Operation Breakthrough

<https://operationbreakthrough.org>

Founded in 1971, Operation Breakthrough is open 55 hours a week with a 2-prong mission in Kansas City's urban core: To help 400+ children in poverty succeed in school and empower their parents to provide them a stable home environment. About 20% of the children are homeless. More than 70 % come from families surviving on less than $12,000 per year. For the 290 children under age 5, the goal is kindergarten readiness. For the 160 children, ages 5 to 14, in OB's after-school/summer program, the goals are school success and character development. In addition to educational programs, Operation Breakthrough offers on-site pediatric health and dental care, occupational and speech therapy and mental health programming. For parents, OB provides parenting classes, support groups, a food pantry and clothing closet and assistance with budgeting, housing and employment. OB strives to be a one-stop shop of education and support for families in need who want to work toward their great potential.

**In addition to being able to make a donation during the registration process, PCMA Heartland Chapter will be collecting donations at the event. Below is a list of items that are most in need:**

* Diapers - Sizes 4 and up
* new underwear for children in size 3T up to youth size 8.
* Feminine Hygiene items
* Toothbrushes and paste for children 2 to 14.
* Dish soap and detergent
* Over the counter pediatric health items, such as diaper cream, liquid pain relieves, Aquaphor cream for eczema, Vaseline, saline nasal spray. Also thermometers and bulb aspirators.
* Snacks for children - fruit cups, fruit snacks, crackers, granola bars, etc.