



Southeastern Idaho Public Health

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Diaper Drive Assists Low-income Families in Need

Between Thanksgiving and Christmas, Southeastern Idaho Public Health will be collecting diapers for our Holiday Diaper Drive. The goal of the Diaper Drive is to collect 10,000+ diapers. Diapers and baby wipes can be dropped off at various locations throughout Pocatello. Locations include both DL Evans Banks, Alliance Title and Southeastern Idaho Public Health.

Diaper donations are needed, since no community assistance programs pay for or provide diapers, not WIC, SNAP (Food Stamps) or Medicare. Diapers are expensive – they can cost \$70 to \$80 or more each month. As a result, parents try to make do without or try stretching their supply by leaving babies in dirty diapers longer or by reusing diapers. A diaper is a small thing, but can impact big things. Not having diapers means parents can't leave their children with a childcare provider, most of which require parents to provide disposable diapers for their children. So parents can't go to work to earn money. It means a longer time between changes, which can lead to severe diaper rash, urinary tract infections and other health problems. Lastly, not having diapers means that babies who cry because their diaper is dirty will cry that much longer, increasing stress for parents struggling to make ends meet.

The need is tremendous- a healthy child will require an average of 50 diaper changes a week. That's approximately 2600 diaper changes a year. In Idaho 53% of infants and toddlers live in low-income families which equates to 35,947 families.

The Diaper Bank Program at Southeastern Idaho Public Health exists to address this largely unknown and chronically unmet need. "Our primary goal for the Holiday Diaper Drive is, of course, to bring in resources that we can distribute to families in need. But we also hope it helps raise awareness of the diaper issue and engage the community in our mission. We are always in need of individuals, businesses, schools, community organizations and places of worship to run diaper drives and fundraisers to support the Diaper Bank, whether it's for the holidays or not," said Dana Solomon, Diaper Bank Program Coordinator. "The diapers go out just as quickly as they come in, so we are looking for year-round partnerships and support to help us really make a difference with diapers."

For more information about our Diaper Bank program or to find out how you can get involved contact Dana Solomon at 208.239.5256.