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Stonegate Wal-Mart gift kicks off 'Putting Babies First' campaign

By **MATTHEW LANE**
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KINGSPORT — Stonegate Wal-Mart donated \$1,800 to Joshua Generation International Tuesday to kick off the "Putting Babies First" Campaign 2000.

Stonegate Wal-Mart first helped JGI in December during the group's "Diapers for the Holidays" event.

Store manager Jimmy Clark said he feels encouraged by the campaign.

"When it was first presented to me, I was moved, and I thought it was good for the community," Clark said.

JGI President Ronnie Collins said the goal of the campaign is to distribute 10,000 diapers and 15,000 baby wipes free each month to 250 babies of low-income families living in Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia. Collins said diapers and baby wipes will also be distributed to 250 Knox County families.

"Before the year is out, our goal is 7,000 underprivileged infants and toddlers getting diapers — a week's supply of diapers, wipes and also milk," Collins said.

The campaign goal is to raise \$67,300 and to provide 280,000 diapers and 420,000 baby wipes by year's end. Collins said this is the largest outreach for babies in the history of Tennessee and Virginia.

"We believe we can do it," Collins said. "We're asking each person to give \$10, which will

take care of a one-week supply of diapers, at least 40 diapers. That's our goal."

Last year, Collins said JGI provided 620 families with diapers and baby wipes, and this year they want to make an even bigger impact.

"We want to do it consistently, on a monthly basis," Collins said.

JGI has formed alliances and partnerships with several local organizations for the distributions of the diapers and wipes — New Covenant Family Church of Johnson City; the Upper East Tennessee Human Development Agency of Kingsport; Knoxville's Community Development Corp., the Family Preservation Advisory Council in Scott County, Va.; AmeriCorp/VISTA in Bristol; Appalachian Area Aglow Board of Grundy, Va.; Bristol, Tenn., YWCA; Erwin Housing Authority; and the Carver Recreation Center in Johnson City.

Collins said the alliances and partnerships with JGI have grown over the years.

"People have started to understand that we're trying to meet a need, and the only way we can do this effectively is that we get it to the right people," Collins said.

JGI purchases all of the supplies from Wal-Mart. Collins describes Clark as a "blessing."

"This is the largest one-time gift we have received in the three years of Joshua Generation's existence," Collins said.

For more information or to make a donation, contact JGI at P.O. Box 3390, Kingsport, Tenn. 37664-3390.



Newsline

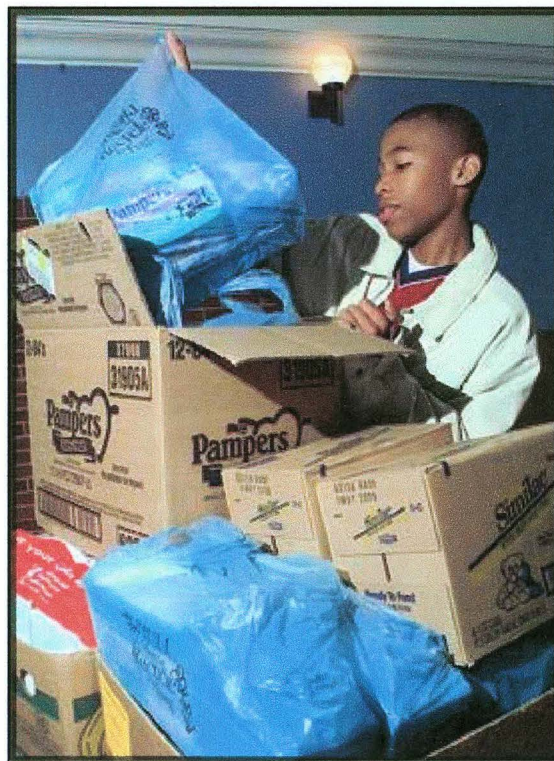
PRICE OF TRESPASS: Three protesters arrested Monday at a rally to oppose a \$475 million expansion at Willamette Industries were tried and sentenced Tuesday. **PAGE 2B.**

FOR THE BABIES: Stonegate Wal-Mart donated \$1,800 to Joshua Generation International Tuesday to kick off the "Putting Babies First" Campaign 2000. **PAGE 3B.**

AT HOME: Bluff City will soon be receiving \$500,000 in HOME funds to rehabilitate 20 homes within its city limits from the Tennessee Housing Development Agency. **PAGE 8B.**

An archive in photos **photo**search of life in The Tri-Cities

Joshua Giving



"Phillip Collins packs up some of the 5000 diapers and other baby supplies the Joshua Generation is giving away. December 22, 1999"

Photo by David Grace | [Send Postcard](#)