



Kindness Kits

CONSIDER KEEPING KINDNESS KITS IN YOUR CAR TO GIVE TO INDIVIDUALS YOU MAY ENCOUNTER WHO ARE ASKING FOR HELP – THESE BAGS CAN BE GIVEN ALONG WITH OR INSTEAD OF MONEY AND INCLUDE MANY ITEMS OFTEN REQUESTED BY INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS.

IMPORTANT FACTS:

- On any given night in Baltimore in 2020, approximately 2,193 individuals are experiencing homelessness – staying in shelters, transitional housing, on the streets or in other locations not meant for human habitation.¹
- The COVID-19 pandemic has negatively impacted those experiencing homelessness in a variety of ways:²
 - Many shelters and community resource centers have had to change their models and reduce their capacities to keep clients and staff safe.
 - Individuals experiencing homelessness are at higher risk of contracting COVID-19 because of preexisting health conditions and frequenting densely populated spaces, like communal living shelters.
 - Jobs that could help individuals transition out of homelessness are harder to find in the current economy.

CONSIDER THIS QUOTE:

“Do not harden your heart and shut your hand against your needy kinsman.” – Deuteronomy 15:7

“Simple things we take for granted like access to food or bathing become much more difficult and significant challenges in daily life. Having a complete lack of peace or privacy can make you quickly become frustrated and depressed. **Being looked down on, or worse, looked through and ignored, hurts even more.** This experience is universal; every one of my fellow ‘housing challenged’ individuals have identified they would rather be told to leave or insulted than treated as if they don’t exist.”³ – Kitty Zen, artist and humanitarian advocate who has experienced homelessness

DISCUSS:

Deuteronomy commands us to take care of those in need. Kitty Zen shares her vulnerability and needs as a person who has experienced homelessness.

- Which needs that Kitty describes do you think you can fulfill with this project?
- Which needs are unmet?
- What other steps could you take to serve the needs of people like Kitty, who are experiencing homelessness?

¹ https://drive.google.com/file/d/197okMLOAT9BZXYNuxjSl_DXeVmNPnKcc/view

² <https://endhomelessness.org/the-longest-night-of-the-year/>

³ <https://medium.com/artlifting-stories/my-experience-with-homelessness-a83ac655f6e4>



Kindness Kits

YOUR FAMILY CAN KEEP KINDNESS KITS IN YOUR CAR TO GIVE TO PEOPLE YOU MAY SEE WHO ARE ASKING FOR HELP – THESE BAGS CAN BE GIVEN ALONG WITH OR INSTEAD OF MONEY AND INCLUDE MANY ITEMS OFTEN REQUESTED BY INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS.

IMPORTANT FACTS:

- On an average night in Baltimore, more than 2,000 people are experiencing homelessness – meaning that they don't have a safe, permanent place to stay.⁴
- People experiencing homelessness are more likely to get sick with COVID-19 in part because they have to be around more people to get the support they need (shelters, soup kitchens, etc.)⁵

CONSIDER THIS:

"If G-d remains with me, if He protects me on this journey that I am making, and gives me **bread** to eat and **clothing** to wear, and if I **return safe** to my father's house—the LORD shall be my G-d." Genesis 28 20-21

In this text, Jacob shares three of his basic needs: bread, clothing and a safe return home.

- If you had to choose your three most important needs, what would you pick?
- What would it mean to live without these important items?

"Kindness Kits make such a big impact. We keep the kits in our car and as we drive around, my young son can hand them out to those in need and see the difference he is making firsthand." – Amy Goldberg, JVC Volunteer

DISCUSS:

- Why is this kit helpful for the person receiving it?
- How do you expect to feel when you give this kit to the person who is experiencing homelessness?
- We know that this kit is a temporary support for a person in need. It is not a home, a doctor or a solution to one of the many ways that people who are experiencing homelessness need support. What would be a good next step to support people experiencing homelessness?

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