

Children Of Hope

MISSION: Backpacks for Foster Kids

For a child, being removed from their home to be placed in foster care is a traumatic experience. With hopes to help ease their pain, **Children of Hope** is partnering with Polk County Human Services to eliminate one small thing that makes the move even more upsetting: the use of large black garbage bags to transport their belongings.

Foster Care Facts

- In 2007, 13,855 children in Iowa were served in the foster care system.*
- Of these children, 1,387 children were in Polk County.*
- This year alone, **125 children have been removed from their home each month** in Polk County.
- The length of stay for a child is an average of 16 months.
- A child averages 7 moves while in foster care.
- Garbage bags are the customary “luggage” supplied for these transitions, and are also used for overnight visits home, to camp, and on school trips.
- With a backpack, children can travel with dignity and have something to call their own.

How Can You Help?

If you, your small group or business is interested in collecting new backpacks to donate to a child entering foster care, contact Andrea Miller at 515-418-6454 or e-mail andreakmiller@hotmail.com for more information, a pick-up or drop off location. *Please note: donated backpacks should be standard size.

Should Items Be Put Inside the Backpacks?

While the backpacks alone are a blessing to the children, additional items can be helpful in their transition. Suggested items for each backpack include a new hairbrush/comb and a toothbrush/paste. **One** of the following age appropriate items are also needed to put inside each backpack: a small, new stuffed animal, a travel game **or** a journal/pen.

**Help make a child's load a little easier to carry
during their journey through foster care.**

*Unduplicated source of children who experience foster care during the year.

Source: Iowa Dept. of Human Services, Division of Results Based Accountability, Bureau of Research and Statistics, 515-281-5232

“I tell you the truth, whatever you did for the least of these brothers of Mine, you did for Me.” Mathew 24:40

Children of Hope, a ministry of:
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