

# Diaper Bank of North Carolina partners with Harnett Division on Aging

## In-home program to now provide adult incontinence products

For the Record

DURHAM — Diaper Bank of North Carolina has announced a partnership with Harnett County Division on Aging designed to address the largely unmet need for adult incontinence products. Research shows that up to 60% of older adults struggle with incontinence issues.

“DBNC is excited to help empower senior community members and their caregivers. There is an undeniable connection between accessing essential hygiene items and a desirable quality of life,” shared Michelle Old, executive director and founder of DBNC.

According to Mary Jane Sauls, local public health administrator with Harnett County Division on Aging, the need for adult incontinence products among older citizens is significant. “Every day we see the physical and emotional consequences of seniors not having the products, they need to manage incontinence,” Sauls said. “Without adequate supplies to maintain their health and hygiene, many seniors become unwell, depressed, and socially withdrawn.”

Adult incontinence products can cost \$100 per month. “That is a substantial amount, especially for seniors on a fixed income,” explained Old.

As with other personal hygiene items, adult incontinence products are not covered by Medicare



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**Pictured from left are Mary Jane Sauls, public health administrator with the Harnett County Division on Aging; Michelle Old, founder and executive director of Diaper Bank of North Carolina; Jannice Verne, community coordinator with Diaper Bank of North Carolina; and Latorius Adams, family caregiver support program specialist with the Harnett County Division on Aging.**

While DBNC has distributed adult incontinence products through community partners in the past, this new partnership will serve people in their own homes that are participating in the Family Caregiver Support Program.

“Through this program, seniors caring for loved ones experiencing limited access to transportation, or hesitancy to seek assistance because of embarrassment will receive the products they need during home visits,” Sauls added. “Help will come directly to them.”

The Harnett County Division on Aging offers a Family Caregiver Support Program. This is a national program that was established in

November 2000 under the Older Americans Act of 1965, to help support family members caring for an aging loved one.

The Harnett County Family Caregiver Support Program provides information about available services, assistance gaining access to services, caregiver trainings, respite care and supplemental services.

The Family Caregiver Support Group meets the

third Thursday of every month at 11 a.m. at the Governmental Complex, located in the kitchen area. The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Support Group meets the third Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m. in the conference room at the Harnett County Division on Aging.

For more information, call the Harnett County Division on Aging at 910-814-6075.