

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 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. We usually distribute a flyer 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. Our pastor has everyone bring the buckets to the steps at the altar on a Sunday Morning and we 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 or bags and deliver 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 we have purchased the buckets or bags and have given them out with our flyer inside and this has worked well.
- 6) We ask everyone not to deviate from the list so all buckets are the same ... none better than the other.



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How the "Hope Bucket" Began

“My brother, Chucky Moyers, was the inspiration for this project. Having attended his last Hope Center Holiday party in 1999, he felt a bit overwhelmed by the tremendous outpouring of gifts for the kids. He was disheartened by the lack of such for the adult patients, so when I discussed this “Hope Bucket” idea with him, he thought it was great! It became my top priority after his death in 2000. With a little help from family & friends, I handled it independently for a few years; however, we always struggled to have enough. But once I quit trying to do it all on my own, and we issued this guideline sheet to allow friends in the community to support the project, it grew exponentially! I’m so proud that due to your overwhelming support, we are now able to provide “buckets” to all of those in need! The Hope Buckets are intended to give the patients a spark, sometimes their only spark, for the holidays.”

Carol-Ann Buchanan,
Hope Bucket Founder

Follow the list of items.

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, Target, or Wal-Mart. Over the years, we have used different lists and you can develop your own. We always ask our participants not to deviate from the recommended or make substitutes. In this way all bags are nearly of equal value. Here are two examples of lists that we have used.

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

Book of 10 postage stamps
Box of Envelopes
Box of Tissues
2023 Calendar
Chap stick/lip balm
Deodorant - unisex
Razors – 3-pack
Hand Sanitizer / Alcohol Wipes
Individually wrapped hard candy
Knit stretch gloves - unisex
Soap/Lotion
Dish Soap
Pens/Note Pad
Shampoo
Bath Towel
Toothbrush & toothpaste
Nail file and clipper
Laundry Detergent
Band-aids