

# NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## United Way and Community Volunteers Come Together to Fight Infant Mortality

[TOLEDO, Ohio] – In an effort to fight infant mortality; United Way of Greater Toledo (UWGT) is set to host “Bags for Babies,” a volunteer event that provides essential infant supplies to new and expecting mothers.

On Thursday, October 5, from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at the Renaissance Hotel in Downtown Toledo, over 250 volunteers will gather to assemble bags that include onesies, wipes, pacifiers, halo sleep sacks and resource flyers for area parents in need. In addition to the items, funds raised for the event will go towards stocking our local diaper bank for six months.

“Our goal is to ensure that every baby in the Greater Toledo area has a healthy start in life,” said Amanda Howard, manager of volunteer engagement and training at UWGT.

She continued, stating, “Our objective is to generate awareness and create meaningful dialogue around a distressing issue our community is facing.”

Ohio has one of the highest infant mortality rates in the US. In the Greater Toledo area alone, eight out of 1,000 babies did not make it to their first birthday in 2015. More specifically, 10-year averages show that 17 out of 1,000 African American babies also didn’t make it to their first birthday.

In our country, around 5.8 million babies live in poor or low-income homes, with one in every three families struggling to purchase diapers. Babies who are not given essential infant supplies or sit for long periods of time in soiled diapers have a substantially higher risk for numerous health-related issues.

“There are several economic barriers that hinder our babies from living healthy lives. That’s why it’s so important to unite the community, so we can fight these troubling statistics,” said Howard.

Visit [bagsforbabies.eventbrite.com](http://bagsforbabies.eventbrite.com) to donate today. The event is free to attend, with an optional \$10 gift that goes towards stocking the local diaper bank.

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United Way of Greater Toledo, serving Lucas, Wood and Ottawa counties, unites the caring power of people to improve lives. Together, we’re on a mission to change lives forever in our community by investing in programs focused on education, financial stability, and healthy lifestyles. We tackle the tough problems in these areas by funding and partnering with the most effective local organizations who create real opportunities and get results. LIVE UNITED by visiting [www.unitedwaytoledo.org](http://www.unitedwaytoledo.org).