Greater Lawrence Family Health Center’s Access to Care Fund came largely from the generous donations of the health center’s staff. The External Relations team put the funds to use by creating small “care package” bags for kids at the School-Based Health Centers at Lawrence High and Greater Lawrence Technical School.

The care package bags will help children who might lack access to resources that will help them with hygienic activities like keeping their teeth clean, their breath fresh and their hands sanitized to prevent illness. The bags have all the useful basics: a toothbrush, Tic Tacs or cough drops, deodorant and hand sanitizer.

Health care at GLFHC is all about making wellness as easy and routine as possible. Just about anyone can relate a time when they put other priorities ahead of their health – and this is especially a problem for the underserved community that the health center treats, where individuals are facing such extreme challenges that time for self-care can seem short or nonexistent. In these cases, what may seem like a small gesture to some can have a huge impact on one’s ability to take care of oneself.

To that end, the External Relations department recently purchased a number of diaper bags for participants in the Centering Pregnancy program. The bags are filled with things that will help moms get off to the right start with their babies: wipes, disposal bags and, of course, diapers! The bags will be distributed to patients once they reach a certain milestone in the program, one of many incentives to keep them active in their own prenatal care.

The Centering Pregnancy program follows a national model developed by the Centering Healthcare Institute. Rather than going it alone, women in Centering programs are placed into small groups with other expectant moms at the same stage of pregnancy – allowing medical care, prenatal education and peer support to be delivered simultaneously.