

The Holiday Hope Bucket Project



The Holiday Hope Bucket project began in 1999 as a way of providing a gift of toiletry articles to HIV/AIDS patients at a hospital in Knoxville, TN. This model can be used to reach out to your community and provide a connection and help for those living with HIV that are in need. If you contact local organizations that provide services – if you are not sure, check with the local Ryan White Planning Council.

This project is an excellent way for a church congregation to become involved in HIV/AIDS ministry. This project allows people a “toe-in-the water” experience and can often be the vehicle that will lead people to do more.

Here's how it works:

- 1) First, you will need to contact a local HIV/AIDS service agency in your community. Ask them if you can provide (No strings attached!) a bucket of toiletry items to the agency for them to distribute to HIV clients/patients. The idea is that you will provide these buckets and that you don't need to visit or even know who these people are. Remember, confidentiality is a BIG DEAL for people living with HIV, so you are not going to be intrusive. Hopefully, this kind of service will allow you to establish a relationship with this agency that may very well lead to other kinds of ministry opportunities. This is just a start!
- 2) Around the 1st of November, begin to publicize the program. Distribute flyers to Sunday school classes, etc. so they can get going.
- 3) Establish an end date for the collection and a place in the church for the collection. One church pastor has everyone bring the buckets to the steps at the altar on a Sunday Morning and dedicate them with a prayer. [NOTE: World AIDS Day always falls on December 1, so this can fit nicely with a prayer and an acknowledgment of World AIDS Day.]
- 4) Collect the Hope Buckets and deliver them to your partner agency before Christmas so they can be given as a Christmas gift.
- 5) Buckets need to be at least 13 Quarts. In the last few years, some have purchased the buckets and given them out with the flyer inside the bucket and this has worked well.

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- 6) Ask everyone not to deviate from the list so all buckets are the same ... none better than the other.

Questions? Or concerns about starting this call or email us and let's chat.

Follow the list of items.

Do not deviate from the recommendations or make substitutes. Our greatest challenge with this project is to offer items that are suitable for early diagnosed patients as well as late stage. There are specific reasons for each item on the list. For example, food is not on the list, but hard candy is appropriate. Most of the items can be found at Big Lots, Dollar General Store, or Wal-Mart. See list below:

- Bucket – at least 13 Quarts
- Deodorant
- Razors – 3 pack
- Comb and/or brush
- Shaving Cream
- Envelopes – 1 box
- Soap/Antibacterial Gel
- Small throw for legs
- \$5 Gift Card (Grocery Store)
- Hand Lotion
- Knit Stretch gloves - unisex.
- Box of Kleenex – full size
- Chapstick
- Individually wrapped hard candy
- Writing Pens/Note Pad
- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Calendar – pocket, wall, or desk
- Toothbrush & Toothpaste
- Tube socks – 6-pair package
- Word-Find Book

