

My Stuff Bags Foundation Annual Report

2019







The My Stuff Bags Foundation provides new belongings, comfort and hope to thousands of abused, neglected, abandoned, and homeless children across the U.S. each year through our unique “My Stuff Bags Program.” Unfortunately, nearly 300,000 children in America must be placed in foster care each year, thousands more will flee domestic violence with their mothers and enter battered women’s shelters, or must seek protection after running away from abuse. And now, in addition, the rapid spread of the Opioid drug addiction across the United States is causing a significant increase in the numbers of at-risk children who must seek shelter. Almost all of these children have one sad thing in common: they enter crisis care with nothing of their own and rescuing agencies rarely have the resources to provide something as basic as a toothbrush or as comforting as a teddy bear. We fill that gap with My Stuff Bags, individual age and gender appropriate duffels lovingly filled with new childhood essentials.

My Stuff Bags Foundation, a 501(c) (3) national nonprofit, was founded in 1998 in California as a response to a desperate cry for help from agency caregivers, who relay truly heart wrenching stories of children transitioning through foster and shelter care with no toys, no change of clothes, no toiletries and no hope. We remedy this desperate state of affairs by providing our “Partner Agencies” across the U.S. with brand new My Stuff Bags, free of charge to distribute to the children in their care.

My Stuff Bags address the immediate physical and emotional needs of rescued children by providing items of necessity, dignity and comfort during a period of upheaval. A stuffed animal can help calm a crying child, a blanket gives them something to hold on to and soothe themselves with, a new toy or game will keep a young child busy and give them a way to interact with others, personal toiletries help a teenager feel better about his or her appearance.

Many generous individual and corporate donors from across the U.S send funding, and donations of new blankets, toys, clothes, and other great items for My Stuff Bags. We also have a large in house Volunteer Program, hosting individuals, schools, corporations, churches and other community organizations on a daily basis. These amazing volunteers assist us in every part of producing My Stuff Bags from helping to unpack, sort and count in-kind donations, re-package items as needed, to stuffing and boxing the bags to making fleece blankets, goody bags and other items for children.

2019 Highlights

-  18,302 My Stuff Bags were distributed to children in need through 112 partner agencies in 17 states.
-  Over 2,000 compassionate individuals, corporate and community groups visited our Volunteer Center helping us prepare, stuff and ship My Stuff Bags throughout the year. Thousands more from all across the United States made blankets and handmade toys and send other wonderful items for the children.
-  Our community volunteer program continues to expand with our regular group participants such as the National Charity League, Boys Team Charity, Assistance League, as well as many schools, church groups and others. We had Stuff-a-Thon events weekly, sometimes twice or three times weekly throughout the year.
-  Our “Corporate Events Program” continues to flourish by bringing in corporate team members to participate in “Stuff-a-Thons” and other volunteer activities. Here is a list of some of the companies who participated in Stuff-a-Thons and also made donations of cash and in-kind:

Amgen

CarMax

Anthem Blue Cross

Guitar Center

Bank of America

Holthouse Carlin & Van Trigt

Coldwell Banker

Zenith Insurance

Cabeau



Informa

JD Power

Progressive Insurance

Summit Financial

Stantec

-  In fall of 2019, My Stuff Bags Foundation was able to provide new items and necessities for children and families living on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. MSB Board Chair Randy Strong notified our team about the families in the area facing extreme poverty, and knew our My Stuff Bags could provide a glimmer of hope for the children in crisis.
-  Merck Global/US Vaccines employees raised nearly \$14,000 for the My Stuff Bags Foundation at the 12th annual Teaming for a Cause charity event! This is the 2nd year that Merck has selected My Stuff Bags to be a charity partner for this event, and we are so grateful for the ongoing support.

Getting Bags to Children in Need

The My Stuff Bags Foundation delivers tens of thousands of duffels filled with childhood comforts and essentials to children across the United States. In fact, nearly 600,000 children in all 50 states have received a My Stuff Bag. Utilizing the steady and consistent support of our donors and volunteers, our small staff is able to make this possible in an efficient and cost effective manner. The process starts with the arrival of new children's items to My Stuff Bags at our 7,000 square-foot warehouse and Volunteer Center in Westlake Village, CA. These in-kind donations are collected and shipped to us by thousands of people across America. Service organizations, manufacturers and corporations also donate large quantities of items. Partner Agencies request and receive My Stuff Bags for children entering their care and the impact is illustrated in the many heartwarming testimonial letters we receive. Below are a few quotes from our Partner Agencies sharing the benefits of a My Stuff Bag on the children.

