



DIGNITY BAG PROGRAM

How to set up and continue



PURPOSE FOR DIGNITY BAG PROGRAM

- Provide each child something to call their own.



- Allow time for Foster Parent to purchase needed items.



- When a child is removed from their home, they usually are unable to anything of their own with them.

- Many times children are placed with Foster parent late at night. The bags allow for the child to have needed supplies until the foster parent can get to the store.



INITIATE THE CONTACT

- Contact someone from your local Department of Community Based Services (DCBS) office or Child Protective Service (CPS) office.
- Explain who you are & what you are wanting to do. Set up an appointment to meet with a contact person to discuss the list of items needed in your area.



ASKING FOR DONATIONS

- Create a donation request letter using your Unit information. Letters MUST include your EIN #.
- Print multiple copies of the letter & list.
- Take to local retail stores, banks, insurance offices (if the store provides 1 thing that is needed for the bags request a donation).
- Stores such as Wal-Mart with multiple locations can have letters at each store. They will usually give a gift card from \$25-\$100. Emphasize they are for children in foster care.
- Ask unit members to take a letter to their employer. Even if it is not a store, they can donate a gift card to a store.
- Look for company sponsors for the program. Set it up similar to the Angel Tree program at Christmas.



GATHER & PREPARE

Gather

- Search Clearance racks, check sale circulars, buy supplies when they are on sale & stock up.
- Backpacks are suggested (for school age children) so they can use them for school.



Prepare

- Get team together.
- Separate by age groups.
- Follow list to ensure all items are included.
- Double check using the checklist
- Insert checklist into bag.



SIGNAGE

- Make a poster board sign using stencils. Include American Legion & Auxiliary with the Department. The emblems can be purchased from EmblemSales.



- You can also use VistaPrint and order a 18x24 yard sign. The regular price is \$20, but they have sales promos and the more you buy the less you pay per sign.



- Arrange for delivery a bags. Make sure to wear brand apparel.
- Take pictures (with your sign). Share pictures with your District & Department Chairperson.
- Make sure the contact gets a copy of the pictures. They also report to supervisors.

DELIVERY

Take as many pictures as you can. The more you have the more you can share with others. Keep a scrapbook or photo album with each project.

