

My Stuff Bags Foundation

2020 Annual Report



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. Additionally, the rapid spread of the Opioid drug addiction across the United States, and the COVID-19 global pandemic are causing a significant increase in the numbers of at-risk children who must seek safe shelter. Because COVID- 19 has caused significant economic devastation and created widespread uncertainty and isolation, there is now a rise in the numbers of children experiencing domestic violence and homelessness during this time of economic fall-out.








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 the gap with our unique My Stuff Bags, individual age and gender appropriate duffels lovingly filled with new childhood essentials such as toiletries, books, toys, clothing, school supplies, a stuffed animal, and a blanket, often handmade.

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.

Despite the economic struggles resulting from the pandemic, generous individual and corporate donors from across the U.S continue to send funding, and donations of new blankets, toys, clothes, and other great items for My Stuff Bags. Our dedicated volunteer force flawlessly adjusted to remote volunteering and continued to provide support with preparing, and assembling thousands of My Stuff Bags to be delivered to waiting children. We are incredibly grateful for the outpouring of love and kindness from our My Stuff Bags family during this challenging year.

2020 Highlights

-  At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, our branded duffels were delayed coming in from China and we could not allow volunteers (our major labor force, 2000 Volunteers per year) into our Volunteer Center to do all the activities associated with sorting inventory and stuffing My Stuff Bags. While our Volunteer Center was closed for several months, our loyal volunteers were happy to participate in remote projects, such as assembling toiletry pouches and name tags, and making No-Sew Fleece Blankets, which helped speed up production and distribution of My Stuff Bags.
-  Though many of our Partner Agencies had to adjust to remote work situations and were temporarily unable to reach children in need of services, our small staff safely kept production going, in anticipation of the increase in domestic violence cases, and the rising numbers of children entering crisis care.
-  Schools, community organizations, and corporations had to temporarily halt collections of new items for the kids. In response, we provided a contactless donation drop-off bin which was soon overflowing each day with blankets, toys, games, clothing, and other great stuff for the children.
-  Community groups like National Charity League, Boys Team Charity, and Assistance League participated in outdoor, socially distanced stuff-a-thons during the fall.
-  The Molina Foundation granted My Stuff Bags Foundation with 40,000 new Disney books as part of their Book Buddies Grant Program to encourage literacy for underprivileged youth. This grant is double the size of Molina Foundation's previous grant of 20,000 books in 2019!
-  In fall of 2020, My Stuff Bags Foundation was able to provide new items and necessities for children and families who lost their homes and belongings in the Northern California Wildfires. Sonoma County and Fresno County School Districts each received 1,000 Bags to distribute to their students and families who were at-risk of, or were currently experiencing, homelessness.
-  Despite huge challenges and necessary adaptations to our Program model, nearly 16,000 children in need received a My Stuff Bag through 61 Partner Agencies in 11 states.

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, over 620,000 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 Bags on the children:



Hundreds of children at MOSAIC-Interfaith Ministries, UT received the gift of My Stuff Bags for the holidays!

"The My Stuff Bag is an essential means to lessen the immediate impact of trauma when a child is removed from their family and placed into foster care. Receiving the My Stuff Bag is a nurturing detail that a foster parent can provide a child when he/she is going through the most challenging time of coming into foster care. Receiving a My Stuff Bag allows Wayfinder Family Services to serve better the children coming into its care by creating an opportunity for our staff to treat kids who are going through a difficult time with a moment of compassion. A tangible item that they can hold in their hands allows our staff to ease them into their new home, making the first day of adjustment a more feasible process to tackle... When Betty (age 5) came into Gloria's home for the first time, Betty was in distress as this was her first time being away from her mother, who was involved in a domestic violence relationship. She had been separated from her older sister, by whom she was being parented due to her mother's domestic violence issues...Gloria went to check on Betty, she found Betty asleep holding on to a teddy bear and the blanket that she had retrieved from her My Stuff Bag..."- Leslie C. Oropeza, Executive Director of Foster Family and Adoption Services, Wayfinder Family Services, Los Angeles, CA

"Just yesterday one of our Treatment Coordinators commented on how much a 7 year-old girl appreciated her My Stuff Bag. She had just come into our care and she was a little anxious about meeting her foster parents for the first time. Her foster parents came in and they all started going through the bag together and the little girl really perked up. She hugged the bear from the bag as hard as she could and then

allowed her foster mother to give it a hug too. Our Treatment Coordinator said it was such a sweet moment... So many of these items we take for granted every day but to our foster children each item is very special to them. Our foster parents and Treatment Coordinators appreciate the opportunity to sit with the child and go through the contents of the bags together. This creates an opportunity for bonding and really helps ease their transition into the foster home.” Gail Cole, Development Liaison, South Carolina Youth Advocate Program



Local agencies are invited to pick up My Stuff Bags for the children in their care.



