

Fresno distributes clothes, feeds hundreds of families

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A project aimed at providing thousands of needy Valley children with basic goods served 450 families Saturday at an event at Westside Church of God in Fresno.

The First 5 Fresno County distribution event for infants and toddlers Saturday morning was part of the agency's Bringing Accessible Supplies into Communities (BASIC) project.

"It is unacceptable that children are going without essentials such as coats, diapers and food," said Kendra Rogers, First 5 Fresno County's executive director. "Our goal is to meet some of these basic needs and also create a system that will help get families out of isolation."

Thirty-four agencies throughout the county have partnered to assist First 5 Fresno County and its lead partner, ESA/LOVE Inc., to distribute essential items, including 4,300 coats for children, 1,200 pajamas, 500,000 diapers, 3,200 packages of diaper wipes and 3,000 food boxes.

The BASIC giveaways will take place in nine cities in Fresno County over the next month.



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Rosalinda Cruz, pushing a stroller with her grandchildren, Maria Garza, 2, and Isaiah Silva, 10 months, gets help from First 5's Michelle Diaz and helper Jasmine Delatorre, background, during a First 5 Fresno County distribution event for infants and toddlers, held at Westside Church of God on Saturday morning.



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In the arms of his mother, Keritha Breazeale, 1-year-old Dareese McArn waits as First 5 volunteers, including Kristen Middone, right, box up goods for him and his siblings during the First 5 Fresno County distribution event at Westside Church of God on Saturday.