

FOR RELEASE  
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**Idaho Diaper Bank Expands its Cloth Diaper Program**  
*New and gently used cloth diapers being collected*

**BOISE**, Idaho – The Idaho Diaper Bank is expanding its cloth diaper collection program to better help families in need, with an even more cost effective way to make diapers available to parents.

To kick off the new program, the Idaho Diaper Bank will be present at the grand opening of Pi Baby Boutique on Monday, featuring Boise Cloth Diapers, a cloth diaper vendor and laundering service. They will be collecting new and gently used cloth diapers to be donated to the Idaho Diaper Bank. For people wishing to buy diapers to donate, they will be sold at a discounted price of \$10 per diaper. Boise Cloth Diapers will professionally clean all gently used diapers donated to the organization.

“It takes a lot of resources and money to raise a baby, and that is why we now have the cloth diapers available. A cloth diaper can be used over and over again, helping to alleviate the issue of not having diapers at home,” said Shawna Walz, executive director of the Idaho Diaper Bank. “We realize that cloth diapers are not practical for every family, but if someone wants to use them on their baby, we want to make sure the choice and resources are available to them.”

The opening will kick off with a ribbon cutting by Mayor Dave Bieter at 11:30 at Pi Baby Boutique, 10870 West Fairview Avenue, suite 101 in Boise and cloth diapers will be gathered all throughout the day. If you have cloth diapers around your home, Boise Cloth Diapers has donated its services by volunteering to clean all used cloth diapers so they can be new again for babies in need.

“As a mother of three, I personally experienced the benefits of using cloth diapers. The IDB Cloth Collection program will now allow other families to have this same opportunity. We will use volunteers to help us sew new cloth diapers from up-cycled cotton materials and we will combine these with donated new and gently used cloth diapers. Our goal is to provide families with education about cloth diapering, as well as full kits of cloth diapers and supplies that they can use the entire time their child is in need of diapering,” said Becky Wilsey, coordinator for the Idaho Diaper Bank Cloth Diaper Collection Program.

One in every three Idaho families struggle to afford basic necessities, including diapers. Diapers are often ignored when money is tight and every dollar is needed to go toward food and shelter. Babies and young children are paying the price.

The Idaho Diaper Bank serves Treasure Valley, but it has been expanding thanks to the generous donations of community supporters and major supporters. Most recently, the Idaho Diaper Bank was able to provide for families in Valley County because of a grant from the Perc H. Shelton and Gladys A. Pospisil Shelton Foundation Advised Fund in the Idaho Community Foundation. The National Diaper Bank Network also recently awarded \$10,000 in funds to the Idaho Diaper Bank to expand into rural areas of Idaho.

“A diaper is a need, not a want -- and we are here to assist families in meeting this basic need, so babies stay clean, dry and healthy while parents focus on paying their bills and putting food on the table,” said Walz.

The Idaho Diaper Bank distributes 10,000 diapers to Idaho families each and every month. In Idaho alone 55 percent or roughly 35,000 children under the age of three live in poverty or come from low-income families. There is no assistance for diapers, even from programs designed to help low income families like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, commonly known as Food Stamps), or through the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program. On average, babies need 10 diapers each day, which can quickly add up to over \$100 per month. Many Idaho babies are being left in wet diapers all day, which can cause illness like hepatitis A, viral meningitis and severe bacterial diarrhea.

The Idaho Diaper Bank is accepting donations of new, clean disposable and cloth diapers. Money is also accepted and can be stretched even further thanks to partnerships with diaper manufacturers and the National Diaper Bank Network.

While most diaper needs are focused on babies, the Idaho Diaper Bank also accepts incontinence supplies and donations for elderly adults and those with disabilities.

The Idaho Diaper Bank does not distribute diapers directly to individuals. Families who are in need of diapers should visit the Idaho Help Line at 211, or [IdahoDiaperBank.org](http://IdahoDiaperBank.org) to find more details and locations where the diapers are distributed.

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*By focusing on diaper need, the **Idaho Diaper Bank (IDB)** works to meet the basic needs of children and families. Idaho Diaper Bank was established to provide diapers, diapering supplies and advocacy to families in need through partnership agencies. These agencies serve infants and families including childcare centers, crisis nurseries, domestic violence shelters, food pantries and faith based organizations. Idaho Diaper Bank seeks to engage Idaho communities to recognize that diapers are a basic need, along with food and shelter.*