

A Note From our Baby Benefactor Inaugural Member

This is an invitation to commit your family to radical giving.

Perhaps, like me, you have fiercely loved a baby in your life. Maybe you are familiar with the sudden awareness I gained when our first child was born eight years ago. Changing diapers in the middle of the night, I could not believe our good fortune. Our baby was healthy and my wife, Lauren, and I had the resources and support to care for him and ourselves in whatever way felt right to us. But I could not stop imagining loving a baby like I loved ours and NOT having those resources.

I started volunteering with GDCDB in 2014 when our son, Nate, was a newborn, asleep in a baby carrier while I bundled diapers. By the time Nate was in preschool, we had regular playdates at the warehouse and organized diaper drives for birthdays and at school. Volunteering was a concrete way to start talking about community service and caring for our neighbors. We often gave donations of diapers or money in honor of new babies in our lives and to mark special occasions.

In the early days of the pandemic, Lauren and I knew we needed to do something bigger. 2020 was our first “Year of Radical Giving.” We talked with our kids about the organizations that were most important to us. We set goals to give in amounts that sounded wildly out of reach and it felt amazing. Nate and his sister Aviva ran with these ideas and sold everything from lemonade to coffee beans to fundraise. My son raised so much from generous neighbors and friends that he qualifies to be a baby benefactor in his own right. When the warehouse reopened to volunteers I began to lead volunteer sessions myself and have met so many wonderful people. Every dollar and every minute of my time is worth it to the Greater DC Diaper Bank. My family’s involvement shows my kids that they can serve their community in a meaningful way at any age.

I invite you to do two things: first, remember the moment when you became acutely aware of the needs of babies and their caregivers. Then, make a plan to give money, energy, or expertise in ways that feel radical. Talk with your children about why it’s important to you. You won’t be disappointed by the effect that radical giving has on your family and community.

See you in the warehouse soon,


Abbe Spokane

