



ST. JOSEPH COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

St. Joseph County Department of Health

"To promote health and wellness with compassion and integrity through partnerships, education, protection, and advocacy for all who reside in and visit St. Joseph County"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Department of Health program supports local St. Joseph County Schools

The St. Joseph County Department of Health is excited to expand our partnership with our amazing community members in support of our county's school children. In discussions with dozens of school principals, teachers, and nurses, we identified four areas of focus that keep students out of class and in the nurse's offices. Those areas are Hygiene (toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant), Diabetes (snacks to moderate blood sugar), Clothing (pants, underwear, socks in case of accidents), and Period Poverty (feminine hygiene products, pants, underwear).

Since first announcing this program in August, the community's support has been incredible, with items arriving at the County-City Building every week to be distributed to schools in need. The program also attracted the attention of a local philanthropic group, the Barbara and John Phair Foundation, who generously donated \$50,000 to be spent on items for students.

All 100 area schools are eligible for items, allowing thousands of students to have necessary resources to attend school and remain in class. This program also aims to alleviate the burden on parents, who usually must leave work to bring essential items to their children's school.

Hundreds of community members have asked how they can help support local students, and the Department of Health is proud to work with our community to make a difference. The Department of Health website has links to Amazon wish lists for items requested by schools.

For more information, head to our School Health Liaison page,
<https://www.in.gov/localhealth/stjosephcounty/public-health-nursing/school-health-liaison/>

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