"We recently welcomed two children ages 11 and 13. They arrived with only the clothing they had on and nothing else. They came from a home of neglect, including verbal and physical abuse from adoptive mother (their biological grandmother). As you can imagine, this is traumatic for them, and while their removal from that home is necessary, it is still yet another heartbreaking move. When I handed them their bags, they both gave me a face of confusion. One of the children even asked, 'What is this?' I was happy to explain to them that these are packages put together for them by people that care very much about them even though they've never met them. When I was speaking with them I began to see their expressions slowly changing and begin to smile."

*Nydia Barakat
Director of Fund Development
Penny Lane Centers- CA*

"A young mother recently entered the shelter with her two young children, ages 3 & 5. Mom was really struggling with anxiety and worry about whether she had made the right choice to leave the children's father, in spite of the horrific violence they had experienced. As the family opened the door to the room, the beds were made with the My Stuff Bags sitting on top, waiting for the children and welcoming them to the shelter. The children saw their bags and rushed to see what was inside and showed each other what they got. The mother immediately began to cry tears of gratitude and quickly got out her phone, to record the children as she wanted to capture the moment of joy and remember their smiling happy faces. Mother reported she felt more confident in her decision to stay in the shelter, knowing her children were happy and had what they needed to get through such a difficult time."

*Kami Neves
Director of Children's Services
YWCA Utah*

Corporate Events 2019

Amgen
December 17th



**Donated cash and
stuffed animals!**

Bank of America
April 17th



**Lovely and energetic
group! Donated cash**

Carmax
June 20th



**Stuffed 400 Bags and
gave a corporate grant!**

Cabeau
June 25th



**Donated toys, art
supplies, and games!**

HCVT
May 29th



**Fantastic group! They volunteer
every quarter, and make wonderful
cash and in-kind donations.**

Coldwell Banker
April 24th



**Stuffed bags and donated
thousands of toys over the
summer!**

Community Events 2019

Assistance League
May 16th



Wonderful long-time volunteers!
Donates adorable AL Teddy Bears.

Boys Team Charity
July 18th



Amazing monthly stuffers! BTC often donates
toiletries and school supplies for the Bags.

DKG
June 27th



This group of retired educators does an amazing job
helping out in the Volunteer Center!

National Charity League
San Fernando Valley
June 18th



Another group of amazing monthly stuffers. NCL
makes beautiful fleece blankets and hair ties!

Sherwood Cares
October 23rd



Fun and enthusiastic group!
Sherwood Cares also gave My Stuff
Bags a very generous grant!

Group IV Rotary Stuff-a-Thon



Members of the Thousand Oaks, Newbury Park, Conejo Valley, Westlake Village, and Westlake Village Sunrise Rotary Clubs came together on September 26th to stuff 1,000 My Stuff Bags for teenagers. Each Bag was specially stuffed with one of 20,700 books we received from The Molina Foundation.

My Stuff Bags Board Chair Randy Strong presented CEO Janeen Holmes with a generous grant!



Offsite Events 2019



Informa Charity Walk

My Stuff Bags was chosen to be a beneficiary for Informa's "Walk the World" charity event.

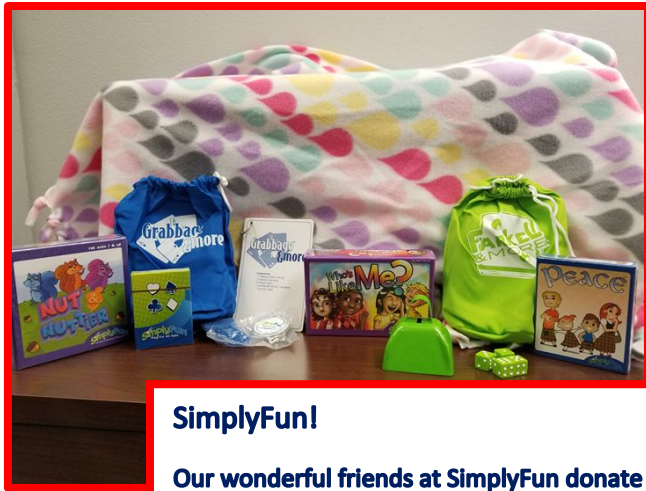


CDM Smith presented CEO Janeen Holmes with a \$25,000 donation in Boston, MA.



