

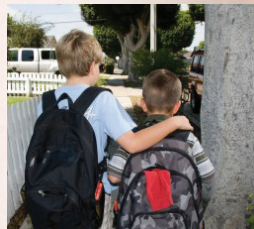
Can You Help?

Most children in foster care carry their belongings in black garbage bags. Each child averages 7 moves while in foster care.



It takes so little for you to make an impact during this lonely, sad time in foster care for children.

The Southwestern Michigan Association of REALTORS is proud to announce our eleventh year of involvement in this great cause. We hope to build on past years success when we collected new duffel bags and personal care items.



We will be contributing items to Berrien, Van Buren and Cass county foster care organizations this year so please help us. Get the word out to your church, scouts, and other civic groups to participate in this little heard about cause so it will grow and help more children.

Suitcase for Kids is a national nonprofit program started in November, 1995 by 10-year-old Aubyn Burnside when she learned about the foster kids in her hometown of Hickory, N.C.

"I thought it was horrible that the children had nothing to carry their things in as they moved so many times. I wanted to make them feel special by giving them something of their own to keep. I tried to put myself in their place and think how I would feel,"

said Aubyn.

Items the children need:

NEW ITEMS ONLY PLEASE

- Backpacks/Duffel Bags
- Blankets (sm-med)
- Books (elementary age)
- Diapers (including ages 2-5)
- Diaries/Journal Bks. with locks
- Personal Hygiene Items (travel size)
- PJs - 2 piece, night gowns, lounge pants
- T-Shirts
- Gift cards - Target/Walmart/McDonalds
- Make-Up Bags for Teens
- Nerf Balls or Nerf Games
- Picture Frames
- Shoes/Slippers
- Socks (all sizes)
- Underwear (all sizes)
- Wipes for Sensitive Skin

Please donate your items through September 30th

Checks are accepted. Made payable to:
Berrien, Cass or VanBuren County Dept. of Human Services

Mailed to: SWMAR
3123 Lake Shore Dr.
St. Joseph, MI 49085-2677

If a 10 year old can make a difference....so can we.



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