

My Stuff Bags Foundation

Offering Necessities and Comfort to Children in Crisis



Who We Are:

- My Stuff Bags Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization based in Westlake Village, CA.
- Purpose: To collect fresh new personal care and comfort items for distribution to individual children by child services agency partners in easy-to-carry "my Stuff Bags" that deliver meaningful "Psychological First Aid" (PFA) in response to the immediate physical and emotional needs of traumatized children entering foster care, crisis shelters, and battered women's shelters.

What We Do

- The My Stuff Bags Foundation provides duffels of new belongings to children arriving at crisis shelters with little or nothing of their own.
- The children we serve have been abused, neglected, or abandoned and are entering foster care or are with their mothers in a battered women's shelter or are homeless. They often must leave home quickly and can't take their "stuff" with them. Rescuing agencies do not have the resources to consistently provide something as basic as a toothbrush or as comforting as a teddy bear. We fill that gap with My Stuff Bags.
- Each My Stuff Bag Contains: Clothing, toys, a stuffed animal, school supplies, toiletries, and a warm "security" blanket (often handmade from people all across the country).
- Since 1998, we have distributed My Stuff Bags to over 485,000 children through over 1,400 agency partners.

How We Do It

- In-Kind Donations
- Volunteer Workforce
- Financial Support for direct program costs

Why We Do It

- Traumatized by the events leading to their necessary removal from home, most abused children enter shelters with no belongings. Rescuing agencies do not have the resources to provide the most basic childhood essentials. Many children already in foster care travel from placement to placement with few belongings.
- Because the items in a My Stuff Bag are donated by people all across the country and the bags are stuffed by volunteers, it sends children the message that "many people care about you".

Efficiency

- Foundation Administrative and Fundraising costs are consistently below 12% of total expenses
- The vast majority of labor is provided by volunteers allowing the Foundation to utilize its funding for program expenses.

Major Need

- Our major need is the approximately \$25 per My Stuff Bag cost to cover duffels, toiletry bags and toiletries, shipping expenses, fleece for blanket-making, warehousing and fulfillment costs.

Contact: info@mystuffbags.org



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www.mystuffbags.org