Mechanics Bank presented CEO Janeen Holmes with a \$2000 donation.

Big Stuff Donors



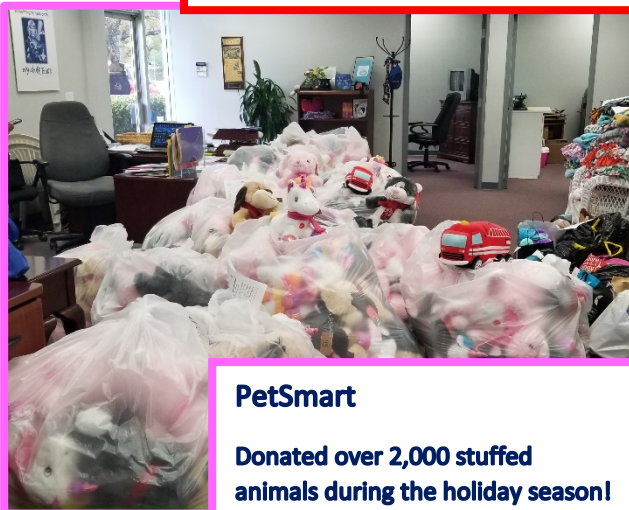
SimplyFun!

Our wonderful friends at SimplyFun donate thousands of games and puzzles every year!



My Very Own Blanket

One of our most cherished Big Stuff Donors! MVOB donates thousands of handmade blankets each year.



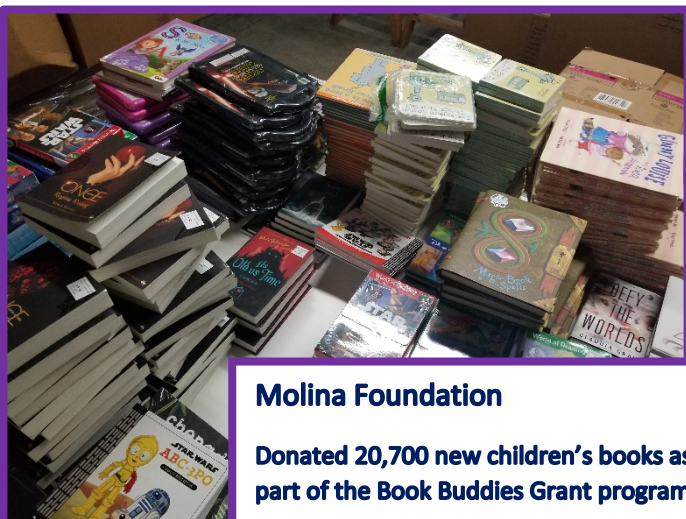
PetSmart

Donated over 2,000 stuffed animals during the holiday season!



Educational Insights and Learning Resources

Donated thousands of educational toys!



