

## One week, \$6,265 to go in 'Diapers' effort

Written by Post-Crescent Media

Jun. 22

postcrescent.com



With one week until the scheduled end of Post-Crescent Media's "Dollars for Diapers" Do It! Community Challenge, donations have reached 58.2 percent of the \$30,000 goal.

"We need a huge week of contributions to hit our target by Father's Day," said Dan Flannery, Post-Crescent Media's executive editor. "We're \$6,265 away from a successful close to this campaign, and we need the community to support the cause in a big way."

"Dollars for Diapers" supports the Fox Cities Diaper Bank, founded in 2011 by United Way Fox Cities, which continues to administer the program. The diaper bank distributes about 300,000 disposable diapers per year to low-income families who often face a difficult choice between diapers and food, or diapers and medicine, or diapers and transportation.

Keeping infants and toddlers healthy and dry is critical to families who struggle to make financial ends meet. When diaper rash leads to more serious skin conditions or illnesses (including the real possibility of hepatitis), parents often must leave work to care for sick children.

Further, disposable diapers are required at child care facilities and, for families who don't have home laundry equipment, at coin-operated laundry facilities.

A monthly supply of disposable diapers for a child can cost \$100 or more, with infants using as many as 12 diapers each day. Most safety-net programs such as WIC or food stamps (now known as SNAP) cannot be used to purchase diapers.

### Fox Cities Diaper Bank

The Fox Cities Diaper Bank, founded and administered by United Way Fox Cities, distributes about 300,000 disposable diapers to families in need. On average, 600 children receive diapers on a monthly basis. More than 900 community volunteers have been involved in repackaging diapers for distribution to families.

The diapers, intended to be supplements to a family's existing diaper supply, are distributed through:

- Community 2000 Program, through Valley Packaging Industries
- Harbor House Domestic Abuse Programs
- Hortonville Community Food Pantry
- Outagamie County Department of Health and Human Services/Children, Youth and Family Division
- Outagamie County Early Intervention Program, through Valley Packaging Industries
- Parent Connection —Family Services of Northeast Wisconsin
- St. Joseph Food Program
- The Salvation Army-Fox Cities
- The Salvation Army-Outagamie County Service Extension

**For more information**, call the United Way at 920-954-7210 or go to [www.foxcitiesdiaperbank.org](http://www.foxcitiesdiaperbank.org).

To contribute online to Post-Crescent Media's "Dollars for Diapers" Do It! Community Challenge, go to [cfoffoxvalley.org](http://cfoffoxvalley.org).

To contribute by U.S. mail or in person, complete the donation form that appears in The Post-Crescent on Sundays and some weekdays (in today's P-C, on **Page F7**).

Mail the form and a check to the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region, P.O. Box 563, Appleton, WI 54912. Checks should be made payable to The Post-Crescent Community Fund.

To donate in person, the Community Foundation is at 4455 W. Lawrence St., Appleton, near the Fox River Mall area.

"There is a clear need for this program," Flannery said. "Disposable diapers are in high demand at many food pantries, but they're not always in high supply. The Fox Cities Diaper Bank makes a substantial difference for hundreds of Fox Valley families who are working hard to create a better life for their children."

A total of \$17,470 in donations has been received by the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region in this year's campaign, with half of that —\$8,735 —from 162 contributions from individuals, businesses and civic groups.

The campaign began on Mother's Day with \$5,000 matching grants from the J. J. Keller Foundation, Thrivent Financial and United Way Fox Cities. To reach the \$30,000 goal, individual donations of \$15,000 are needed to satisfy the matching grants.

"We're so thankful for the generosity of everyone who's helped so far," Flannery said. "From the smallest donation to the foundation and corporate level, it all makes an impact."

"We have seven days left to hit the goal. We need your support."