

# Dollars for Diapers addresses a critical need in the community

Dan Wadle, For USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin, Published 9:25 a.m. CT Sept. 2, 2017 | Updated 9:32 a.m. CT Sept. 2, 2017

Last Sunday kicked off the Green Bay Press-Gazette's Dollars for Diapers campaign.

This annual campaign partners locally with the Brown County Diaper Drive sponsored by Brown County United Way and the Greater Green Bay Labor Council Community Services Committee in collecting diapers and other baby products to assist low-income families in Brown County.

When we first started the Brown County Diaper Drive, I was asked why we were creating it.

RELATED: [Dollars for Diapers campaign kicks off](#)

I realized how expensive diapers had been for my two children and wondered what people did who had less. I learned from area programs heartbreaking stories about children who go without even the most basic necessities such as diapers. I knew we had to step up to help.

Newborns can require as many as 10 diapers per day and 3,000 diapers per year. Locally a box of 100 newborn diapers costs approximately \$25. According to the United States Census Bureau, in 2015, 21.5% or 3,610 children in Brown County under age 5 lived in poverty. Government programs, including food stamps and WIC, do not cover any portion of the cost of diapers.

The domino effect associated with having an inadequate supply of diapers is significant:

- » It may result in a baby spending the entire day in a single diaper, increasing the risk of health problems including diaper rash and hepatitis.
- » A baby crying non-stop from being in a soiled diaper for a prolonged period of time is more likely to be a victim of abuse.
- » A 2013 study found that diaper need was the most predictive of postpartum depressive symptoms beyond food insecurity and housing instability.



(Photo: Courtesy of Dan Wadle)

» Low income parents cannot utilize childcare if they cannot afford to leave a day's supply of disposable diapers at the childcare center. If parents cannot access childcare, then they are less able to attend work or school, continuing the cycle of poverty.

In addition to last year's Dollars for Diapers efforts that collected over 135,000 diapers and other baby items, other groups also work to help address this important need in our community. Love Life Ministry, the largest distributor of diapers for low-income families in Brown County, distributed more than 250,000 diapers last year and Green Bay Doulas collected more than 23,000.

Please support this year's Dollars for Diapers Campaign and Brown County Diaper Drive so that all children in Brown County can have the diapers they need to grow up healthy and happy.

Dan Wadle is community services liaison for the Brown County United Way.

## **How to donate:**

### **Brown County**

Online donations can be made through diaper drive page on the Brown County United Way website.

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: <http://www.browncountyunitedway.org/diaperdrive/>

### **Fox Cities**

Online donations can be made through the Dollars for Diapers page on the Fox Valley Community Foundation website.

Donations can be dropped at:

United Way Fox Cities - 1455 Midway Road, Menasha

### **Oshkosh**

Online Donations: [oshkoshunitedway.org/diapers](http://oshkoshunitedway.org/diapers)

Drop off: Oshkosh United Way, 36 Broad St., Suite 100, Oshkosh