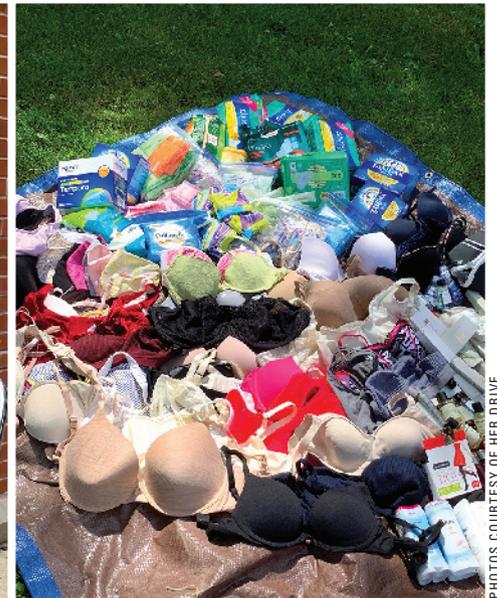




Alexa Mohsenzadeh holding donations of bras, menstrual care, and general hygiene products received by mail.



Jenica Baron dropping off donations to Deborah's Place collected from the Chicagoland Drive in July 2020.



New/gently used bras, menstrual care, and general hygiene products collected from the Chicagoland Drive in summer 2020.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF HER DRIVE

Locally Founded “Her Drive” Fills Critical Needs for Under-Resourced Women

HER DRIVE CO-FOUNDERS Alexa Mohsenzadeh and Jenica Baron are Barrington High School alumnae. Mohsenzadeh grew up in North Barrington and attended Hough Street Elementary School. Baron grew up in South Barrington and later Deer Park and attended Grove Avenue Elementary School. The two met in 6th grade at Station Middle School and became fast friends. Today, Mohsenzadeh attends Emory University where she is studying neuroscience and ethics. Baron attends Tulane University where she is studying public health. We asked to learn more.

How did Her Drive become your project?

When the two of us were home during the first wave of the pandemic, we were interested in donating PPE items, such as handsewn masks and sanitizers, to local shelters in Chicago. We noticed that bras and period products were frequently listed on donation lists for shelters. We decided to launch Her Drive to collect bras, menstrual care, and general hygiene products for people without access. In July 2020, we hosted our first drive in the Chicagoland area with the plan to donate to

shelters and communities that were having difficulty receiving hygiene items.

How did you discover that period poverty is such a widespread issue for women?

Prior to launching Her Drive, we did a lot of research to better understand which communities were the most affected by period poverty. We learned that reservation communities have limited access to menstrual hygiene products and education on sexual health, so we want to ensure that donating to reservations is always a priority. People living on reservations pay a premium for menstrual care products in rural areas. For low-income individuals, this may result in using less sanitary alternatives to handle their period.

What about in cities?

Nearly ⅓ of low-income women in large U.S. cities can't afford menstrual hygiene products and one in five women struggle with this problem every month. There is a tremendous decrease in school attendance in low-income students when they are on their period due to a lack of access to period products and education about dealing with their period in general.

How can people get involved?

We are offering our “Host Your Own Drive” program to help get people involved. Our information is here and we welcome participants to sign up, volunteer, or donate. 

Follow and Support Her Drive

Her Drive is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in Chicago. It provides new/gently used bras, menstrual care products, and general hygiene products.

To learn more, visit herdrive.org.

To donate: email herdriveco@gmail.com.

Updates are posted on social media:

Instagram: [@her.drive](https://www.instagram.com/her.drive/); [Instagram.com/her.drive/](https://www.instagram.com/her.drive/)

Facebook: [facebook.com/herdriveco/](https://www.facebook.com/herdriveco/)

TikTok: [@her.drive](https://www.tiktok.com/@her.drive)

Twitter: twitter.com/herdriven