

Diaper banks are 'a blessing' to families in need

[Jen Zettel](#), USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin Published 2:01 p.m. CT Sept. 15, 2017

Celebrating Volunteers: Business Partnership Award



Fox Cities Diaper Bank and Kimberly-Clark Corp. are the recipients of the Business Partnership Award. (2017) UW-Fox Valley's Communication and Theater Arts 106 Class

SEYMOUR - Before Becky Miller heard about the Fox Cities Diaper Bank, she would go without eating to make sure her daughter had food and clean diapers.

Miller, of Seymour, heard about the Fox Cities Diaper Bank through Community 2000, a program of United Way Fox Cities. She utilized the diaper bank for two years and said it helped significantly.

"There's so many times it saved us because we were scraping for money to get diapers, and it happened to be that time of the month where we would be able to go there and get the diapers," she said.

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Community 2000 is an offshoot of Valley Packaging and is based in Seymour, said Juli Meulemans, program coordinator. The organization serves low-income residents of all ages who live in the Seymour and Shiocton school districts. Residents who meet income eligibility

requirements can take advantage of a wide array of services, from basic necessities like bedding, clothing and kitchen utensils, to emergency needs like food and personal care items.

In addition, about a dozen agencies — including the Fox Cities Diaper Bank and LEAVEN — serve clients who live in rural Outagamie County through Community 2000.

Meulemans has 40 to 50 families who use the diaper bank, and she said their situations run the gamut. Meulemans has referred single parents struggling to make ends meet, families who are facing significant medical expenses, and grandparents and great-grandparents who are raising babies.

When families come in to pick up their diapers, Meulemans can see the relief on their faces.

"It's such a blessing for so many. I wish people could see how relieved they are over diapers, especially when it's a name brand — when it's not the cheapest, generic kind that leaks as soon as the baby gets wet," she said. "I have people who hug a package of diapers because they're so relieved to have them."

USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin's Dollars for Diapers campaign collects diapers and monetary donations for local diaper banks. Information on how to donate is below.

Dollars for Diapers benefits the Fox Cities Diaper Bank, which began seven years ago after Kimberly-Clark Corp. approached United Way Fox Cities with the idea. K-C had completed a study that showed one in three parents struggled to provide diapers for their children.

K-C became a founding partner, and has contributed products, money and volunteers to the cause.

Each month, 875 babies from low-income families receive diapers through the bank. The effort has distributed more than 2 million diapers since 2011.

Miller felt the program made such an impact on her family that she recommended it to others she thought might benefit.

"It's just an amazing program — it really is," she said.

How to donate to Dollars for Diapers:

Fox Cities

Online donations can be made through the [Dollars for Diapers page](#) on the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region website: donor.cffoxvalley.org/dollarsfordiapers

Donations can be dropped at United Way Fox Cities, 1455 Midway Road, Menasha



Brown County

Online donations can be made through [diaper drive page](#) on the Brown County United Way website: <http://www.browncountyunitedway.org/diaperdrive/>

Donations can be dropped off at:

- » Green Bay area Festival Foods and Shopko locations
- » Brown County United Way, at 112 N. Adam St., Suite 201, Green Bay

For a full list of drop-off locations visit [the diaper drive page](#) on the Brown County United Way website.

Oshkosh

Online Donations: oshkoshunitedway.org/diapers

Donations can be dropped off at Oshkosh United Way, 36 Broad St., Suite 100, Oshkosh