



Service Project: Returning Home Backpack Program

"I was in prison and you came to visit me ... I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:36

Catholic Charities serves the formerly incarcerated by working to welcome them back to the community, promote their success, and help them avoid re-incarceration. Life for an ex-offender can be very difficult. It is hard to gain employment and housing with a criminal record. There is often very little family or community support available to these men and women as they transition back into our community. One of the many ways that we offer support is to provide backpacks to those leaving jail. These backpacks demonstrate our love for our brothers and sisters, containing toiletries and other needed survival items. We also include hand-written welcome notes, religious materials, and a gift card for the recipient. For information on this service project, contact sodwyer@ccda.net

What To Put Into A Backpack ?

***starred items are primary needs**

- *Hand written encouragement card & a gift card to a big box drug store
- *Towels & wash cloths
- *Deodorant, shampoo, lotion, soap
- *Toothbrush and toothpaste
- *Razors, non-aerosol shaving cream
- *3 pairs of socks
- *Hair brush and comb
- Travel-size mouthwash
- New underwear
- Notebook and pen
- Wallet or coin purse
- Bus passes or SMART cards
- Hand or body wipes
- Small calendar
- Ball cap
- Tea or quality instant coffee
- *Non-perishable snacks, such as granola bars, dried fruit, trail mix, and mints

Backpacks should be made and tagged for men or women. Appropriate underwear, socks, and feminine hygiene products for women is appreciated.



How to Participate in this Service Project

- Purchase backpack and items on the list
- Gather as a group to fill the backpacks
- Donate backpacks to Catholic Charities
- Pray for the incarcerated, the victims, the volunteers and chaplains and correctional officers
- Completed backpacks should be dropped off at:

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