Offsite Events 2020



San Diego based digital security company ESET made dozens of no-sew fleece blankets for My Stuff Bags during their annual women's (remote) retreat.



Westlake Village Sunrise Rotary made and donated over 100 fleece and handmade blankets!



Milken Community School hosted a huge blanket making drive and donated over 300 fleece blankets to My Stuff Bags!

Community Support During COVID



National League of Young Men donated nearly 100 blankets to My Stuff Bags!



Student Claire Rokey handmade over 100 adorable sock animals for children to hold on to and play with!



Johnathan Manley made and donated nearly 50 blankets to complete his Eagle Scout Project.



Westlake High School Student Victoria Loofosky organized a collection drive and donated hundreds of new games, toys, stuffed animals, books, baby items, clothing, and other wonderful stuff!

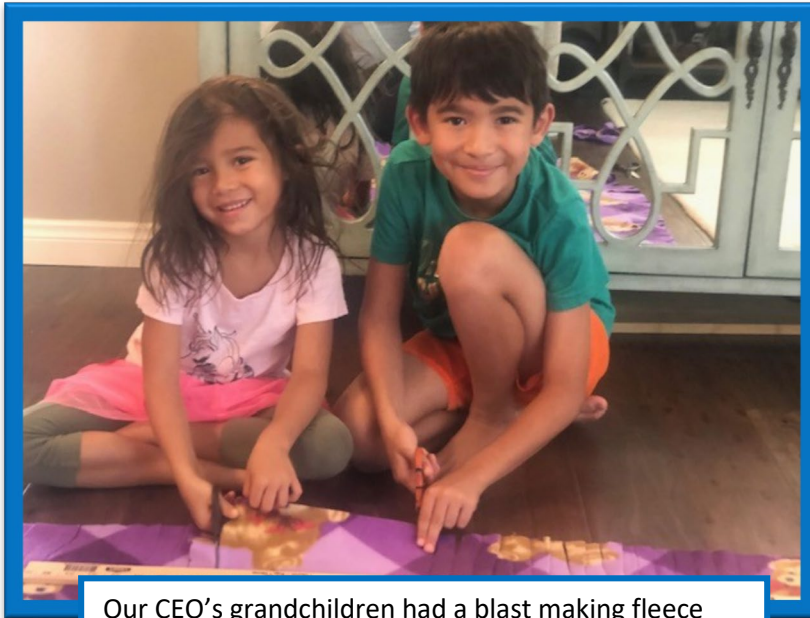
Community Support During COVID cont.



Our friends at Moorpark Women's Fortnightly Club donated 100 fleece blankets to My Stuff Bags!



Siblings Hana and Max Chizzo made dozens of fleece blankets for the children during the pandemic.



Our CEO's grandchildren had a blast making fleece blankets from home during the safer-at-home orders.



Many students across the country, like Jack Carr, donated hundreds of fleece blankets for community service hours.

BOMBAS donated over 2,000 pairs of socks, specially designed for underprivileged children.

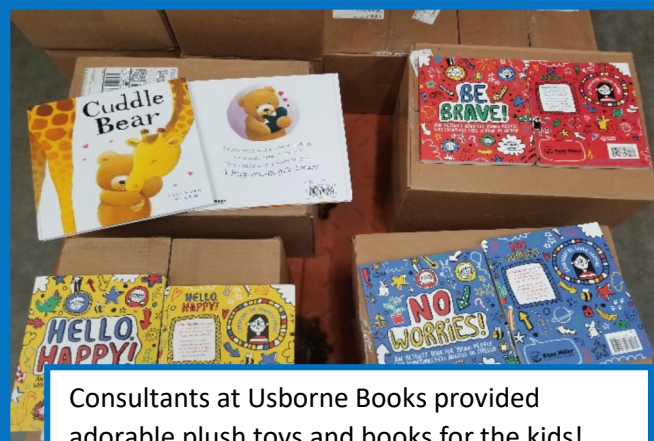


2020 Big Stuff Donors

SimplyFun continued to make major contributions of new games and puzzles to keep children occupied and entertained during times of social and economic upheaval.



Our friends at PetSmart Westlake Village, Canoga Park, and Simi Valley donated thousands of holiday themed stuffed animals between Nov. 2020 and Jan. 2021!



Consultants at Usborne Books provided adorable plush toys and books for the kids!



