

Active Grace October 2019

Stewardship of Money

October 20 Action opportunities

10:15 am- Grace Little Free Pantry

4:00 pm- DMARC tour and sorting

Disposable hygiene product drive

We often think of donating food to DMARC and food pantries, but did you know they collect and distribute other goods? DMARC has a great need for disposable hygiene products, like diapers and tampons and pads. Also, as a part of our Grace Little Free Pantry we intend to have a cabinet devoted to just hygiene products. In the Preparation phase of our October Service Learning theme “Stewardship of Money” we are going to spend some time learning and thinking about the cost of these necessary items and how that might impact a person’s ability to afford other things, like food or utilities.

As part of our Action phase from October 6 to October 20 we are going to do a congregation-wide drive for diapers, tampons and pads. Your family can do the work of deciding how best to share your money in this effort; buying the items or giving your money to DMARC so they can buy in bulk. Take some time as a family to talk about cost per item and how many of each item a person might need each day or week. Do the math, figure out what a monthly budget might be and if that is for the generic or the name brand. Then, holding that information in mind, discern what you might be able to share. Some of the money and items donated will go to DMARC and some will stay here to fill our Grace Little Free Pantry hygiene cabinet. Another option is to give online – use the following link and please designate for disposable hygiene items (<https://www.dmarcunited.org/donate/donate-online/>)

Some statistical information from DMARC to aid in your discernment- see reverse side

Diapers

Diapers are a huge cost for low-income families. On average, a family has to spend \$18 a week (or \$936 a year) per child, which represents six percent of a single mother's gross pay from a full-time minimum wage job (and that figure doesn't take into account the cost of wipes)

Tampons and Pads

- 1 in 4 menstruating people struggle to purchase period products due to lack in income
- Menstruating people require an average of 6 period products per day
- State and federal safety-net programs cannot be used to purchase period supplies
- 1 in 5 low-income menstruating people report missing work, school, or other obligations due to lack of access to period supplies

