PREPARES Update

Our Saint Vincent de Paul Parish PREPARES group has a lot of gratitude to share!

We want to first thank our parishioners for your support since our launch in February. We received so many clothing donations that we spent weeks sorting and organizing so that we can swiftly serve our requests for assistance. *(See list below to learn about items we need now.)*

We are incredibly grateful to the **Knights of Columbus, Saint Joseph Council # 7528** for their donation of $500, for our parish PREPARES efforts. Thank you so much!

Thanks also to the **South King Firefighters Foundation** for their donation of a car seat for one of our needy families.

Gratitude to Jerry and Trese Graddon, who have donated several clear plastic bins for clothing storage.

MAY

We served a family of five, quarantining in their home with a COVID diagnosis. We were able to supply formula for the baby boy, along with diapers wipes and some clothes for him to grow into. The family also needed cleaning supplies, sanitizer, detergent, and gloves which we were able to provide with help from another PREPARES parish.

The challenge of feeding a family of five for two weeks of quarantine, which turned into three, without making trips to the store was apparent. I called around to other community resources and learned of a non-denominational church using government grants, and Farm to Family resources to provide fresh meat, vegetables, milk and more each Friday. Thanks to the Overcomer Church Community, we were able to drop off generous boxes of groceries for three weeks!

JUNE

We learned of a mother expecting a surprise baby due in July, in need of everything! We were able to supply newborn clothes, blankets, burp cloths, bibs, diapers and wipes. We used a portion of the KofC donation to purchase a new Pack-N-Play for the family to provide the baby an all-in-one place to sleep, and safe area to change diapers with room to grow into a play pen. As mentioned, the South King Firefighters Foundation helped us with a car seat for the family as well! The sweet baby girl was born in mid-July!

Throughout these months, PREPARES has also contributed clothing, diapers and wipes to our St. Vincent de Paul Society to better serve their families in need.

We rejoice in the incredible examples of community working together!!

Would you and your family like to help? We are now accepting donations!

We are low on girls or neutral **newborn, 0-3 and 3 month clothes and sleepers**, as well as **9-12 month**, and **girls 12-18 month** clothes. We also need **socks for all ages** up to age 5. Please know that when we get a request for baby clothes we want to provide a minimum of a weeks’ worth of clothing changes – enough to get mom and dad to wash day!

PREPARES accepts new or GENTLY USED, stain free clothes, preferably freshly laundered.

**PREPARES wish list: Baby Toiletries:**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Baby shampoo/wash | Nasal syringe/bulb | Diaper cream/ ointment | Pacifiers |
| Brush/ comb sets | Nail clippers | Baby lotion | Rattles |
| Hooded bath towels | Thermometers | Nursing Pads | Mirrored toys |
| Soft wash cloths | Bottles | Teethers | Baby socks |