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A Letter to Our Friends

Dear Jake's supporters:

I'm not Jake, but I am leading the organization known as Jake's to tackle basic hygiene needs in our community. I am writing to thank you for your generous support of our mission to reduce diaper need, period poverty and adult hygiene needs in our communities.

We are so thankful for your incredible generosity, as it has enabled us to make great progress in our efforts to reduce hygiene needs in Northeast Wisconsin. Our organization has seen incredible growth in the past year, and we are now able to provide diapers, feminine care and adult incontinence products to many more families in need.

We are especially grateful for your help in increasing awareness about diaper need and the struggles faced by families in our region. Your generous support has also enabled us to partner with local organizations, businesses, and other community members to tackle hygiene needs from all angles. Together, we are working to ensure that all families in Northeast Wisconsin have access to the products they need to keep their loved ones clean, dry and healthy.

Thank you for your ongoing support and for helping us make a real difference in our communities. We couldn't do this important work without you.

Sincerely,

Scott Sawinski
Executive Director
Jake's Network of Hope
Our Network of Hope continues to GROW

Our team of staff and volunteers put forward tremendous effort toward enhancing our programs and services to best collaborate with our partners in our community.

The effort is noticeable, in the numbers and the reactions from our community partners. While we started with less than 100 partners at the beginning of 2022, we ended the year with 200 and counting.

As each of these partners enters our doors, the new and improved warehouse makes its impression. Each partner is overflowing with joy and excitement for the opportunity and immediately understands the depth of the impact our work together will have: from our core hygiene products (diapers, period products and incontinence products - all free to partners, by the way) to our Hope Hub resource center, full of diverse basic needs to help anyone who simply needs a leg up.

Our collaborations provided hope to families in most need throughout the year. In 2022 alone, we distributed 1,053,505 products to more than 29,500 individuals.

1,053,505  total products distributed to our partners in 2022

29,594  lives impacted through our network of partners in 2022

100%  growth in our partner network in 2022
"Being able to provide our clients with hygiene items directly impacts the families we serve in a positive way. Many of the families we currently serve are struggling financially right now, so anything that we can provide to them at no cost helps with their ability to pay for other basic needs."

- Chris Streicher at the Winnebago County Department of Human Services - Oshkosh

These are some of the common types of organizations we serve, whether they are a 501c3, faith-based organization or school that provides services within each area. Of course, our work is not limited to these categories and we welcome new partners every day. We currently have twelve 'main' categories that our partners fall into:
New Leadership, New Goals

From the farthest corner of the earth to his next door neighbor, Scott Sawinski joins Jake's Network of Hope as the executive director in order to continue a legacy that impacts individuals across the globe.

“We are all just one circumstance away from needing a helping hand to potentially get us on the right path forward,” Scott said. “I believe in the good of everyone and I can’t wait to align those relationships so that we can make our communities and the world a better place. A place where a helping hand can be the springboard to new opportunities in their lives.”

Scott brings more than 15 years experience in the nonprofit industry, including work at Valley Packaging Industries in community outreach and then a public relations and fundraising role for Rawhide Youth Services. Most recently, he was the executive director of the Fox West Chamber where he grew membership and revenue during a time of uncertainty, with the COVID-19 pandemic affecting the way a relationship building industry operates (in-person meetings), and still closed 2021 with one of the best years ever for the chamber.

His first year at Jake’s Network of Hope has been all about relationship building and getting to know our community so that we can strategize how to best serve them.

"I am passionate about Jake’s mission and have a complete buy-in to what’s being accomplished. I look forward to building relationships and will strive to make a bigger impact in helping more individuals, families and other non-profit organizations to make the world a better place."
Our Programs

**MY NEIGHBOR WISCONSIN**
Our My Neighbor Wisconsin program provides an array of essential daily living basic needs such as household goods, school supplies, cleaning supplies and more for nominal sharing fees to our partners.

**ON THE DOT**
Our On The Dot Program provides dignity for girls and women through equality and access to period products. These are essential tools to keep girls and women in school and at work, and avoid the vicious cycle of poverty. Products are provided to partners at no cost.

**A.C.E.**
One in three adults are dealing with some form of bladder control issues today, and two in three people will have incontinence during their lifetimes. There’s a social stigma around the issue, adding to the difficulty in dealing with it. Products are provided to partners at no cost.

**EASTERN WISCONSIN DIAPER BANK**
Our Eastern Wisconsin Diaper Bank provides diapers to families in need. This helps families to self-sufficiency so that no family has to sacrifice basic hygiene needs in order to afford other basic needs for a quality life. Products are provided to partners at no cost.

**NATIONAL CLOTH NETWORK**
Jake’s started with cloth, this is an area of expertise for us! Our National Cloth Network partners with diaper banks across the country to source cloth diaper kits. We also offer individual aid for areas where banks do not exist. Products are provided at no cost.

**GLOBAL NETWORK**
Our Global Network continues work with our global partners to provide cloth diapering kits to enable partners to reallocate funding an address local situations related to alleviating poverty, and ensure the health and dignity of those they serve. Products are provided at no cost.
Responding to Need

2022 brought a number of unplanned crisis situations across the globe. From natural disaster to war, Jake’s was able to provide support to those in need.

**War in Ukraine**

In February 2022, Russia began marking the start of a full-scale invasion of Ukraine, since the two countries have been in active warfare. This ongoing full-scale war has resulted in many deaths, and many refugees in crisis needing support.

