

## News from the Nest...

Newsletter -Volume 5 - July 2016



### Thank You Team Baby for 5 Years...

Nestlings celebrated Birthday #5 on February 9th. Five years ago Nestlings distributed 11,000 free diapers in its first year and helped approximately 300 families. To date in 2016 Nestlings has distributed over 75,000 diapers, helping approximately 3,000 families and are on pace to beat the 2015 year number of 86,000, within the next two months. Since 2011 Nestlings has distributed over 355,000 free diapers to over 10,000 families who are in need.

As the founder of Nestlings and as I reflect on the past five years and these distribution numbers, I am truly humbled by all the community support that has gathered around to help the babies in need. I cannot begin to **THANK ALL** the people that have touched and supported the organization in some way. I am afraid if I tried to list you all, I would miss someone. Thank you all for everything.

The community together has helped to make such a difference to the littlest members of our community. The babies are the innocents whom do not get to choose the income level they are born into. When I found out there were families struggling to diaper their children and afraid to admit it, due to fear of circumstances, I could not help but try to do something. Something turned into Nestlings Diaper Bank and I am so appreciative of every single thing and person that has in some way supported Nestlings mission.

It truly could not have been done without all of you. Without your help and support, Nestlings could not help them. Together we are making a difference and a great team.

***Thank You, Thank You, Thank You! Go Team Baby!***

### Feeling the Love...

Nestlings distributed its **300,000th diaper**, in March, to **Love INC** in Hudsonville.

Love INC has served the Hudsonville, Jenison and Grandville area for over 30 years. Through partnerships with local churches and dedicated volunteers, they provide many basic necessities for those needing assistance. They coordinate over 50 different ministries and offer a Life Skills Program that empowers individuals toward authentic life transformation.



The people at this agency, their volunteers and all of Nestlings Partner Agencies deserve a huge **Thank You** for their service to the families and babies of our community.



### National Diaper Need Awareness Week...

National Diaper Need Awareness Week is September 26<sup>th</sup>- Oct 2, 2016. Diaper Need Awareness Week is an initiative of the National Diaper Bank Network. National Diaper Need Awareness Week was created make a difference in the lives of the nearly 5.3 million babies in the U.S. aged three or younger who live in poor or low-income families.

Please make a commitment to act during this National Event by hosting a Diaper Drive, Coin Drive, Other Event, or Donation. Research shows that negative early experiences affect brain development and learning. Children in dirty diapers also risk physical abuse. Your assistance makes a difference in the lives and futures of babies and children in our community, struggling with diaper need.

### Just for Fun, Word Un-Scramble... (answers on the bottom of last page)

Irsterlo, anteciud, lmayif, faes esple, uaodl, tnoincen,  
nedifeg, ohctl ardpei, dhocohdli, mictoymnu, trfgleua, rbcj,

## Gold Coast Doulas Anniversary Celebration Diaper Drive Event...

Gold Coast Doulas is celebrating its one-year anniversary on Saturday, Oct. 1 with a Diaper Drive giveback event at Nestlings. The free event is from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Children are welcome. There will be food, refreshments, a photo booth, kids' activities and giveaways. There will be diaper wrapping activities from 10 to 11 a.m.



**Diapers donations will be collected at the time of the event and throughout the month of September.**

### **Diaper Donation Drop Off Locations:**

**Zeeland** - Smedley Dental, The Howard Miller Library

**Holland** –Untangled Salon, Brann's, Ecobuns and The Insurance Group

**Hudsonville** - Hudsonville Congregational United Church of Christ

**Grand Rapids** - Gold Coast Doulas, Simply Born Midwifery Services, Renew Mama Studio, Midwifery Matters and Hopscotch

Gold Coast Doulas is the area's first doula agency offering birth doula support, overnight and daytime postpartum doula support, bedrest support, HypnoBirthing classes, placenta encapsulation and baby care classes. They serve Greater Grand Rapids and the Lakeshore Communities. [www.goldcoastdoulas.com](http://www.goldcoastdoulas.com)



### **Promote Safe Sleep for Babies...**

Protect them while they sleep every time by placing them...

**In a Crib and On their Backs** - *leave everything out of the crib – no pillows, blankets, bumper pads, stuffed animals or soft objects.*

Spread the word! Tell everyone you know! It is for the baby's best interest and safety.

More information can be found at: [http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71548\\_57836---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71548_57836---,00.html)

### **Community Service Groups...**

Do you have a group that you would like to do a Community Service, Team Building, or just for fun event with? Re-packaging diapers is a great activity. Meijer, Girls on the Run, Walgreens, Girl Scout Troops, Hope College, Women's Service Day, Kohl's and Mead-Johnson are among the wonderful groups that have volunteered to re-package diapers that are distributed to the families with babies. Thank you all!



### **Diaper Re-Packaging Volunteer Opportunities...**

On the 2nd Friday of every month between 1pm-3pm, Nestlings host regular diaper re-packaging for volunteers. Please feel free to stop in at 650 Riley St, Holland, 49424 if you would like to volunteer to help re-package diapers and we will put you to work, kids are welcome too.



### **Diaper Donations... most needed and distributed sizes are 4, 5 and 6's.**

Nestlings accepts open diaper packages, wipes, cloth diapers (new or used) and their supplies.

EcoBuns Cloth Diaper Store in Holland has a donation box or see [www.nestlings.org](http://www.nestlings.org) for more drop off locations.

Monetary donations can be mailed to Nestlings, 650 Riley St, Suite L, Holland, 49424 or accepted online at [www.nestlings.org](http://www.nestlings.org).

For questions, comments, suggestions or input please feel free to contact Nestlings at 616-298-1009 or email: [diapers@nestlings.org](mailto:diapers@nestlings.org). Nestlings is an all volunteer operation and office hours are by appointment.

word un-scramble answers:  
stroller, education, family, safe sleep  
doula, innocent, feeding, cloth diaper  
childhood, community, grateful, crib