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Hurricane Florence Creates Urgent Need for Diapers, Hygiene Products

You can help people in the path of the storm who are often forced to forego these basic needs

(Kaukauna, Wis.) Poverty hits hard when disaster strikes. In Robeson County, North Carolina, 44 percent of families live below the federal poverty level. Fortunately, there is help for infants in these families, and it's right here in Wisconsin.

As Hurricane Florence makes landfall, these families are pressed harder than ever. Many can't afford to leave. A hotel stay is too costly, and even just the extra gas to get out of town, assuming they even have a vehicle, creates a strain. And that doesn't count the missed hours at work for hourly employees.

On top of all that, chances are their homes may not be able to withstand a hurricane. Vulnerable, low-income communities may be more exposed to the devastating impact of flooding, because rent is often lower in floodplains and residents lack the insurance and resources to deal with it.

In the midst of a disaster, people most commonly think of food, clothing, shelter and water. Diapers and period products are also basic necessities, but they are often overlooked. Federal disaster relief programs do not allocate for the cost of these hygiene necessities, either.

Fortunately, people in need of diapers and feminine hygiene products have partners in their region and in Wisconsin. Jake's Diapers, a diaper bank in Kaukauna, WI, is helping to meet these basic hygiene needs through its community partners in Lumberton, NC. Another partner, Clothing Across America, has committed a pallet of tampons. Jake's Diapers will collect, package and ship these items to Lumberton, where local agencies will distribute them.

To learn more about Jake's Diapers and ways to support its mission, visit www.jakesdiapers.org.

Jake's Diapers, based in Kaukauna, Wis., is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit ministry solving diaper needs with diapers for babies, children, and adults in extreme poverty and disaster situations, whose caregivers have to choose between food & diapers. Since 2013, Jake's Diapers has impacted the lives of over 7,000 babies in 16 countries and Wisconsin through provisions of more than 75,000 cloth diapers. Jake's Diapers accepts financial donations as well as donations of new and pre-loved cloth diapers. Learn more at: www.jakesdiapers.org. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#).