



NEWS For Immediate Release

Global Links and Western PA Diaper Bank to Host Free Diaper Distribution Saturday, October 21 at McKeesport Area Senior High School

***Event sponsored by UPMC and UPMC Health Plan supports families and caregivers
experiencing financial hardship***

(PITTSBURGH) October 6, 2023 -- In support of local families experiencing financial hardship, humanitarian aid organization Global Links and Western PA Diaper Bank (WPDB) in collaboration with UPMC and UPMC Health Plan will host a drive-up diaper distribution event on **Saturday, October 21, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.** at **McKeesport Area Senior High School**, 1960 Eden Park Blvd, McKeesport.

Families and caregivers of young children are invited to line up by car to receive a one-month supply of children's diapers per household. Parents and caregivers will have the option of choosing up to two different sizes of diapers. Sizes 2-6 will be available.

"The cost of diapers has increased dramatically due to inflation in the past year and despite being a necessity, diapers are not covered by SNAP benefits," says Global Links Executive Director Angela Garcia. "Families who are struggling financially make tough choices, but not being able to adequately diaper their baby should not be one of them. Global Links is proud to collaborate with the Western PA Diaper Bank to host our second large-scale distribution in the Mon Valley thanks to the support of UPMC and UPMC Health Plan."

Cathy Battle, Founder and Executive Director of the Western PA Diaper Bank, states, "It has never been more expensive to raise a child. Diaper costs increased 14% last year and have already risen by another 11% this year. Our distribution to our partners continues to increase and we are giving out close to 200,000 diapers a month in addition to formula, period products, and incontinence supplies. Additionally, supply issues continue, and it is harder to get certain sizes of diapers. We hope to alleviate this stress for families. No one should have to choose between buying diapers or buying food."

The National Diaper Bank estimates that an infant uses 8-12 diapers per day and a toddler uses 6-8 diapers per day; and reports that 1 in 2 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.

WHAT: Free diaper distribution to families in need
WHEN: Saturday, October 21
2 p.m. to 4 p.m. (rain or shine)
WHERE: McKeesport Area Senior High School
1960 Eden Park Blvd, McKeesport 15132
WHO: Global Links and Western PA Diaper Bank, sponsored by UPMC and UPMC Health Plan

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. 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

Western Pennsylvania Diaper Bank is giving hope to families by addressing basic needs. As the region's only basic needs bank, it combats diaper need, period poverty, and incontinence for families in crisis through its advocacy and distribution programs. Western Pennsylvania Diaper Bank partners with over 60 social service agencies and community partners in Allegheny, Fayette, and Westmoreland counties to hand out 2.5 million diapers, period products, and incontinence supplies annually. 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 and Diaper Bank Co-founder Pastor Phillip Battle.

For additional information, please visit www.wpadiaperbank.org.

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