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ONE COLOR PHOTO ATTACHED. Jean Ann Lynch, founder and board president of Baby Basics of Collier County.

Baby Basics' Founder and Board President to Speak at National Diaper Bank Convention

NAPLES, Fla. (May 27, 2015) - Jean Ann Lynch, founder and board president of Baby Basics of Collier County (www.BabyBasicsCollier.org) a volunteer organization that provides free diapers and kindness to over 378 infants and toddlers from low-income, working families in Collier County and Bonita Springs, will serve as a speaker at the National Diaper Bank Network's 2015 Diaper Banks in America Conference this week in Seattle, Washington. Lynch will be presenting the findings of a Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) Department of Health Sciences senior project, which explored the effects of lack of diapers on babies and families. This senior project was directed by professor Karen Landy, MS with the College of Professions and Social Work and administered by Cody Wenger, Shameka Conel, Maylin Jimenez, and Maria Matty, FGCU students.

“It is an absolute honor to be not only be selected to speak in front so many devoted and driven individuals, but to present the findings of this important study. While the discoveries are in keeping with what we have been saying for years, it is

quite significant to have actual concrete proof of diaper need right in our backyard in Southwest Florida,” said Lynch.

The National Diaper Bank Network (NDBN) is leading a national movement to safeguard one of the most basic needs of all babies and their families - access to clean, dry diapers. Fair access to clean diapers improves the physical, mental and economic well-being of babies, families, and communities. NDBN connects and supports the county’s more than 240 community-based diaper banks that collect, store, and distribute free diapers to struggling families. In 2014, the network distributed nearly 35 million free diapers, including 20 million donated by NDBN founding sponsor Huggies®, to more than 1 million children throughout the country. For more information about NBDN, please visit www.nationaldiaperbanknetwork.org.

Baby Basics of Collier County was founded in 2004 and has impacted over 1,600 families in Collier County and Bonita Springs since it began. Families interested in the program are referred from local social service agencies and are screened for qualification. To participate in the program, families must meet certain criteria - which include at least one working parent or guardian, demonstrated financial need, and the family may not be receiving federal or state cash assistance. Those families who meet the criteria come to the closest distribution site to pick up a free supply of diapers. Volunteers greet the families, help them select the proper size, and provide information about the next distribution and other opportunities for supportive services. Baby Basics is a volunteer organization and all donations and sponsorship funds are used to purchase diapers. For more information about Baby Basics of Collier County, please visit www.BabyBasicsCollier.org.

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