Jake’s was able to partner with Wisconsin Ukrainians, a Wisconsin-based non-profit, to shipped much needed supplies to refugees.

“They feel grateful to be here and safe, but guilty they can have peace while the rest of their family/friends are under conflict. The moms are always very anxious until they can have the daily call with family at home to make sure they are still alive/good,” stated a Ukrainian refugee host.

We were able to send clothing, basic need items and cloth diapers in partnership with the Wisconsin Ukrainians.

**Hurricane Relief**

Natural disasters also took their toll on a number of communities in Puerto Rico and Florida due to Hurricane Ian and Fiona.

Jake’s Network of Hope partnered with NM Expedited and the Neenah Police Department to send semi-trailers of much needed products. Jake’s donated baby food, diapers and feminine and cleaning products to help with hurricane and other disaster response efforts.

We also have active partners in Puerto Rico who helped us provide many cloth hygiene items to people in need.
A lot of the work inside our warehouse is sorting and repackaging products to distribute to people in need. This helps us provide standardized packages so that our partners and the people they serve receive consistent quantities.

This might sound dry, but the work can actually be fun! Our volunteers can be caught “playing basketball” while sorting diapers into bins, singing along while repacking kits or genuinely laughing because they are having a good time.

In March, we hosted a unique packing party for our We Gotcha’ Girl initiative, in partnership with Fox Communities Credit Union, which provides tampons and pads in discreet packaging to local schools. The products are repackaged into discreet, cloth pencil bags so that girls can conceal the items while using products they need during school.
Our warehouse is always a busy place to be: partner agencies browsing the Hope Hub; staff sorting and restocking products; and volunteers helping out with all of the above!

The Hope Hub is our partner resource center for 1:1 sourcing appointments. All of our qualified partners have the ability to schedule an appointment to browse for needed items. Partner agencies pay sharing fees, which are up to 25% of retail value and often less.

In 2022, our partners purchased $175,000 in products from the Hope Hub. This number is the sharing fee total, which is a percentage of retail value that a partner agency pays for the products.

At full retail value, Jake’s provided more than $750,000 in retail products to our partners. This means, the Hope Hub saved our community over $600,000 in 2022!
Partner Projects

Jake's model is built around community partnerships, and this provides opportunity for occasional longterm collaboration on large impact projects. Here are some examples from 2022.

**Tiny House Village**

The Oshkosh Kids Foundation (OKF) has teamed up with 17 local community partners to introduce the Tiny House Village – Jake's Network of Hope is thrilled to be one of these community partners! This collaborative effort will give homeless Oshkosh families a safe shelter and fresh start.

The Tiny House Village provides affordable, short-term housing for families while they learn life, financial, and home management skills. Jake's is providing goods to furnish each home – such as bedding, small kitchen equipment, dining ware, bathroom needs, and so forth – a partnership that has greatly helped reduce the project’s growing budget – according to Julie Dumke, Co-Founder, and Executive Director of OKF.

“We love Jakes, we’re super excited about the group staging our houses – all the items that Jake's is providing are going to make it a home,” she said.

When you tour our warehouse, you'll see the special area where we stock all of our supplies for this project near our Hope Hub. We look forward to helping these families enjoy a stable home that they can feel proud to call their own.

**Project Undercover**

In partnership with the Kiwanis of Oshkosh, Jake's sets aside socks and underwear to help hundreds of children in need. These clothing items are delivered to youth in need in every school in the Oshkosh Area School District, providing many low income families with essential items and financial relief.

"This has become a labor of love for club members. From raising funds, to packing up thousands of items, to making deliveries to schools, our club has stepped up to make sure this project serves as many kids as possible." - Art Rathjen, former club president and lead coordinator for the Project said (Oshkoshherald.com)

Kiwanis members also volunteer at Jake's to box up the packages before delivering to students in need.
Impact Report

Total products: 1,053,505
Total lives: 29,594

554,821  total diapers
12,885  total children + babies diapered:

5,163  total cloth diapers
345  total individuals served with cloth

129,352  total period products
5,442  total girls + women served

336,128  total A.C.E. products
10,143  total people served through A.C.E.

$750,000  total retail value of basic needs items
$600,000  total savings to our community
Thank You to our Supporters!

$1,000 TO $4,999
Jeweler's Mutual
We Energies Foundation
Bemis / Amcor Cares
Co Vantage Credit Union
Light Up Ventures
Johnson & Johnson Foundation - Matching Gifts Program
Holy Family Parish
Edward Szabo
Lynn Braun
Gunderson Cleaners

$5,000 TO $9,999
K.C. Stock Foundation
Greater Green Bay Foundation (Women's Fund)
Leon H and Clymene M Bond
City of Oshkosh

$10,000 +

J. J. Keller
& Associates, Inc.

Little Rapids Corporation

OSHKOSH AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
“We have been able to source new clothing at an affordable price at Jake’s, which allowed us to provide that clothing for free to our 5,300 active clients.”

— Johnna Vandeurzen, Community Clothes Closet
Looking ahead to 2023

We look forward to growing our partnerships in the region and serving a wider audience. We hear from many partners in rural areas of our state with needs, and look forward to getting more involved with those collaborations in 2023.

This will also include locating "diaper desserts" in northeast Wisconsin, and serving those individuals who have been left out in years' past. We want to ensure we can reach as many individuals in need as possible.

We also aim to gain a deeper understanding of our communities' needs, and are working to effectively measure the gap between what's requested from our organization, and what we are able to distribute to meet those needs.