



## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mark A. Lowry  
Director, OC Food Bank  
[jholley@capoc.org](mailto:jholley@capoc.org)  
714 321-3970

The OC Food Bank will launch a new Diaper Bank, with the distribution of a quarter million diapers and related baby items, beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, July 15. The Diaper Bank has been established in partnership with HomeAid, with support from the Children and Families Commission of Orange County.

Diapers have historically been among the highest demand items at local charities, but diapers are rarely available. Nearly 1 in 3 American families report struggling to afford diapers. The concept of a Diaper Bank is relatively new. In 2010, the National Diaper Bank Network was established and now boasts 275 member Diaper Banks. Earlier this year, President Obama led a conversation about how to make diapers more accessible to all families with infant children.

Locally, HomeAid began the Essentials Drive 9 years ago to collect diapers, baby wipes, and related items. The goal of the Essentials Drive was to collect a sufficient quantity of diapers to serve all of the babies housed in the shelters constructed or renovated by HomeAid. The effort has exceeded expectations, leading to the partnership with the OC Food Bank. Over 1.2 million diapers and related items were collected during the most recent Essentials Drive. Items will be distributed to homeless shelters and other charities serving families with infant children.

“We are thrilled to be able to provide our community a concrete opportunity to help vulnerable babies through the creation of this Diaper Bank,” said Mark Lowry, Director of the OC Food Bank.

The OC Food Bank is located at 11870 Monarch in Garden Grove. The OC Food Bank is a program of the Community Action Partnership of Orange County, a private non-profit organization.

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