

## DIAPER NEED FACTS

**CT Poverty Statistics:** 38% of children under the age of 3 years old live below the poverty level.

**Statistics show** that a pregnant mother will go without food in order to purchase diapers for her other child. Having to sacrifice one meal has the same negative effects of taking cocaine on the unborn baby.

**By Providing diapers** to families in need, we hope that a mother will never have to make the decision between diapers and food.

**1 in 3 families** in the US have a diaper need. 6-12 diapers are needed per day for infants/toddlers at an average cost of \$100 per month.

**Children must have** a full day's worth of disposable diapers to attend even government subsidized daycare.

**Diapers and toiletries** are not covered under safety net programs such as SNAP (food stamps) or WIC (woman, infants and children).

**Bare Necessities** is the only recognized diaper bank on the CT shoreline.



40,000 children in CT have a diaper need.

Bare Necessities is currently helping 275 children. The largest diaper bank in CT helps 3,600 babies. There is still a diaper gap of 36,000 children. With the help of The National Diaper Bank Network and Huggies, the founding sponsor, we are moving forward with our vision of providing diapers to families in need between Branford and Old Saybrook.

## TESTIMONIAL

*"With two under two, both requiring diapers and wipes...my second child was just born and my husband lost his job that same week. Bare Necessities has blessed me in ways they can't even begin to imagine. They have lifted a heavy burden in my hard times, providing my children with diapers. I am forever grateful for the amount of love and care they put into helping my family out. They're truly great people, pushing a great cause, and I am so grateful to have their support."*

—Anonymous

*"We are eternally grateful for your confidence and generosity in helping our mission to provide diapers to families in need."*



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*"keeping babies clean, dry, and healthy"*



**Providing low income families with diapers**

(203) 928-7558



For more information on Bare Necessities, Inc. visit :  
bare necessitiesct.org or donationsfordiapers.org  
24 West Main Street, Suite 414, Clinton, CT 06413

## Our Vision:

The vision of Bare Necessities Inc. is to reduce stress to families in need by providing diapers and wipes through social service agencies and food pantries in our CT Shoreline community.

## Community Partners:

Our community partners have allowed Bare Necessities to grow to serve the families in our community. With generous grants from The Community Foundation of Middlesex County, The Guilford Foundation, and The Westbrook Foundation.

Our local banks: Guilford Savings Bank and Essex Savings Bank have financially supported and helped raise awareness for diaper need. We could not help the families in our community without the help of all the local businesses and private donors.

As a result, with these generous contributions and the help of our team of volunteers, we were able to increase the number of families we support. In 2015 we began serving 5 families. By 2016, we increased that number to 115 families, and currently we are providing diapers and wipes to over 275 families.

Additionally, we partnered with the Law Enforcement Community along the Shoreline to have our first Law Enforcement Diaper Drive. The success of this diaper drive allowed us to begin providing diapers to the Branford Community Dining Program, Old Saybrook's Social Service Program, and significantly supplement our distribution in Guilford, Madison and Clinton. We look forward to working with each of these agencies in the future in an effort to eliminate diaper need in the Shoreline Community.

*Not having a full day's supply of diapers impacts a family in the following ways...*

### EDUCATION

- Without a day's worth of disposable diapers, children from low income families cannot attend daycare.
- Children who come from lower income families hear 3 million less words than middle class children by the age of 4.
- Within an "in need" neighborhood, only 1 in 13 children owns a book. However, in middle class homes, every child has at least 13 books.
- Mothers in need lose 4 days of work/month because they cannot supply the daycare with the diapers they need for their children. Additionally, those children lose the same 4 days/month of educational opportunities because of their absence from daycare.

*This is why education through daycare is so important.*

### HEALTH

Parents who cannot afford to provide enough diapers for their child are forced to leave their baby in a soiled diaper longer than is appropriate. This frequently leads to diaper rash and may cause staph infections and urinary tract infections.

### MENTAL HEALTH

When families have basic needs, such as diapers, laundry detergent, and feminine hygiene products, it opens more space in the prefrontal cortex to allow for bonding and attachment.

Not being able to provide diapers for children is the #1 stressor for mothers even over the stress of affording food.

This can lead to maternal depression which is a risk factor to socioeconomic and cognitive health in children.

Not having to worry about basic necessities also opens economic paths for parents.

## How You Can Help:

- Join our growing team of volunteers.
- Corporate or community diaper drives.
- Monetary donations and matching gift programs. Monetary donations allow Bare Necessities to purchase diapers and wipes at a reduced cost through partnerships with the National Diaper Bank Network.
- Donate diapers and/or wipes by dropping them off at one of our partner drop off locations
- Sponsor a baby in need for a year with a bundle of diapers purchased through Honest Company.

## Our Success:

This year, Bare Necessities helped families by providing 281,611 diapers and 573,091 wipes. This allowed families to not feel the stress of wondering how they would afford diapers and wipes.

We recently outgrew the space that the Valley Shore YMCA donated to us, and we moved to a new facility in Madison. We are so humbled by the generosity of our Shoreline Community. With your support, we are able to assure parents do not have to choose between food or diapers.

