

February 10, 2020

Letter to the Editor c/o Rosemary Alfredson – Help Them To Hope, Inc. Lake County News-Sun

Dear Editor:

Thanks to the Lake County New-Sun and Help Them To Hope grant, we are busy planning for the future!

Your generous contribution to Twice As Nice Mother & Child means that you believe in, and understand, just how important our mission to provide help and hope to families in crisis is to the community. The funds will directly support our diaper distribution program, which provides <u>free</u> diapers to children through our on-site diaper bank and mobile diaper pantry. Because of generous donors like you, we provide over 500,000 diapers per year to Lake County children.

One in three families in our community goes without the basic supplies they need to live healthy lives. We are on a mission to change that and provide diapers to our neighbors in need. Studies show that babies who are left in wet diapers or are in reused diapers are at higher risk for infections, long-term illness and even child abuse. With your generosity and partnership, we can advocate for these families and help them live better lives.

Twice As Nice Mother & Child has distributed over 1.5 million diapers to children in need since 2014—and we exceeded 700,000 in 2019 alone. Our distribution goal for 2020 is 1 million diapers! We are driven to address the silent crisis of diaper need in Lake County because no assistance programs cover diapers for babies. We do this by raising funds to purchase diapers at highly discounted prices, hosting diaper drives with community partners/supporters and advocating for families/children in Lake County who need our help.

We are incredibly thankful for your gift to Twice As Nice Mother & Child and that you have joined us in the fight to end diaper need in our community. We know that diapers change lives and with your help, we are changing the lives of Lake County families for the better. Diapers are a basic need for children—as essential to their health and well-being as food, shelter and a parent's love. Yet many families struggle to afford diapers and limited resources exist to help them, so we help to fill the gap. Our diaper distribution program is critical to meeting the current and future needs of the most vulnerable residents in Lake County.

A diaper is a small thing, but it can impact BIG things. Thanks to your support, we will be able to restore stability and hope to families by providing them with a sufficient supply of diapers for their children. We currently serve over 1,000 children each month and your grant will enable us to provide a one-month supply of diapers to 375 children! Donations do not just put diapers on a shelf in our warehouse. They make a real and lasting impact in the lives of over 12,000 children across 31 zip codes in Lake County. Diapers allow parents to keep their children clean, dry and healthy. Diapers provide parents with a gateway to access early childhood education for their children. Diapers mean that parents will not miss work or school because the diaper supply ran out. Diapers mean that there is a little more money in the budget for food or utilities. Diapers mean everything to struggling families and to the littlest members of our community.

I look forward to sharing our continued success with you! In the meantime, if you would like to schedule a visit to see the difference that your gift is making, please contact me at 224-637-1644.

Please accept my sincerest gratitude for your continued support of our organization. Without you, we could not do what we do each and every day. You are helping to create a happier present and brighter future for Lake County children!

Blessings,

ann Marie Mathis

Ann Marie Mathis
Founder & Executive Director