
By [Starla Pointer](#) • Staff Writer • October 8, 2026 

Changing lives: Donated diapers meet families' needs, lead to other services

Diapers are a hot commodity at A Family Place, which collects donated diapers and distributes them to Yamhill County residents who need them.

A Family Place Relief Nursery, part of Lutheran Community Services Northwest, also offers parent education, a Mothers & Babies class and other services. But its diaper banks in McMinnville, Willamina and Newberg may support the most people — and also serve as an introduction to the other services for many families.

“This is our front door,” said Emily Garrick-Stenson, regional advancement manager for LCS Northwest, who led a recent tour of A Family Place’s center in the McMinnville First Baptist Church. “Diapers build trust and lead to more services.”

Thousands of diapers were added to the nonprofit's inventory during the Banks for the Bank diaper drive, during which numerous Yamhill County banks collected diapers for A Family Place. Held each September, the promotion is a major source for the diaper banks.

Garrick-Steenson said the three diaper banks distributed more than 200,000 diapers in 2025; the total nine years earlier was about 15,000. The increase in demand, she said, stems from more families struggling with rising prices and increasing bills, as well as more awareness of the services offered by A Family Place.

Garrick-Steenson also noted how “no government program covers diapers.” Families cannot buy diapers with SNAP benefits, for instance. “We’re the only source of free diapers in the county,” she said.

A Family Place hands out disposable diapers only, rather than cloth, because “no laundromat lets you wash diapers,” she said.

The diaper banks are run by volunteers who stock shelves and hand out the disposable diapers when the banks are open, 10 a.m. to noon Thursdays. They also deliver diapers if someone cannot get to one of the locations; caseworkers will also deliver diapers when they make home visits.

The banks also distribute some free children's clothes, maternity clothes and baby supplies, such as bathtubs

and bottles.

A Family Place's banks are open to anyone who says they need diapers. There is no income screening. Recipients are asked to sign in so they can receive information about the program's other services, such as parenting classes, but attendance is not required.

Recipients get eight to 15 diapers or pull-ups per week. "We supply an emergency amount to cover three or four days," she said.

Diapers are donated through the Banks for the Bank drive, collections hosted by businesses such as Lewis Audio in Newberg and service organizations such as the Kiwanis Club, or individual contributions.

"Some children are asking for diapers to donate, instead of toys as gifts," Garrick-Steenson said.

Diaper donations are accepted year-round. Donation bins are available at the McMinnville, Newberg and Willamina centers. Diapers also can be taken to the LCS Northwest office at 435 N.E. Evans St., McMinnville, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

A Family Place's McMinnville center is located within the McMinnville First Baptist Church. It makes use of several rooms on the lower and main floors, plus the nature-themed playground adjacent to the building that A Family Place dedicated last November.

In addition to the diaper bank, A Family Place's services include workshops and classes such as Little Learners Play Lab, Active Parenting of Teens and Mothers & Babies, along with small-group sessions open to parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, foster parents and other caregivers.

A Family Place also refers families to programs such as Head Start and the McMinnville School District's preschool, depending on the children's needs and ages.

"Our goal is to reach as many parents as possible," she said.

The nonprofit's focus is on maintaining mental health "while caring for a teeny-tiny human," she said. Class leaders discuss reducing stress and other risk factors, such as housing and food insecurity, and increasing support for parents to help prevent crises.

The result of the nonprofit's programming is that families are much less likely to be separated, Garrick-Steenson said. "We want families to stay together," she said.

A Family Place is called a "relief nursery" because its services are designed to decrease stress in families, which in turn decreases neglect and abuse and improves infant mental health, Garrick-Steenson said.

The first relief nursery opened in Eugene in 1976, and the model spread to other parts of Oregon, she said. Lutheran Community Services Northwest operates the program in Yamhill County.

The state partially funds relief nurseries such as A Family Place. State funding depends on a local match, according to Jordan Robinson, district director for LCS Northwest.

To support the \$1.75 million annual budget for its three locations, A Family Place also receives money from the Austin Family Foundation, the McMinnville Area Community Foundation and individual donors. LCS Northwest applies for grants on behalf of the program, as well.

“But with costs rising, for the first time our fundraising is not keeping up with needs,” Garrick-Steenson said.

The next fundraiser will be Champions for Children, a 21-and-over gala dinner and auction on Saturday, Oct. 24, at the Evergreen Event Center. The event will include a program about the need for diapers, parenting classes and other services in Yamhill County.

Tickets are sold out, but donations will still be accepted via the website, familyplacerelief.org/champions-for-children.