

Baby Supply Drive

By: Simone

Why did I choose this project?

- When I was researching about my idea to help young families I discovered that many families don't have the financial resources to buy baby supplies such as diapers, baby food, and baby wipes. Many parents cannot afford supplies that babies need to thrive. Baby supplies are costly and in high demand.
- Financial troubles around baby supplies impact lots of people including families, babies, and parents.
- This is a major issue because baby supplies are essential to taking care of a healthy baby, and without those resources it is hard.

My Action

1. I contacted my school district resource center and offered to collaborate in a baby supplies drive. The baby supply drive consisted of diapers, baby wipes, and formula.
2. I designed a poster and the resource center helped me to share the flyer district wide. I also shared the flyer with my social and church communities. The supplies were gathered from the community.
3. I contacted Yampah Mountain High School and proposed to directly donate baby supplies to their Teen Parent Program.
4. I presented my project in front of the District School Board. I was also interviewed for a piece in the local newspaper. This expanded the impact of the project even further.
5. The baby supplies have been made available to the community through the OneDoor resource center. And the other half provided directly to young parents at Yampah Mountain High School. I was able to meet the Teen Parents there.

- Volunteers from my school district, church, and social community donated baby supplies for the drive.
- Families in my community as well as young parents at Yampah Mountain High School were positively impacted by the baby supply drive.



Baby Supplies Drive



Help Teen Parents and Local Families in Our Community
Donations Needed:



- Baby diapers (any size)
- Baby Wipes
- Baby food/formula



All donations accepted until April 5th

Please put donations in marked bins



Hello, my name is Simone. I am a high school freshman with a passion for helping our community. I am collaborating with OneDoor. OneDoor is a family resource center, with a mission to improve access to community resources for students and families. Baby supply donations will be directly provided to teen moms and local families in need.

Baby Item Drive
March 5- April 5

Rifle High School Student Simone Maness has started a community wide Baby Item Drive!! Proceeds will be given to the Teen Parent Program at Yampa Mtn High School and distributed to Re2 schools to have on site for families in need.

We are accepting:

- Diapers of all sizes
- Wipes
- Formula (unexpired)
- Baby Food (unexpired)
- Baby Hygiene Products
- Gift Cards for teen parents

Items can be donated at:

One Door, Garfield Re2's Family Resource Center
(703 Railroad Avenue, Rifle)

At any Re2 School with the Family Liaison
(Ask at the School's Front Desk)



Challenges I had to Overcome

Challenge # 1:

One struggle I had to overcome was the busy schedules of both the organization and I. I didn't realize that setting deadlines and dates could be confusing and difficult because of busy schedules and limited time. To overcome it I had to make sure I was communicating effectively with the organization and setting clear dates and deadlines that fit into the schedule so no confusion or last minute changes would occur.

Challenge # 2:

A lot of my impact was spread through social media directed at teachers, distinct members, and adults in my life. It was hard to spread the word for teens in my community because a lot of my advertising didn't get to them directly. It was difficult to address this issue but a local news article was published hopefully allowing more teens and people in the community to see the baby supply drive.

Personal Growth

One of the biggest things I learned throughout and after my baby supply drive was when people, especially young, ambitious teenagers put their minds to things, we can make lots of change. I felt hesitant that I wouldn't make as big of an impact as I hoped and my project would go under the radar but to my surprise when I brought it to my local School District Resource Center they were so supportive and immediately put full effort into making it big. I was even interviewed for the local paper and got to talk in front of my District School Board. I feel more confident and independent after my service project knowing that I could make a difference in the community.

How Camp Helped Me

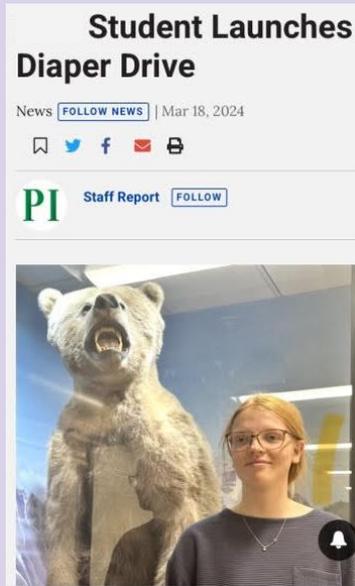
Camp has been a great opportunity for me to grow my independence and leadership skills which were very important in helping me organize the baby supply drive. At camp I didn't have my parents and I had to talk and make decisions with people I was not familiar with. Although it was scary at first, I realized how important it is to be independent and do new things outside of your comfort zone. At camp I also had to make group decisions with my peers during certain activities. During these activities I realized I was good at leading a group/team forward and making big decisions. When it came to doing the service project I already felt more confident that I could talk to people I wasn't familiar with like the organization leader or my district school board. The leadership skills also helped me to organize and lead my project, being able to talk to lots of people helping with the baby supply drive and put it all the pieces together.

Call to Action

I am passionate about helping and making positive change in my community. I want to see other teens with big ideas about how to make the world a better place act upon their dreams and make a difference. I learned from this that a community wide effort has a much bigger impact than trying to work alone and when people come together lots of great change and action can occur. I especially want issues to be recognized such as the financial strain around raising children that sometimes doesn't get the attention it deserves. People want to help, but in order for that to happen the call to action needs to be made and organized.



I got the awesome opportunity to talk in front of my District School Board. It was extremely nerve racking but I was so proud to be raising awareness about my passion the baby supply drive.



Another awesome opportunity. I got interviewed and had an article about my project in the local news.



A facebook post from my school highlighting the baby supplies drive. Another big milestone in the baby supply drive.

Gratitudes

- All the volunteers who donated baby supplies. Thank you!
- OneDoor (Family Resource Center) and particularly Amanda for helping me to amplify my project and support me the whole way. Thank you!
- My school, church, and social communities for donating supplies and supporting me. Thank you!
- A Thousand Summer's program for inspiring and allowing me to do this project. Thank you!