

EDWM-Congregational Mission/Ministry Development Grant
Holy Cross, Kentwood, Michigan
Diaper Depot
Final Report, December 9, 2016

In February, 2016, we were awarded \$5000 to continue our ministry to low-income families by providing them with diapers for their babies and toddlers. Due to an influx of refugees and immigrants, we were expecting more families to come to us. Through word of mouth and social service agencies we have added more than 100 children to our rolls.

Of course, some parents who previously came to us for diapers no longer come. Some toddlers are now toilet trained, Hooray! Other families have improved their financial status so they no longer need our service. Hooray, hooray! Despite these happy circumstances we supplied about 3000 packages of diapers in the first 10 months of this year. The Ministry/Mission Grant purchased approximately 1,300 of those.

We were also successful in receiving additional support for the Diaper Depot. A grant of \$3000 was received from the Community Christian Ministries Foundation of Grand Rapids. We also received donations of diapers from members of our congregation, our local food pantry (which sometimes receives but does not distribute diapers), Meijer Corporation, First Start, and other congregations. As a result, we are facing the end of the year with money in our bank account to begin 2017.

Our assessment of the success of our programs can be shown by the attached two letters. Both show the appreciation of parents who struggle to provide diapers for their children. We also have had a young mother, who previously had come to us for diapers, offer to help with distribution as a way of paying back for the help she received.

Also attached are photos of a typical distribution.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Kremer, Community Ministry Committee

Shirley Neitzel, Diaper Depot Coordinator