

NEWS

For Immediate Release

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Global Links, Western PA Diaper Bank and Pittsburgh Pirates Collaborate to Host Free Diaper Distribution, Friday, October 29, at PNC Park

Event Sponsored by Cigna supports families and caregivers experiencing financial hardship

(PITTSBURGH) October 19, 2021 -- Local humanitarian aid organization Global Links, Western PA Diaper Bank (WPDB) and the Pittsburgh Pirates have partnered to host a drive-up diaper distribution event on **Friday, October 29, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.** at PNC Park. The event will take place in the cul-de-sac on Mazeroski Way outside of the Right Field Gate entrance, with the distribution equipped to serve up to 500 cars. All vehicles attending the diaper distribution should enter via North Shore Drive.

Families and caregivers of young children who are experiencing financial hardship are invited to line up by car to receive two cases (eight packages) of diapers, as well as six packages of wipes, at no cost to families.

Parents and caregivers will have the option of choosing up to two different sizes of diapers.

"Many local neighbors with young children are struggling financially due to the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic," says Global Links Executive Director Angela Garcia. "Diapers are a costly necessity, but they cannot be purchased with SNAP or EBT benefits, making them a required cash purchase. By working together, Global Links and the Western PA Diaper Bank aim to reach more families in need of assistance, and thanks to support from the Pittsburgh Pirates and our sponsor Cigna, we hope to provide some relief for parents and caregivers to acquire diapers for the young children in their care."

Cathy Battle, Founder and Executive Director of the Western PA Diaper Bank, states, "Since the COVID-19 pandemic hit our region, the WPDB has been distributing 90,000-100,000 diapers per month between our Pittsburgh and Westmoreland locations. Comparatively, our typical distribution levels in 2019 before the pandemic were no more than 50,000 per month. We hope to alleviate some community needs with this distribution while bringing awareness to the more significant market.

"Additionally, the need for diapers continues to rise because the cost of diapers has increased 14% this year. At WPDB, we also distribute senior incontinence supplies and period products for women. Sadly, there is no Government assistance to cover all basic needs."

The National Diaper Bank estimates that an infant uses 8-12 diapers per day and a toddler uses 6-8 diapers per day. The National Diaper Bank Network reports that 1 in 3 American families struggle to

afford diapers for their children. At the rate of six diapers per day, diaper-wearing children in poverty in the United States require more than 5.8 billion diapers annually. This suggests that 77,000 diapers per day are required to meet the diaper need in Allegheny County. As always, the need is much greater than the supply.

“We understand many in our community, especially families, are still feeling the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Pirates President Travis Williams. “It is incredibly important for our Club to continue to partner with great local organizations like Global Links and the Western Pennsylvania Diaper Bank to ensure we are there to help our neighbors in need.”

Global Links and the Western PA Diaper Bank are collaborating to host an additional diaper distribution event in November for those unable to attend the October event. Details to be announced soon.

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About Global Links

Global Links is a Pittsburgh-based non-profit dedicated to improving health in communities with need. Global Links collaborates with U.S. healthcare institutions and the community to rescue hundreds of tons of high-quality surplus medical materials every year that would otherwise be discarded. These materials are shared with public health facilities around the world and with non-profit organizations in Western Pennsylvania that are providing care for their community’s most vulnerable people. For more information, visit www.globallinks.org. Global Links. Sharing Surplus. Saving Lives.

About Western Pennsylvania Diaper Bank

The Western Pennsylvania Diaper Bank (WPDB) was founded in 2012 and is the only regional nonprofit organization focused solely on distributing diapers to low-income families. Additionally, the WPDB acts as an informal clearinghouse, referring families to other social service organizations as needed. A few highlights over the past eight years include:

- Expansion into three counties (Allegheny, Fayette, and Westmoreland).
- Growing from an initial six partner agencies to forty-eight.
- Distributing close to two million diapers at no cost to families in need, as well as.
- Securing warehouse space and office space in three counties.

Co-founder and Executive Director Cathy Battle has received recognition for her organizational dedication, including three consecutive Jefferson Awards, one of which she shares with her husband, the Rev. Phillip Battle.

The Western Pennsylvania Diaper Bank strives to bring public awareness of the diaper crisis in our region. By partnering with other nonprofit agencies, faith-based institutions, and childcare providers, the Western PA Diaper Bank aims to increase the distribution of diapers, period and adult incontinence products to families and individuals in need.

For additional information, please visit www.wpadiaperbank.org. **The Blessing is "In" the Diaper.**