

COUNTY FARE

Bank customers support diaper project

Lee Bank and its loyal customers did their best last month to keep little tykes in diapers.

The five branch offices in August collected about 40 packages of disposable diapers and raised \$340 from a Paint 'N Sip fundraiser to benefit the Berkshire County Diaper Project.

On Friday, Lenox branch manager Tina Bartini and her staff officially turned over the donations to the nonprofit group, which celebrates its fourth anniversary this month.

To date, the all-volunteer organization has

distributed packages totaling 500,000 diapers to needy families and their children, according to Dr. Marie Rudden, board president and a founding member of the nonprofit.

With disposable diapers costing parents \$50 to \$100 per month per child, Rudden says, a Yale University researcher found that one-third of parents struggle to buy diapers.

"Unfortunately, cloth diapers are not a viable alternative for most low-income families,

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as diaper services are too expensive, and diapers cannot be laundered in public laundromats," she noted. "Most day care centers require that the children be dropped off with a supply of [disposable] diapers for the day."

The Berkshire Community Diaper Project is a member of the National Diaper Bank Network, through which the local group can buy diapers in bulk and at very low cost. For more information or to make a donation, go to berkshirecommunitydiaper-project.com, or send checks to BCDP Inc. at P.O. Box 5, West Stockbridge, MA 01266.



Lee Bank branch offices collected diapers for the Berkshire County Diaper Project. Pictured, from left, are Bridget Albano, Alison Brigham and Tina Bartini, Lee Bank employees; Marci Gaul, a volunteer for the Berkshire County Diaper Project; and bank employees Kim Harmon and Brooke Morehouse.

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