

It started out as a donation. Now it's a love affair for Bob Campbell. [Page 15.](#)

Babycycle Provides the Ultimate Child Necessity: Diapers

Our Outreach Committee opportunity of the month is Babycycle, a diaper bank for low-income young families and single moms. A month's supply of diapers for one child can cost \$100 and is not covered by WIC or food stamps (SNAP).



Babycycle collects and distributes donated items — diapers, wipes, formula, baby food, more — to client agencies such as We Help, Boley, CASA, St. Vincent de Paul, and nearly a dozen others.

By distributing to helping agencies, the dignity of the individual client is protected and there are virtually no wasted efforts, products, or resources. A client agency can call with a shopping list of needs, or come directly to the warehouse and “shop” by appointment. All products distributed are donated or purchased with donated funds.

The agency, founded by Torrie Tiernan Jasuwan, is based in Pinellas Park and serves Pinellas, Hillsborough, and Pasco counties and beyond. It partners with Hands Across the Bay, Metropolitan Ministries, and other organizations in the Tampa Bay area. Learn

more about their story at babycyclefl.org.

Last year, 2019 Babycycle distributed more than 250,000 diapers and thousands of other infant and disaster supplies. When Hurricane Michael devastated the Panhandle of Florida and the City of Mexico Beach, Babycycle sprang into action. Three donated trucks and drivers got 15,000 diapers, 18,000 wipes, cases of bottled water and baby food, and other supplies on site five days after the hurricane hit.

This year, in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, Babycycle delivered more than



Jillia Koger, right, with a resident representative at a onetime outreach at Dell Holmes Park in St. Petersburg. Photos courtesy of Babycycle

130,000 diapers and thousands of other baby supplies to clients through partner agencies.

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An Eye-Opening Shopping Trip Leads to a Rewarding Volunteer Job

Bob Campbell

When the Outreach Committee designated Babycycle as its giving opportunity of the month two years ago, my first response



was, “What the heck is Babycycle?”

I learned it was a diaper bank for young families living at or near the poverty line. Cindy and I like to contribute as we can to each month’s designated outreach ministry because we know the committee has done its due diligence and there is a valid need. We figured out what we could afford to spend, and on Monday morning I headed to Walmart, debit card in hand.

Two minutes in the diaper aisle and I was in a panic. It was clear from the prices that some families had to choose between feeding their babies and keeping them in clean diapers. I called Cindy and told her that what we had planned to spend wouldn’t get a family with one child through two weeks. Cindy and I seldom

Cindy and Bob Campbell: A donation turned into a commitment.

argue about money. She said, “Do what you think is best.” I filled up a cart.

As a grandfather I never thought much about baby products. Cindy usually buys the gifts we give the children or their parents in our family. While I do a fair amount of shopping for us, the cost of diapers really shocked me. (If you haven’t shopped for diapers recently: A 50-pack of Pampers is \$24.27, and you know how fast kids go through diapers.) I instantly wanted to know more about Babycycle. Here was an organization filling a really significant need.

A few days later I visited their office/warehouse in Pinellas Park to drop off our donation and met director Jillia Koger. I was awed at the meticulous way she handled the inventory. There was every quantity imaginable, from pallets down to individual

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Babycycle

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How to Help Babycycle

You may drop donations of diapers and wipes in the Narthex on Sundays or weekdays between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. this month. We are also planning a driveby drop-off day; watch our website, Connections e-mails, the worship bulletin, and Facebook for details.

If you would prefer to write a check, make it out to the Cathedral Church of St. Peter and put Babycycle in the notation area.

Or give online at spcathedral.org. Click on "give," then on the "give today" button. On the pull-down menu select "other" and in the "optional memo" box type in "Babycycle."



Babycycle's director, Jillia Koger, left, accepts a check from the General Mills Foundation presented by its representative, right. The others pictured are volunteers, including Bob Campbell, second from right, in baseball cap.

An Eye-Opening Shopping Trip

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diapers. Every item was accounted for. There was NO waste. I immediately asked Jillia how I could help.

I'm sure Jillia must have thought it strange that a man old enough to be her grandfather wanted to do something. I suggested that I might be the one to collect donations from dropoff spots. I know Pinellas County very well from my career working in home delivery for the then-*St. Petersburg Times*.



So began my two-and-a-half-year love affair with Babycycle, and I'm still committed. Working with Jillia, founder Torrie Tiernan Jasuwan, and their corps of delightful volunteers, husbands, friends, and other family members is a joy. Seeing the work these young people do in the community gives me great encouragement for our future.

If you have a donation but are having difficulty getting it to the Cathedral, call or text me at (727) 642-3694 and I'll pick up what you have during my rounds.

Bob Campbell at the Babycycle warehouse: "Every item was accounted for. There was no waste."