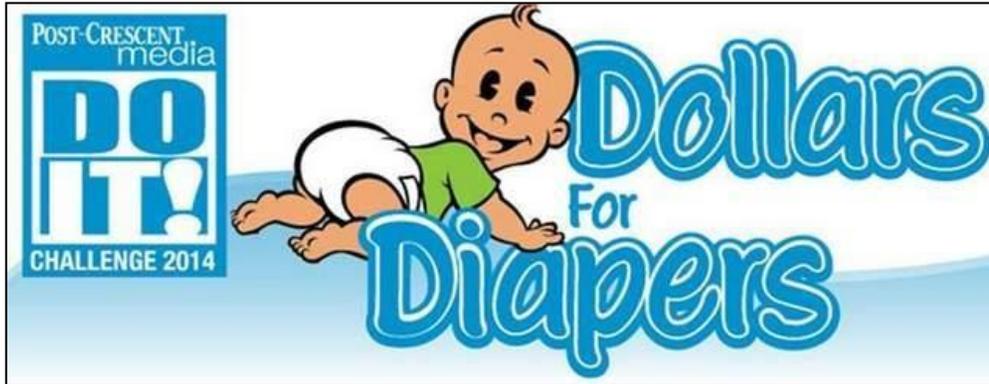


'Diapers' campaign reaches 90.7 percent of \$30,000 goal

Written by Post-Crescent Media

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Will your donation put Post-Crescent Media's "Dollars for Diapers" Do It! Community Challenge over the top?

It's possible, but your contribution needs to happen today, the final day of the \$30,000 campaign to support the Fox Cities Diaper Bank.

Donations have reached 90.7 percent (\$27,195.86) of the goal.

"We're \$1,402.07 away from satisfying all \$15,000 of matching grants that were pledged to 'Dollars for Diapers,'" said Dan Flannery, Post-Crescent Media's executive editor. "This has been an extraordinary week of generosity, and we need one final push to get to the goal."

As of Friday, individual donations of \$13,597.93 —from 248 readers, businesses, family foundations, civic groups and churches —had been received by the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region. The campaign began on Mother's Day, May 11, with three \$5,000 matching grants —from the J. J. Keller Foundation, Thrivent Financial and United Way Fox Cities, which founded the Fox Cities Diaper Bank in 2011 and still administers the program.

The diaper bank's mission is to supplement disposable diapers for low-income families in the Fox Valley, to keep infants and toddlers dry and healthy. That keeps parents who work low-wage jobs at their workplace, earning money, instead of caring for sick children.

When children are in wet, soiled diapers too long, they can develop diaper rash and more serious illnesses, including hepatitis. Many low-income families must often face difficult financial decisions between diapers and food, diapers and transportation and diapers and medicine.

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.

To contribute online to Post-Crescent Media's "Dollars for Diapers" Do It! Community Challenge, go to cffoxvalley.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 D10**). 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, and will be accepted for this year's campaign if received by Thursday, June 19.

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

"The Fox Cities Diaper Bank makes a positive difference, plain and simple, in hundreds of lives," Flannery said. "A simple act of helping a young family with disposable diapers—which can cost more than \$100 per month—can help with decisions that have far-reaching, long-term implications."

Disposable diapers are required by child care facilities and coin-operated laundry facilities. Many low-income families don't have in-home laundry equipment.

A week ago, the campaign needed \$6,265 to match the Keller, Thrivent and United Way grants, but donations of \$4,863 came in over the week, significantly closing the gap.

"We're so proud to live and work in a community that cares so much about building better lives for everyone," Flannery said.

"The 'Dollars for Diapers' campaign serves a segment of our population that really needs the help. When we make our final report, next Sunday, we're confident we'll have another success story to tell."