

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE September 3, 2020 Media Contact: Devin Wenske Sanders Communications Vice President Phone: 979.966.2879 communications.vp@juniorleaguefw.org

The Junior League of Fort Worth Recognizes Diaper Need Awareness Month with the Grand Opening of the JLFW Diaper Bank

1 in 3 American Families Reports Experiencing Diaper Need

FORT WORTH, September 3, 2020 - Diaper need is a health crisis and contributor to the cycle of poverty. When individuals do not have the means to provide enough clean diapers for daily use, health risks rise and steady childcare and employment is threatened. The Junior League of Fort Worth (JLFW) has identified a gap in services provided in Fort Worth relative to diaper need. More than 18,000 families with children under the age of five are living in poverty in Tarrant County, and government assistance programs such as SNAP, WIC, and Medicare do not cover diapers for babies, adults or those with special needs.

In 2019, the Junior League of Fort Worth announced its intent to start a diaper bank, the JLFW Diaper Bank, with the goal for the organization to serve as a mobilizer and connecter for diaper need in Tarrant County. The service will have a broad outreach within our community, and be a direct response to those in need and caught in poverty.

September is Diaper Need Awareness Month, and the JLFW is excited to have officially opened the Diaper Bank in an effort to eliminate the diaper need in Tarrant County. The organization is proud to partner with the Tarrant Area Food Bank who is graciously housing the initiative at the Food Bank's facility in Fort Worth which officially opened for agency applications and distribution on July 1, 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a ribbon cutting and celebration will be scheduled at a later date.

To date, the JLFW Diaper Bank, through 15 agencies, has distributed 133,815 diapers that have helped 167 families, including 53 adults and 242 children.

"Diaper need has been largely unmet for the residents of Fort Worth for quite some time and is an even bigger necessity now for so many dealing with the unforeseen challenges from COVID-19. We're so grateful to Tarrant Area Food Bank and their partnership and I'm overjoyed that the League is able to provide help for our community in this way." Says JLFW President, Amber Robertson.

The community is invited to help continue to build the Diaper Bank inventory! Here's how:

• <u>Make a donation</u> and let us do the heavy lifting! A \$50 gift will buy 300 diapers and help sustain a family for about 1 month.

If you have any questions about the JLFW Diaper Bank, please reach out to the JLFW Diaper Bank committee at <u>diaperbank@juniorleaguefw.org</u>.

About The Junior League of Fort Worth, Inc.

The Junior League of Fort Worth, Texas, Inc. is an organization of women committed to promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable. For more information on The Junior League of Fort Worth, visit www.juniorleaguefw.org or call 817.332.7500.

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