



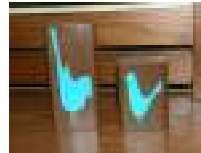
News from the Nest...

Newsletter -Volume 1 - July 2012

We Named our Mascots...

Our mommy bird mascot has been named: **Chirp**

And the baby bird mascot has been named: **Cheep**



Cheep is going to start adventuring and checking out the world outside of his nest, like little ones do, he is growing and starting to learn and explore.

The little wood block of Cheep is going to be out and about around town and the area. Follow "Cheeps Adventures" on our Facebook page and see if you can guess where he is visiting.

What is Diaper Need?

Diaper need is; Nestlings giving away over 30,000 diapers within 10 months during our first year. We are only just beginning to put a small dent in the very large issue of diaper need.

We are greeted with wonderful stories when we deliver diapers about thankful mothers, some who even cry when they receive the free diapers provided by Nestlings. Diapers seem like such a small thing but it is a very large blessing to a family in need and distress.

Every day people are living without basic necessities beyond food. We willingly give food every day to people of low income because we feel the necessity to keep them fed to stay alive. Yet we lack giving them supplies to feel the basic human necessity of being clean and having well laundered clothes, instead feeling for some reason it is a luxury they do not deserve.

Why is it when your ability to provide or your income drops one of the first things to get sacrificed is the products to stay clean and healthy? Simple task like brushing teeth, washing hair, wearing deodorant, or washing clothes becomes a burden because the HBA items involved in cleaning yourself, your family or your home become a luxury and are not something generally provided by programs. Diapers fall into this void of programs and are considered luxuries instead of basic necessity. Explain that to your baby; "You can eat but please don't poop; we can't afford it."

Why Help?

The experiences in the first years of a child's life can influence how their brains develop and how they might interact with the world around them in their future. Neglected and abused children are known to be at a high risk of developing behavior, emotional, intellectual and social disabilities. The cost of preventing such problems in early childhood can be much less than the impact these disabilities can cost a community in identifying, repairing, re-teaching, reintegrating and maintaining physical and mental health problems in the child's future.

Nurturing is an important time in forming a bond between a baby and its care giver. These important years can be very beneficial to their futures. By keeping babies in clean and dry

diapers we try to help reduce undue stress in their lives and environments. Studies have shown that negative early childhood experiences can affect the development of the brain, social and learning skills. Parents who are preoccupied with the struggle to provide the daily essentials find it harder to find the resources or time to provide stimulating experiences to foster optimal brain development.

How Does Diaper Need Begin?

The need for diapers can begin a lot of ways, starting with unemployment, substance abuse, physical abuse, abandonment, status change and may other ways. It is not always a cause and effect of planned or unplanned pregnancy.

We know of stories where people have been involved in accidents or get illnesses that suddenly change you and your family's life. If the primary caregiver is affected then they cannot provide easily for the family. Next the medical bills start to come in on top of everything else and diapers with many other items fall to the bottom of the list.

Unfortunately, these are some of the sad realities that can happen to families every day. One day you can be a happy healthy functioning family unit and overnight life can happen to change it all. "Life Happens" and this is where "Diaper Need" begins.

Why Not Use Cloth?

It seems that cloth would be the easy solution to the problem of diaper need, but due to health regulations diapers are generally not allowed to be washed in public machines. Besides, laundry detergent is a costly item and also not covered by any assistance programs.

Many families don't have access to their own laundry machines and it is difficult to get transportation to public machines and cannot be relied upon on a consistent and regular basis. Babysitters may be needed or having to take the children along, incurring more expenses. Besides, finding the money to put in the machines, travel public transportation and buy soap is also a burden on a low income family.

Green Efforts...Now Offering Cloth!

Having pointed out the issues with cloth for most of the general public, we realize there are exceptions to the rules. Nestlings is now going to start offering cloth diapers to families in need as they are requested. We acknowledge that people want the ability go "GREEN" and income level does not change how one feels about our environment or their family.

Recognizing that there are situations where families want to use cloth and have access to their own laundry machines, we will provide cloth diapers as requested to those who choose that option for their babies. Donations of cloth diapers will be now accepted and redistributed.

Nestlings 1st Birthday...Happy Birthday to Us!

Nestlings Diaper Bank recently celebrated its first birthday on May 31st. That is the date we got our official word in the mailbox that the federal government had approved our 501(c)(3) status and we began our work to help diaper the low income babies in need.

We started giving out diapers in August of 2011, using the months previous to acquire diapers to begin the giving. Within our first year, in just ten months of providing diapers to the families of babies in need we have given out over 30,000 diapers.

Giving Spirit...

