



## NEWS

### For Immediate Release

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## Global Links, Western PA Diaper Bank, UPMC Health Plan and UPMC Magee Collaborate to Host Free Diaper Distribution, Saturday, November 14

*Event supports families and caregivers financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic*

(PITTSBURGH) November 9, 2020 -- Local humanitarian aid organization Global Links, Western PA Diaper Bank (WPDB), UPMC Health Plan and UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital have partnered to host a drive-up diaper distribution event on **Saturday, November 14**, from **10 a.m. to 12 noon**, at **UPMC Second Ave Parking, 88 Swinburne St, Pittsburgh, PA 15213**.

The distribution will be equipped to serve up to 750 cars.

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 two packages of wipes, at no cost to families.

"The COVID-19 pandemic continues to place a heavy financial burden on many families," says Global Links Executive Director Angela Garcia. "Diapers are a necessity, but they are costly, and they cannot be purchased with SNAP or EBT benefits. By working together, Global Links and the Western PA Diaper Bank have been able to leverage our funding and relationships with vendors to secure diapers, and with the assistance of UPMC Health Plan and UPMC Magee, we are able to host another day 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 60,000-70,000 diapers per month. Comparatively, our typical distribution levels during this same time last year was no more than 50,000 per month. The need is astronomical and so sudden. With this distribution, we hope to alleviate some community need, while bringing awareness to the greater need that still exists."

"Parents have enough to manage right now, the last thing they need is to be worrying about whether or not they have enough diapers for their children," said Johanna Vidal-Phelan, M.D., senior

medical director of pediatrics for UPMC Health Plan. "As a practicing pediatrician, I applaud this important partnership and the critical impact being made to support the health and well-being of infants and young children, even in the midst of a pandemic."

"Diapers are expensive, and many families are under incredible financial stress right now. UPMC Magee is proud to partner with Global Links, the WPDB and the UPMC Health Plan to help alleviate the need for diapers for hundreds of families in the Pittsburgh region," explained Jessica Johnson, director, surgical and anesthesia services and chair of inclusion and diversity initiatives at UPMC Magee.

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 diaper need in Allegheny County. As always, the need is much greater than the supply.

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#### **About Global Links**

**Global Links** is a medical relief and development organization dedicated to supporting health improvement initiatives in resource-poor communities, primarily in the Western Hemisphere. 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 sent to landfills. 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](http://www.globallinks.org). **Global Links. Sharing Surplus. Saving Lives.**

#### **About Western Pennsylvania Diaper Bank**

Founded in 2012, the **Western Pennsylvania Diaper Bank** (WPDB) is the only regional nonprofit organization focused solely on the distribution of diapers to low-income families. Additionally, the WPDB acts as an informal clearinghouse referring families to additional 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 twenty-eight, distributing more than a 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 non-profit agencies, faith-based institutions, and childcare providers, the Western PA Diaper Bank aims to increase the distribution of diapers to families and individuals in need.

For additional information, please visit [www.wpadiaperbank.org](http://www.wpadiaperbank.org). **The Blessing is in the Diaper.**

#### **About UPMC Insurance Services**

Serving more than 3.9 million members, UPMC Insurance Services is owned and operated by UPMC, a world-renowned health care provider and insurer based in Pittsburgh, Pa. UPMC Insurance Services includes commercial products from UPMC Health Plan for groups as well as individuals. Commercial products also include workers' compensation and employee assistance from nationally known Workpartners. Government products include Medicare Advantage (UPMC *for Life*); special needs plans for those eligible for Medicare and Medical Assistance (UPMC *for Life* CompleteCare and UPMC Community HealthChoices); Medical Assistance (UPMC *for You*); and Children's Health Insurance Program (UPMC *for Kids*). Community Care Behavioral Health, one of the nation's largest managed care behavioral health organizations. For more information, visit [www.upmchealthplan.com](http://www.upmchealthplan.com).

**About UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital**

UPMC Magee-Womens Hospital is a full-service women's hospital and includes a range of services for women and men: diagnostic imaging including CT and MRI, a Heart Center, bariatric surgery, orthopaedics, digestive disorders, comprehensive breast and gynecologic cancer services, pulmonology, thoracic surgery, minimally invasive abdominal surgery, vascular surgery, and a full-service emergency department.