagement, Hampshire/Franklin/North Quabbin WIC - a program of Community Action, Town of Amherst Health Department, United Way of Hampshire County