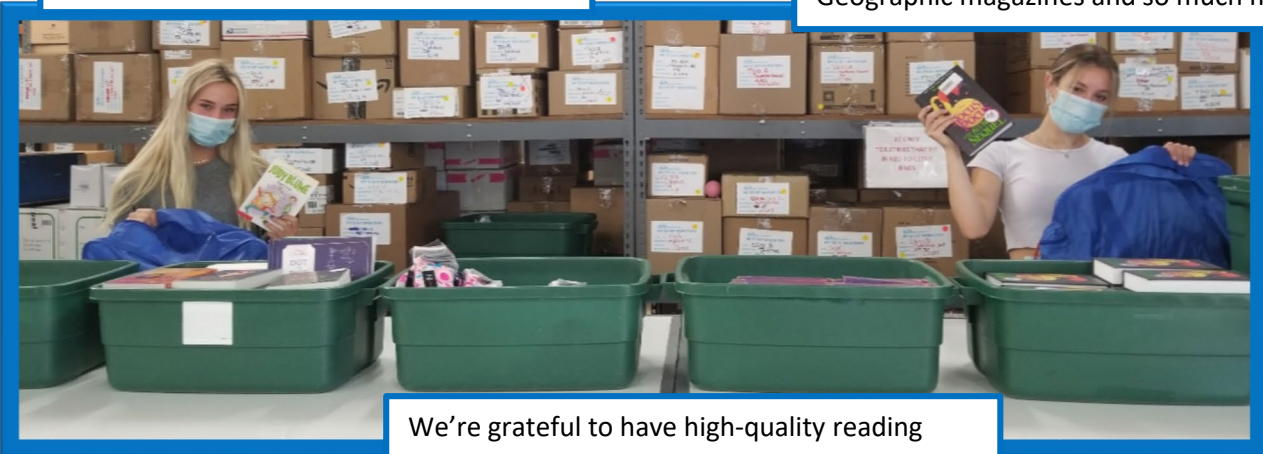
2020 Molina Foundation Book Buddies Grant



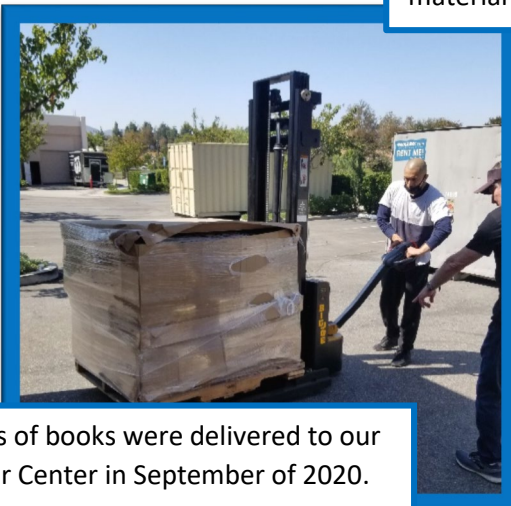
The Molina Foundation granted My Stuff Bags with 40,000 new children's books!



This generous book grant included teen novels, bedtime storybooks, National Geographic magazines and so much more.



