

My Stuff Bags Foundation

2021 Annual Report



Imagine being an abused, neglected or abandoned child who has lost everything - parents, possessions, and home. Rescued from tragic situations and separated from all they know, these children frequently enter foster care or crisis shelters without even the most fundamental childhood essentials such as clean clothing, personal toiletries, a blanket and other necessities.

Every year nearly 300,000 children enter foster care in America, tens of thousands more escape domestic violence and enter shelters with their mothers, and an incredible number of at-risk children lack housing stability. Due to the devastating effects of COVID-19, increasing numbers of families will become homeless due to the economic fallout, making life more perilous for the children we serve.



The My Stuff Bags Foundation was founded as a national 501(c)(3) non-profit in Westlake Village, CA in 1998. Our mission began 24 years ago as a response to a cry for help from child protection agency workers who described children entering into crisis, domestic violence and homeless shelters or foster care with only the clothes on their backs. Through our innovative program, we provide these children with new and necessary belongings.

My Stuff Bags are individual duffels filled with new childhood essentials such as books, clothing, a stuffed animal, toiletries, school supplies, toys and a warm, often hand-made blanket. The Bags help meet the immediate physical and emotional needs of children during their frightening transition into crisis shelters or foster care, by providing things to do, things to hold, and things to help maintain personal cleanliness and dignity. Perhaps most importantly, because the majority of the items in the Bags are donated and the duffels are stuffed by volunteers, these children learn that many people care about them. This is the hope offered within each My Stuff Bag.

The shelters, foster care agencies and others that request the Bags for children in their care often lack the resources to offer the childhood necessities contained in each My Stuff Bag. We provide the Bags free of charge, enabling our “Partner Agencies” to better allocate their limited funds to their primary mission: rescuing and caring for children.

The goal of the My Stuff Bags Program is to reach 20,000 of America’s most vulnerable children with our individual duffel bags of new belongings each year. Since the Program’s inception, nearly 650,000 rescued children across the United States have received a My Stuff Bag. My Stuff Bags is our sole program, with more than 90% of our revenue, and 100% of our hearts, dedicated to it.

2021 Highlights

-  Despite many challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Foundation successfully delivered My Stuff Bags to 18,151 children through 80 child protection agencies across 12 states.
-  Our Volunteer Center reopened in the spring of 2021, and welcomed back hundreds of eager (and vaccinated) individuals, community groups, schools, churches, and corporations to prepare and fill My Stuff Bags for waiting children. Here is a list of some of the organizations who participated in Stuff-a-Thons and also made cash and/or in-kind donations:

Delta Kappa Gamma

Anthem Blue Cross

St. Max Church

Assistance League of Conejo Valley

Conejo Valley Lions Club

Residence Inn of Westlake Village

Moorpark Women's Fortnightly Club

Boys Team Charity


Daughters of American Revolution- Don Jose Ortega Chapter


National Charity League of Conejo Valley


J.P. Morgan Chase Bank

National Charity League of San Fernando Valley

Beer Financial Group

-  Our Foundation received large contributions of new items to fill the Bags from generous donors such as BIG LOViE, PetSmart, Little Poppy Co., Scrapbook.com., BOMBAS, WELLA, Noah & Bella, Warm Up America!, SimplyFun, Happy Factory, Blankets for Kids, UsBorne Books, Rotary of Westlake Village-Sunrise, CUPS Realty, J.P. Morgan Chase Bank, Morgan Stanley, Residence Inn of Westlake Village, Sorrento Mesa Self Storage, Carden Conejo School, Westlake High School, and many more!

-  In August of 2021, My Stuff Bags Foundation hosted In-N-Out Burger Foundation's very first Giveback event during their annual golf tournament. Volunteers at the event packed over 300 My Stuff Bags, which were picked up by International Christian Adoptions to be distributed to the rescued children in their care.

-  The Children's Advocacy Center of Covina, CA honored the My Stuff Bags Foundation as a Superhero at their "Be a Hero for Children" Gala in September 2021. *"My Stuff Bags generosity and partnership with the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) has been critical to our success and ability to provide gifts to the children that we serve. Over the last 3 years, My Stuff Bags has provided well over 1,000 Bags to our Center."* - Kathy Cady, Board President and Gala Chair.