In our first year, Nestlings has been able to acquire over 32,000 diapers from our local generous community. As we reflect on our past year we realize we have a lot to be thankful for. All the support from the community has been wonderful.

During this time of reflection we would like to take a moment to thank you for your support of Nestlings and our mission to help diaper the babies. The diapers, wipes and monies you have gifted us with have been a huge support for us and our mission. It enabled us to start making an impact on the issue of diaper need.

Thank you again for your support of Nestlings and the babies of low income families. Without the wonderful support from people like you organizations like ours could not exist and we could not help those in need. We appreciate everything you do for the community around you and thanks again for allowing us to help them.

Huggies Donation...

In March of this year we also received another 9,600 diapers through a partnership with Huggies, Kids in Distressed Situations Inc. and the newly formed National Diaper Bank Network. Huggies has agreed to donate diapers to the National Diaper Bank and they in turn will trickle shipments to diaper banks around the country in their network (including Nestlings) to receive free diapers. Those 9,600 diapers were distributed in the local area and only lasted 3 months.

The Huggies Every Little Bottom Counts program benefits diaper bank organizations like Nestlings. When you buy limited edition special print diapers (Denim, Santa, Hawaiian prints, etc.) Huggies gives a portion of those proceeds toward giving free diapers to banks like us.

Please make sure to grab those diapers in the cute current trend and help Huggies donate to Nestlings in the end. While you are out there, why not grab another bag and drop it in a Nestlings collection drop box? (See website for locations)

Where The Diapers Go...

With your donation and the others Nestlings has been able to provide diapers to the clientele of The Holland Rescue Mission, The Ottawa County Health Department, Intercare, Community Action House, The Center for Women in Transition, The Children's Advocacy Center, OAISD, YoungLives, over seven area churches that run the Care Closet program, Breakfast for Babies and the Diaper Store in Allendale.

Diaper Need Awareness Week...

The National Diaper Bank has announced the first ever "Diaper Need Awareness Week". This will run from September 10 through September 17. Nestlings will be announcing events, plans and details as they unfold. Please check our Facebook and website for the upcoming information. (See below)

Up-Coming 2012 Events...

These are the events we have planned so far. Keep up to date on our events by checking our website and Facebook for more details at: www.nestlings.org
Facebook - nestlingsdiaperbank

Garage Sale to Benefit Nestlings –

July 13 & 14, Friday - 2:00pm-7:00pm & Saturday – 8:00am – 2:00pm- at

15912 New Holland St., Holland 49424 – many donated times from multiple families.

Diaper donations are appreciated and credit cards will be accepted.

Baby Photo Contest – More details coming soon check our website and Facebook for more info.

Dinner Out Night – We are looking into hosting a “Dinner Night Out” with a local restaurant that gives a percentage of the proceeds of the specified night to Nestlings. More details will be coming soon, on our website and Facebook, watch for the info and bring the family out. Help buy diapers, eat and no one has to cook, sounds like a great plan!

Nestlings Wish List...

Nestlings has a wish list of a few different items that we could use to help progress our mission to provide even more diapers to those in need in our area. We have them listed here in no particular order. If there are any things on the list that you may be able to provide or know someone who can and is willing to help please let us know.

- A building or place to work out of and call home.
- Money to buy diapers and wipes with, along with help finding money.
- Writers and Blog post contributors.
- Fundraising ideas and assistance.
- People willing to work from their home on various projects.
- Volunteers with various computer skills and abilities.
- Diaper drive host and participants.

We are really finding the need for a place to start “nesting” and call home. Working from our homes does not give us the ability to take advantage of volunteers, interns and other opportunities that may be available to us because we lack a business location.

We have looked into some spaces but with our limited resources we are not able to afford such luxuries as rent. Rent monies would buy lots of diapers for babies in need right now and we prefer to try and help the babies as much as we can. We don't even need to have something for everyday, just a business space to call home to use daily, weekly, monthly or as needed.

If you have a space that is sitting empty or you know of some space that someone may be willing to let us use, please let us know. Any space given to Nestlings use would be tax deductible.

We Would Like to Thank...

WZZM 13 / Gannett Foundation - for their grant gift of \$2,000 to Nestlings.

The Holland Junior Welfare League – for their grant gift of \$250.00 to Nestlings.

Both of these generous gifts went toward providing diapers to the children in need in our area.

Thanks to all of you who have supported us in our first year. Please keep it coming because the resources pass through quickly. The diapers don't last long and more little miracles are born every day, whom do not choose their circumstances.

We really appreciate everything you all have done. Without wonderful people like you we could not help the babies, so we truly thank you for all the blessings.