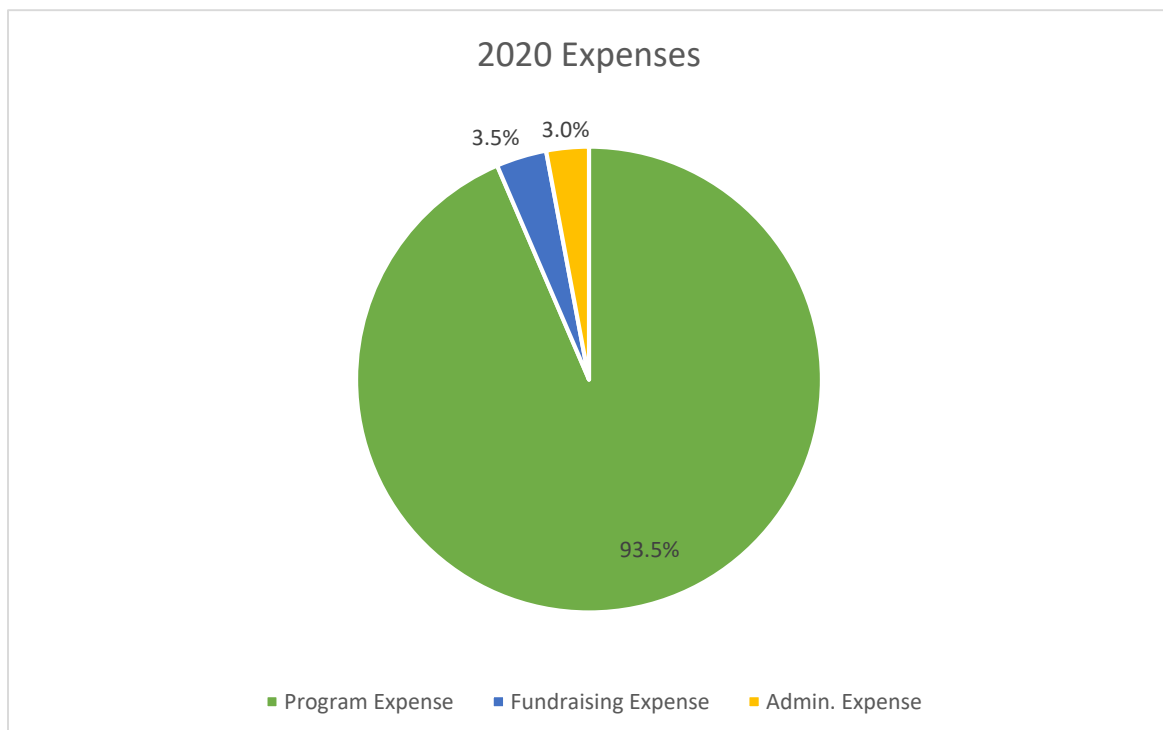
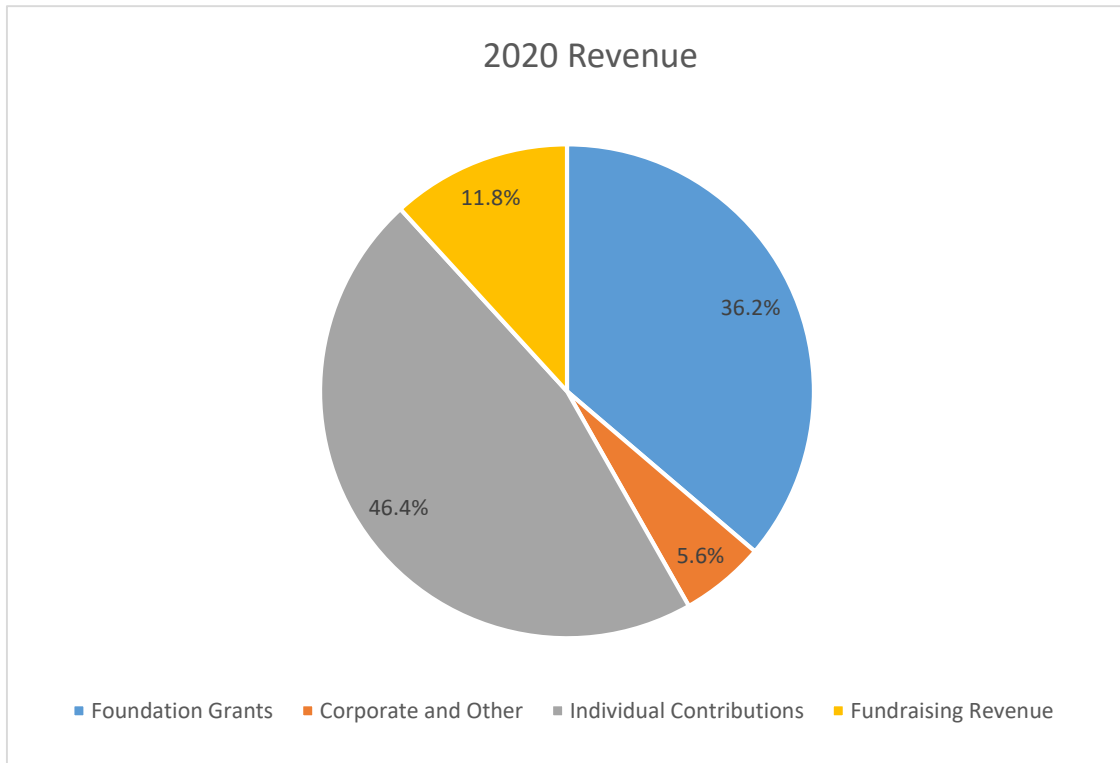
We're grateful to have high-quality reading material to provide to children of all ages!



22 pallets of books were delivered to our Volunteer Center in September of 2020.



2020 Revenue and Expenses



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2020 Revenue

Foundation Grants	271,140
Corporate and Other	41,551
Individual Contributions	347,433
Fundraising Revenue	<u>88,197</u>
Total Monetary Contributions	748,321
In-Kind Donations	<u>1,665, 252</u>
Total Revenue	2,413,573

2020 Expense

Program Expense	1,996,921
Fundraising Expense	74,675
Administrative Expense	<u>63,058</u>
Total Expense	2,134,654

Net Assets at End of Year	3,553,123
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My Stuff Bags Foundation

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(The My Stuff Bags Foundation is sad to announce the passing of Board Member Alan Fine in 2020. Alan devoted many years and much expertise to the Foundation Board and is greatly missed by all.)