Delivering Duffels of Love to Children in Crisis

The My Stuff Bags Foundation delivers tens of thousands of duffels filled with childhood comforts and essentials to children across the United States. To date, nearly 650,000 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 My Stuff Bags on the children:

Hundreds of children at The H.E.L.P.E.R Foundation have received a My Stuff Bag of their own to help them transition into crisis care.



"Certain things many take for granted, and one of them is the ability to put belongings in a real bag or suitcase when needed. For many youth coming into care, this is not an option. One child, a 9- year-old boy who has been in multiple foster homes over the last 2 years, is finally in an adoptive resource home. He was recently going on an overnight sleepover and the foster mother put out a small duffel bag for him to pack his belongings into. He declined, and said he had his, "own" bag. He proudly took out his My Stuff Bag that has travelled with him for his two years in care and used that for his overnight bag. When one of our agency workers came to pick him up to take him to his overnight, he proudly told her that he had been responsible and kept the "same bag for years". Thank you for all you do and for your continued support" – Gillian Ezell, Intake Coordinator, SAFY of Nevada



Children Exposed to Gun Violence (R.E.A.C.H.) picked up 200 My Stuff Bags to soothe the traumatized children in their care.

God's Hand Extended picked up 600 My Stuff Bags for rescued children in the High Desert!



"Recently, we had three children that came to our center after being witnesses to homicide. The children witnessed their father killing their mother and were immediately taken into protective custody by Child Protective Services. Due to the nature of the crime, the children were not able to return to their home to gather any personal belongings before moving in with their sister. SafePath Intervention staff members were able to give them their "My Stuff Bags" which gave them basic toiletries to freshen up since they were up all night long, as well as help provide them with the basics before moving in with their sister...The Bags were critical to these children because they ended up not being able to go home to get any of their personal items because the house was an active crime scene." – Jinger Robins, CEO, SafePath Children's Advocacy Center, Inc., Marietta, GA



DCFS of Lancaster picked up 100 My Stuff Bags for rescued children.



Newhall School District received 200 My Stuff Bags for at-risk students in need.



Saline Perry County Foster Parent Association picked up 80 My Stuff Bags to be delivered to waiting foster children in Arkansas!

Big Stuff Donors

Our mission would not be possible without the generous contributions of new children's items to fill each and every My Stuff Bag. Take a look at some of our biggest in-kind contributions of 2021.



Girl Scout Troop #2146 and Junior Girl Scout Troop #2953 of San Diego donated hundreds of wonderful necessities for the kids we serve.



Our loyal friends at The Happy Factory continued sending us thousands of handmade wooden cars.



Our new friends at Cups Realty made a HUGE donation of handmade blankets, stuffed animals, toys, coloring books, and other wonderful stuff for the children.

BOMBAS donated hundreds of socks for teens!



Carden Conejo School hosted a huge collection drive for toys, games, school supplies, stuffed animals, and other wonderful stuff!



In celebration of our neighbor Proactive Sports Performance's grand opening, guests collected hundreds of new stuffed animals for My Stuff Bags



BIG LOViE sends us hundreds of soft and cozy sherpa blankets, specially designed for children in crisis.

Big Stuff Donors

PetSmart of Newbury Park, Simi Valley, Canoga Park, and Westlake Village donated thousands of holiday-themed stuffed animals.



Jo Molz and our friends at Blankets for Kids sent us hundreds of blankets throughout the year! (Photographed: Volunteer Linda Minoo)



Little Poppy Co. donated 20,000 packages of darling hair bows for our girls.



Danica McKellar donated 1,000 copies of her math book "Ten Magic Butterflies". Check out the topple video [here!](#)



Noah & Bella donated hundreds of onesies, hats, t-shirts, and other great clothing for babies and toddlers.



Warm Up America! sends us hundreds of handmade blankets and clothing accessories for children of all ages. (Photographed: Volunteers Rhonda Greene and Kathy Smig)



Volunteers

After many months of pandemic lockdown, our Foundation was thrilled to re-open our Volunteer Center in the spring of 2021 and to welcome vaccinated individuals, community groups, schools, and corporations to participate in our My Stuff Bags Program. Our dedicated volunteer force allows us to maintain a small paid staff and utilize cash resources to distributing our Bags.