Molina Foundation

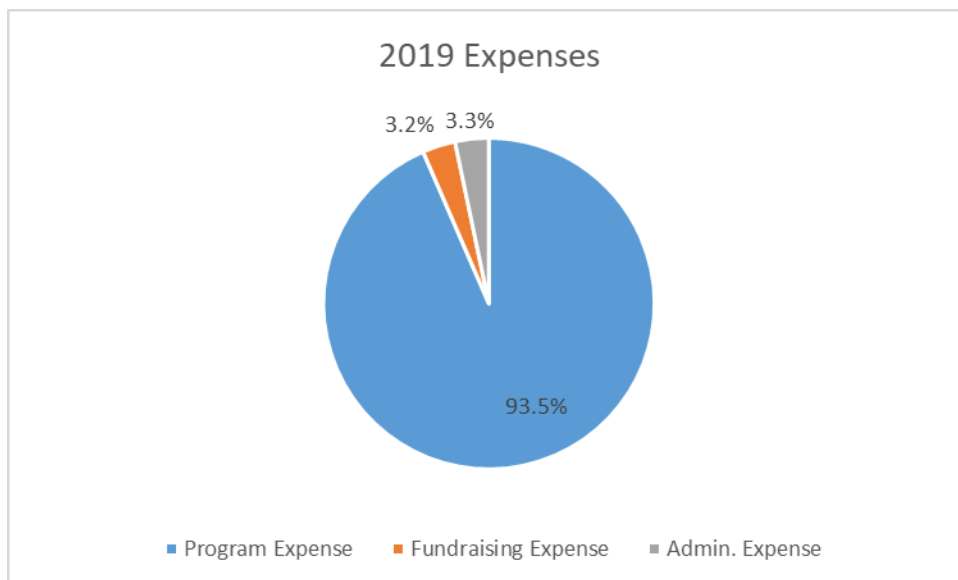
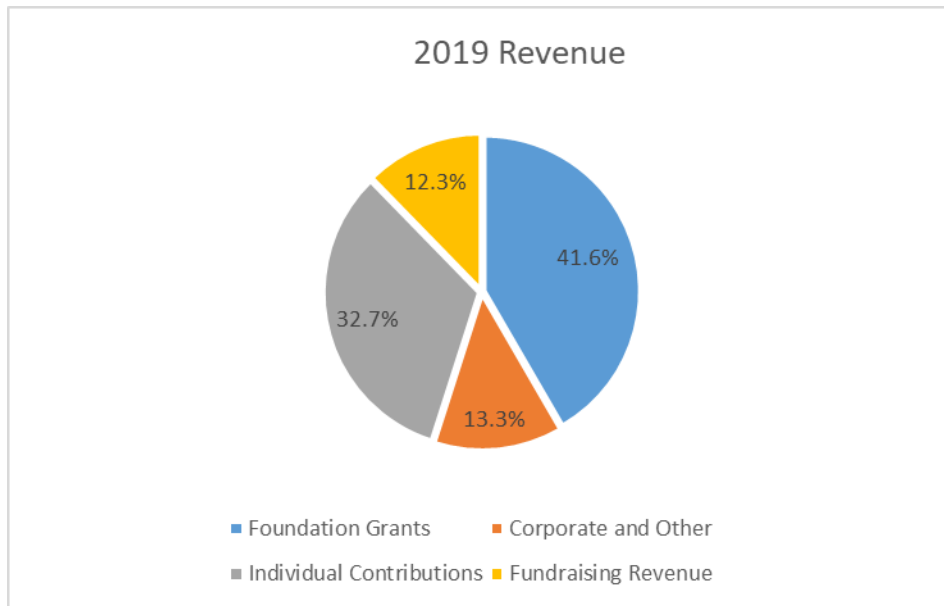
Donated 20,700 new children's books as part of the Book Buddies Grant program



Happy Factory

We received 1,000 Happy Factory wooden cars every month!

2019 Revenue and Expenses



2019 Revenue and Expenses

MY STUFF BAGS FOUNDATION

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

2019 Revenue

Foundation Grants	306,472.43
Corporate and Other	98,080.68
Individual Contributions	241,084.30
Fundraising Revenue	<u>90,573.83</u>
Total Monetary Contributions	736,211.24
In-Kind Donations	<u>1,075,746.24</u>
Total Revenue	1,811,957.48

2019 Expense

Program Expense	1,780,317.00
Fundraising Expense	61,214.00
Admin. Expense	<u>62,835.00</u>
Total Expense	1,904,366.00

Net Assets at End of Year	3,274,203.71
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My Stuff Bags Foundation

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Randy Strong, Chairman of the Board

President, ACT Strong Marketing

Teresa McKee, Secretary/Treasurer

Business Consultant and Humanistic Psychology Leadership Coach

Janeen Holmes

President/CEO, My Stuff Bags Foundation

Verne Brizendine

Director of Business Development and Community Outreach, Medi-Cal, Aetna, Inc.

Alan Fine

President, KaleidOScope

Bob Lennon

Consultant, Corporate Construction, Scripps Healthcare