



## MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION

**Whereas**, diaper need, the condition of not having a sufficient supply of clean diapers to keep babies and toddlers clean, dry, and healthy, can adversely affect the health and well-being of babies, toddlers, and their families; and

**Whereas**, national surveys and research studies report that one in three families struggles with diaper need, and 48 percent of families delay changing a diaper to extend the available supply; and

**Whereas**, infants and toddlers go through six to 12 diapers each day during the two to three years they wear diapers; and

**Whereas**, purchasing enough diapers to keep a baby or toddler clean, dry, and healthy can consume 14 percent of a low-wage family's post-tax income, making it difficult to provide the necessary supply; and

**Whereas**, during the COVID-19 pandemic, diaper banks across the country saw enormous increases in demand for diapers and expanded their distribution of diapers by an average of 86 percent; and

**Whereas**, a daily or weekly supply of diapers is generally an eligibility requirement for babies and toddlers to participate in child care programs and quality early-education programs that enable children to thrive and parents to work; and

**Whereas**, without enough diapers, babies and toddlers risk infections and health problems that may require medical attention resulting in medical costs, and parents may be prevented from accessing child care needed to go to work or school, thereby destabilizing the family's economic prospects and well-being; and

**Whereas**, the people of Smithville recognize that diaper need is a public health issue, and addressing diaper need can lead to economic opportunity for the state's families and communities and improved health for children, thus ensuring all children and families have access to the basic necessities required to thrive and reach their full potential; and

**Whereas**, Smithville is proud to be home to trusted community-based organizations including [list state diaper banks] that recognize the importance of diapers in ensuring health and providing economic stability for families and thus distribute diapers to families through various channels; and

**Whereas**, these diaper banks and their staff and volunteers continue to serve on the front lines Smithville COVID-19 pandemic response helping families in our communities weather the crisis; and

**Whereas**, while experiencing double, triple, or greater increase in demand for diapers due to the pandemic and economic shutdown, these diaper banks continue to do everything in their ability to increase diaper distributions and support children and families in need of immediate assistance; and

**Whereas**, now that our state is recovering from the pandemic, diaper banks are playing a critical role in supporting families and advancing our collective economic growth; now

**Therefore**, I, Damien Boley Mayor of City of Smithville, Missouri, do hereby proclaim the week of September 27 through October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 as

### NATIONAL DIAPER NEED AWARENESS WEEK

in the City of Smithville, thank the aforementioned diaper banks, their staff, volunteers and donors, for their courageous service during the crisis, and encourage the citizens of Smithville to donate generously to diaper banks, diaper drives, and support those organizations that collect and distribute diapers to families struggling with diaper need, so that all of City of Smithville children and families can thrive and reach their full potential.

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Damien Boley, Mayor