

September 23-29

National Diaper Need Awareness Week

One in two U.S. families struggles to provide enough diapers to keep a baby or toddler clean, dry and healthy. Military families are no exception, especially when a service member is deployed!

The average monthly cost of diapers per child is \$80 and there are no federal programs that help to cover that cost. Some VA facilities do have periodic events to distribute diapers, but most state and national safety net programs do not recognize diapers as a basic need.



National President Brenda Bryant's Special Project this year is Operation Bottom Cover. As noted in her President's message in the September issue of the VFW Auxiliary magazine, many of our active-duty military personnel are on low wages and may have to make choices between food or diapers for their children. The VFW Auxiliary is partnering with Operation Showers of Appreciation, an organization that distributes diapers all over the world to active-duty military and veteran families. Our President is asking us to make a difference and donate diapers to help our military families out.

What better time to start doing this than during National Diaper Need Awareness Week!

You can support this project in three ways:

- Make a gift to the National VFW Auxiliary and earmark the check for Operation Bottom Cover. or make the donation through MALTA.
- Donate diapers to your local military bases
- Find local military families or veterans that have small children and are in need and donate diapers to them directly.

Another fun idea to support this project is to hold a Diaper Drive. Make it fun and engaging.

- If you're having an event, maybe ask guests to bring some diapers as their admission
- Maybe hold a "baby shower" with some fun games and ask guests to bring the "mystery mother" some diapers as a gift

- Hold a themed competition with a small entry fee such as a pack of diapers (do we all remember the baby shower game where various melted candy bars or baby food is put into a diaper and we have to sniff and identify the candy or puree?)
- Hold a diaper raffle for a prize. Guests receive one raffle ticket for every diaper they donate.
- Challenge your VFW comrades to match every pack of diapers collected by the Auxiliary with another pack or a pack of baby wipes
- What ideas do you have?

Finally, don't forget to make a V&FS report and include in your report the number and value of the diapers that were donated!