



## HOMEAID ORANGE COUNTY OVERVIEW

HomeAid's mission is to end homelessness by building new lives for homeless families and individuals through housing, awareness, and service. Since 1989, we have created partnerships between the building industry and county service providers to develop doorways for more than 60,000 homeless. Year after year, HomeAid OC remains a dedicated advocate in the mission to end the despair of homelessness. We give individuals and families experiencing homelessness the opportunity to move from benches to beds to homes, allowing them to return to self-reliance, self-support, and independence.

## HOMEAID ESSENTIALS CAMPAIGN

Families continue to struggle to provide basic essential items for their children from diapers to food, often having to choose between one or the other. On average, a family needs 3,000 diapers a year per child, which when adding in other costs such as baby wipes and hygiene items, amounts to over \$1,000 a year. HomeAid Essentials is a program that brings together the entire community to help and encourage homeless families by providing a basic need - diapers. The simple donation of a box of diapers or baby wipes, multiplied by thousands, can change lives.

Over the past eight years, HomeAid has partnered with thousands of businesses, community organizations, and individuals to provide essential items to families experiencing homelessness. This community-wide effort has resulted in over 6.6 million items donated in support of homeless families.

The campaign is conducted annually to coincide with Mother's Day and allows service providers to utilize funds effectively for other programs that help their clients achieve self-sufficiency and break the cycle of homelessness. These providers serve nearly 1,000 babies annually and their need continues to grow. All sizes of diapers are needed by these agencies, with size 4 being the most needed. HomeAid's goal for 2018 is to further expand the program to support more agencies in Orange County that serve homeless families. **To provide diapers for each child in every shelter, we need to collect over 1.2 million diapers!**



## WHY ESSENTIALS?

- On average, a child needs 3,000 diapers a year.
- Nearly 1,000 babies reside in shelters each year.
- Families represent 61% of those living in Orange County shelters.
- 4,792 individuals experience homelessness in Orange County each night.
- The need for diapers adds to the stress of financial hardship experienced by families.
- Diapers are a basic necessity to parents, much like food or shelter.
- 1 in 3 American families struggle to provide diapers.
- More than 4 out of 10 mothers in America have had to choose between buying diapers and other necessities.
- 1 in 5 American mothers report they have personally run out of funds for diapers.
- Mothers who are struggling to provide diapers are likely to be living paycheck to paycheck and are under pressure to meet everyday needs.
- Some parents who can only afford a few diapers a day for their children sometimes have to wash and reuse soiled disposable diapers.
- Dirty diapers can cause health problems such as rash and infections.
- By giving diapers to low income families who are struggling with day-to-day essentials, we can prevent someone's homelessness.



## **WHO IT BENEFITS**

All donations from the Essentials campaign support homeless families residing at HomeAid's partner agencies, including:

American Family Housing  
Anaheim Interfaith Shelter  
Casa Teresa  
Colette's Children's Home  
Family Assistance Ministries  
Families Forward  
H.I.S. House  
Human Options  
Illumination Foundation  
Interval House  
Laura's House  
Mary's Shelter  
Miracles for Kids  
Mercy House  
Orangewood Children's Home  
Orange County Rescue Mission  
Pathways of Hope  
Precious Life Shelter  
Thomas House Shelter  
W.T.L.C.

## **PARTNERSHIP WITH THE OC FOOD BANK**

HomeAid is pleased to announce our partnership with the Orange County Food Bank as a distribution and storage center for HomeAid Essentials. The OC Food Bank distributes over 20 million pounds of food each year. Nearly 400 other charities rely on the Food Bank for the food they distribute and HomeAid is proud to also provide essential items to these agencies in need. The Food Bank is part of a larger private non-profit organization, the Community Action Partnership of Orange County (CAPOC), that offers comprehensive services to address the emergency needs of people and provides opportunities for individuals to lift themselves out of poverty.