



Holiday Hope Chests

Holiday Hope Chests are unique because they are homemade and continue give hope long after the holiday season. Kids of all ages can help assemble a Holiday Hope Chest to give to a homeless child and brighten their holiday!

Here's Your Project:

Create a Holiday Hope Chest filled with small toys, toiletries, and art supplies for a child in need.

Supply List:

- Shoeboxes or plastic boxes
- Wrapping paper
- Scotch tape
- New small toys and other items (see suggestion list)

How To Do It!

1. Decide the recipient of your Holiday Hope Chest and note the specific age of the child. Contact the agency to see what their needs are and how your family can help.
2. Take a shoebox or plastic box and decorate it with wrapping paper, comics, stickers, etc... **IMPORTANT:** Wrap the top and bottom separately, so the box can be opened or closed without tearing the decorations. That way, it can be used as a "hope chest" to hold treasured items.
3. Use your imagination to fill the box with small new gifts. The average total cost of these gifts should be at least \$15.00. Make sure the items you are choosing are age appropriate. (see our suggestion list below)
4. Create your own hand-designed holiday card to include in the box.
5. Make a Holiday Hope Chest Gift Tag using the instructions below and tape it very securely on the top of your box. Use 2 or 3 strong rubber bands to secure the lid on tight.



Interesting Fact:
Almost half of all homeless people are families—adults and children!



Holiday Hope Chest Gift Tag:

This gift was made with love for:

(Circle one)

A Girl

A Boy

Age:

(Circle one)

Infant (newborn to 9 mos)

Elementary (6 to 9 yrs)

Baby (10 mos to 2 yrs)

Middle School (10 to 13 yrs)

Preschool (3 to 5 yrs)

Teen (14 to 17 yrs)

Filler Ideas:

Baby (10 mos to 2 years) New rattles, pacifiers, bottles, bibs, infant soaps, shampoos, washcloths, small picture books, stuffed animals, teething rings, socks, blocks, hats, mittens, small crib mobiles, combs and sleepers.

*Do not include used items, toys with small pieces, candy, balloons or glass items.

Children ages 3 to 9 years New crayons, pencils, markers, notepaper, glue sticks, Play Doh, flashcards, stickers, small toys, socks, gloves, hats, packaged candy, small books, flashlight, comic books, LEGOS, hair products, toothbrush and toothpaste, card games, harmonica and magnets.

Kids and Teens ages 10 to 17 years Markers, pens, pencils, pencil sharpeners, diary or journal, sports items, hats, gloves, socks, jewelry, craft kits, hand held games, books, toiletries, nail polish, nail files, lip balm, mints, gum, calculator, playing cards, wallet, watch, stamps, stationery, small posters, small photo frame and a flashlight.

*Do not include used items, toy guns, knives, violent movies, money, food that can spoil, balloons, glass items or food containing nuts or peanut butter.





Preflection:

Before your volunteer project, ask these questions to be clear about what the goals and expectations are. If you are part of a group, talk about why you are doing a service project. Here are questions to guide your thinking or discussion:

1. Who are we helping?
2. Why are we helping them?
3. How are we helping them?
4. What are we most excited about?
5. What might be tough or challenging about our project?
6. What are everyone's jobs during the project? What do we each have to do?

Reflection:

After your volunteer project, it is important to reflect on the experience. Ask these questions or, if you are part of a group, do the Whip Around reflection activity:

Reflection Questions

1. How did our project help people?
2. What worked well about our project?
3. What can we do better next time?
4. What is our next service project?

Whip Around Ball Toss:

Have your group sit or stand in a circle facing each other. One person will have a ball to toss or roll to someone else in the circle. Each person will have a chance to complete a statement about the project. The person with the ball makes a statement, and then says the name of the person they are tossing the ball to. The next person completes the statement in his or her own way, and so on. When the ball has gone around once, start a new round with a new statement. Try these:

"This project made me happy because _____."

"I didn't know I was good at _____."

"Next time we volunteer, I'd like to help _____."



Suggested Reading:

***Fly Away Home* by Eve Bunting**

A small child lives with his father in an airport. He talks about sleeping sitting up, washing in the restroom, and above all, avoiding being noticed. The story runs through all his emotions from a matter-of-fact acceptance to a fierce longing that makes him angry with those who have homes.

***A Shelter in Our Car* by Monica Gunning**

Zettie and her Mama left their warm and comfortable home in Jamaica for an uncertain life in the United States. After Papa died, Mama can't find a steady job and they are forced to live in their car. But Mama's unwavering love, support, and gutsy determination give Zettie the confidence that, together, they will survive.

Pledge this project for the **Holiday Gift Campaign** and **Hasbro** will donate a toy through **Toys for Tots** on behalf of each person helping with your project! (Up to 100,000 toys!)

