



PHILIP L. BROWNING  
Director

March 25, 2016

**County of Los Angeles  
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

300 East Avenue K-6 Lancaster CA 93535

Board of Supervisors

GLORIA MOLINA  
First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS  
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
Third District

DON KNABE  
Fourth District

To: Owner/Volunteers of "My Stuff Bags:

Thank you so much for over 200 blue duffel bags for our needy DCFS clients. When the bags were delivered it took me a few days to realize that in addition to the tags itself, it had the sex (blue or red) as well as age group. I was just excited about the contents of many of the bags.

I have had the pleasure of personally giving out 8 bags myself to the following children:

- One 8 year old Caucasian girl detained from school. Mother had severe mental health issues, child dirty, thin, hungry, and neglected. At the office I gave her a bag and watched as her eyes lit up and she just smiled and smiled. She looked at me and asked "can I have this stuff?" I replied yes. She held the bag close; she seemed to inhale the odor of the bag and contents. She was placed in a foster home.
- 4 boys ages one to 13, African American detained from school after teacher discovered extensive marks and bruises on the back and legs of two of the boys. They were very energetic and wanted to fight over the bags until they realized they were each getting one. As each boy opened a bag he would show off the contents to his brothers. The oldest boy asked me why they were getting such good stuff, I responded "because you deserve it". All boys placed in two separate foster homes.
- Finally there was an infant about 3-4 weeks old that broke my heart. I heard this loud piercing screaming and went to inquire; the emergency response worker had just detained this baby girl from a drug house. In addition to drug both parents appeared to be developmentally delayed. The baby appeared thin, mal nourished; the parents had not been feeding her on a regular basis and had no formula. She appeared a bit dehydrated and her eyes appeared to be bulging from her tiny face. She had difficulty sucking the nipple and as she was gulping the milk so fast that she was having trouble swallowing. Whenever it was removed from her lips she would scream. It was heartbreaking. I went and got a bag for a baby girl and was overwhelmed when I saw the wonderful items.

Thank you so much for all you do. We have many more stories regarding our clients being placed in to foster care with nothing. These bags are wonderful and when a child feels so alone, so inadequate, so abandoned, so rejected, it makes such a difference.

Thank you.

  
Jay Townsend  
Supervisor

*P.S. Sorry it took a while  
we are so busy!*

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*