

PROPONENT

Period poverty is a quiet but active crisis occurring in our community. According to the State of the Period 2021 survey, 1 in 4 teens have missed school due to lack of access to period products, while 1 in 4 women struggle to purchase products forcing them to improvise or miss work.

Last year, we—two high-school students—started Equity. Period. with the goal to provide free products in the bathrooms at our school, Notre Dame de Sion High School. Having reached that goal, we now assist other schools and support girls who have trouble receiving necessary products. As well, we've supported Free Hot Soup of KC, KC Welcome Alliance, and Giving the Basics—gifting more than 12,000 feminine products so far.

However, we often shop in Missouri to ensure our finances make a bigger impact on those in need. To maximize our donations, we have to responsibly price shop.

Still, we know this isn't enough. Last week, with the help of Kansas Appleseed, we met with Governor Laura Kelly to support her efforts to Axe the Taxes on feminine products, diapers, and food. These basic human necessities are increasing in price to the point it's cost prohibitive for many. We believe Kansas is better than this. Humanity should be better than this. Please support the women in your life—with dignity and affordable care and nutrition.

Respectfully,
Becca Houlehan, Leawood KS
Izzy Zschoche, Prairie Village KS