Volunteers

Crespi Carmelite High School
November 17-18, 2021



Viewpoint School
November 24, 2021



Daughters of American Revolution-
Don Jose Ortega Chapter
October 11 and December 6, 2021



Residence Inn of Westlake Village
December 1, 2021



Beer Financial Group
December 8, 2021



Conejo Valley Lions Club and Anthem Blue Cross
December 13, 2021



In-n-Out Burger Foundation Giveback Event

August 26th-27th, 2021

Longtime supporter of My Stuff Bags, In-N-Out Burger Foundation, invited us to host their first ever Giveback event during their annual Golf Tournament at the Omni La Costa in Carlsbad, CA. Attendants of the event filled over 300 My Stuff Bags in just one hour! Our friends at International Christian Adoptions then picked up the Bags and delivered them to the waiting children in their care. Special thanks to Howard Booker, Joshua Price, and Melissa Felter for coordinating this special event with us. Check out the highlight video [here!](#)



(Left to Right) Maggie Sangalang, Bob Holmes, and Janeen Holmes of My Stuff Bags with Executive Director of International Christian Adoptions, Charlotte Paulsen



The My Stuff Bags team set up for the 300 Bag Stuff-a-Thon the day before the event.



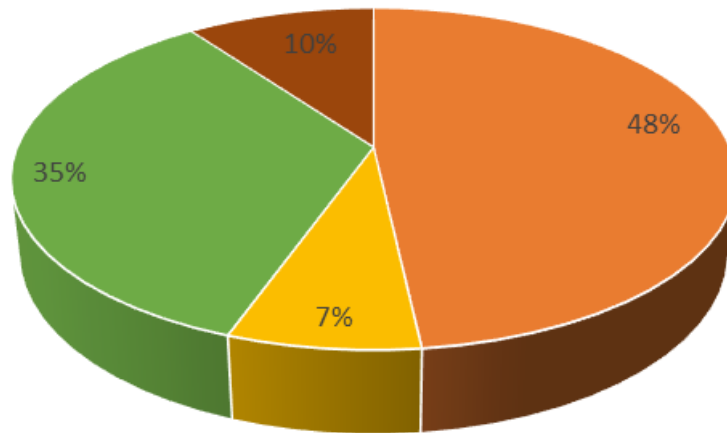
Guests had a wonderful time filling each My Stuff Bag with brand new stuff!



The International Christian Adoptions team loaded their truck with 300 My Stuff Bags to take back to the children in their care!

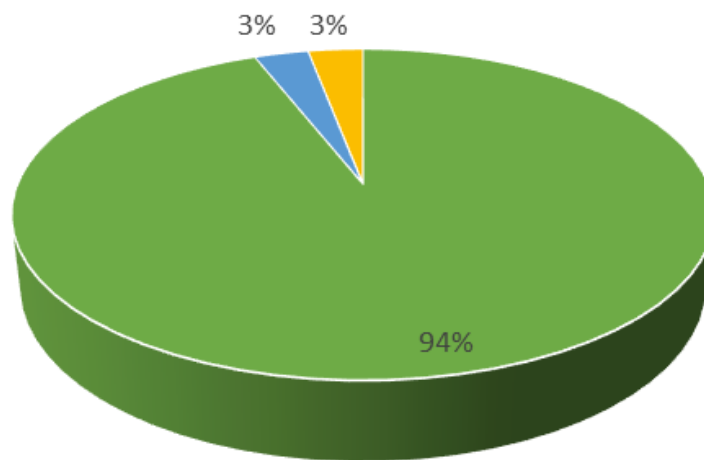
2021 Revenue and Expenses

2021 Revenue



■ Foundation ■ Corporate ■ Individual ■ Fundraising

2021 Expenses



■ Program Expense ■ Fundraising Expense ■ Administrative Expense

2021 Revenue and Expenses

2021 Revenue

Foundation Grants	396,566
Corporate and Other	59,534
Individual Contributions	283,670
Fundraising Revenue	<u>82,325</u>
Total Monetary Contributions	822,096
In-Kind Donations	<u>1,670,189</u>

Total Revenue	2,492,285
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2021 Expense

Program Expense	2,145,102
Fundraising Expense	67,726
Administrative Expense	<u>68,651</u>

Total Expense	2,281,479
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Net Assets at End of Year	3,763,929
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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

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