

Longmeadow Loves: Collecting Diapers, Period Products, and Incontinence Supplies May 1-31, 2020

The Greater Longmeadow Community is working together during this COVID-19 Crisis to meet the need for diapers, wipes, period products and incontinence supplies in the wider community. The need for these products is constant, but these products are not covered under federal assistance programs such as WIC, SNAP, or Medicaid. Given the shut-down of many

non-profits and take-away centers during this COVID pandemic, food banks are allocating their available space for food items.

In order to help meet this ongoing need, the Longmeadow Loves drive will be collecting diapers, wipes, pull-ups, tampons, pads, and adult diapers. There is a particular need for size 5 & 6 diapers, wipes, and period supplies of all kinds.

Drop-off bins will be located at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church (335 Longmeadow St, Longmeadow), at the office door in the rear parking lot. Look for the blue Longmeadow Loves logo. For those not able to purchase products in stores, please visit our Target registry. Items purchased through this registry will ship directly to Longmeadow Loves.

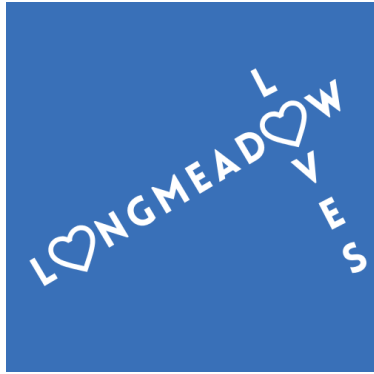
Access our registry at: tgt.gifts/longmeadowloves

We have connected with several nonprofits who are excited to receive and distribute donations collected during this drive. These organizations include:

Church Without Walls
Behavioral Health Network Inc.
The Gray House
Springfield Family Support Program
Way Finders

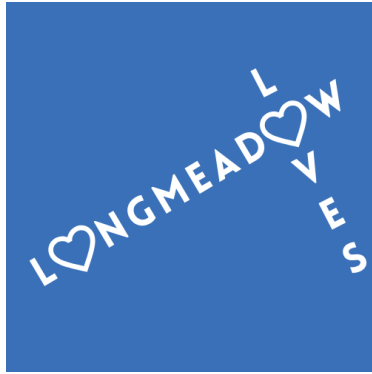
If your organization is interested in participating in this drive, or if you are in need of donations, please contact:

Rev. Charlotte LaForest, Rector, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.
413-567-5901 charlotte@st-andrews-longmeadow.org



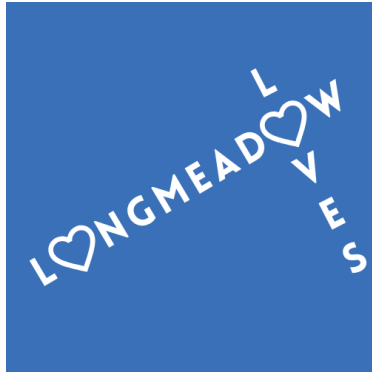
Diaper Need Fact Sheet

- 1 in 3 American families reports experiencing diaper need.
- Disposable diapers can cost \$70 to \$80 per month per baby.
- No state or federal child safety-net program allocates dollars specifically for the purchase of diapers.
- Without transportation, buying diapers at a convenience store rather than a big box store can significantly increase the monthly cost of diapers.
- Most childcare centers, even free and subsidized facilities require parents to provide a day's supply of disposable diapers, and many will not accept cloth diapers.
- 57% of parents experiencing diaper need who rely on child care said they missed an average of four days of school or work in the past month because they didn't have diapers.
- These families often must choose between clean diapers, food, or paying the electric bill. Many parents reuse soiled diapers which literally means dumping out solids, letting the diaper dry and putting it back on the child.
- Lack of access to diapers means that infants are remaining in their diapers for long periods of time, leading to health and abuse risks.



Period Poverty Fact Sheet

- Period poverty is often associated with developing countries, but it is a significant, hidden issue in America, and here in Massachusetts.
- Close to 12 million women across the U.S. aged between 12 to 52 live below poverty line, and most of them don't have access to sanitary pads. Currently, neither tampons or pads are available through government assistance programs like SNAP or Medicaid.
- People in need of period supplies are commonly single parents, low-income or homeless adults and teens, including many who escaped domestic violence and cannot safely return home.
- Not only women menstruate. Trans men as well as non-binary and gender non-conforming individuals menstruate. This fact is important for period poverty, since LGBT teens face a significantly higher risk of homelessness than their peers.
- Many shelters, food pantries, and public schools struggle to afford period protection for their clients, and rarely receive donations of menstrual products.
- Nearly one in five American girls have either left school early or missed school entirely because they did not have access to period products.
- Some young women resort to using the few tampons they can afford for prolonged periods of time, risking toxic shock syndrome, cervical cancer, and other dangerous infections.
- Lack of access to period products is a significant hardship for those without access to laundry facilities.



Incontinence Supply Fact Sheet

- As many as 30% of all adults experience some degree of incontinence, with the rate rising to almost 50% for those above the age of 70.
- Men, women and children of all ages and races can experience incontinence. However, it is more common in older adults, disabled adults, and women, especially women who have had children.
- A month's supply of adult diapers can easily cost \$100. They are not covered by Medicare, and there are limits to provision by Medicaid.
- There is a significant impact on the quality of life (self-esteem, embarrassment, shame, depression, need to organize life around easy access to bathroom, avoidance of enjoyable activities, etc.)
- Adults suffering from incontinence missing out on family or social time due to fear of an accident.
- Inadequate supply of adult diapers can lead to individuals remaining in diapers for too long, leading to skin breakdown, sores, and infections.