10/20/2021

Calvisha Wilson

Dear Crossroads Global Hands,

Everyday youth in our community experience the trauma of being removed from their families with little to no notice at all. For just a moment, place yourself in their shoes. Imagine being removed from the only family you know and placed in a group home or foster home” with complete strangers. Or even worse having to be removed from your family and forced to sleep in a local Dept of Social Services building until an available bed can be found. Heart breaking, right? Although we can’t fix their situations, as a community we do have the power to come together and contribute to making their transitions a little easier, and hopefully put a smile on their faces while doing so.

Our organization, Strong Able Youth Speaking Out (SaySo), has worked the past 15 years to provide youth with essential items for when they enter care. It is our goal to provide each young person who enters care with their own bag filled with essential items.

There are approximately 5,000 children that enter foster care in North Carolina every year. Often, our youth enter care with only a trash bag containing their most precious possessions that they quickly accessed while being removed from their homes.

Although no one agency can help fill this need alone, collectively each small contribution makes a big impact.

We ask that you partner with us in providing either gift cards or some of these essential items listed below:

Personal Hygiene items such as: deodorant, soap, shampoo, and conditioner (many of our youth of color expressed not having access to hair products for people of color, causing hair damage or loss)

* Toboggan/scarf and glove sets (many had access to some type of hoodie or coat, however they expressed remaining cold and needing these items to stay warm)
* Blankets (youth explained that many group homes they entered were cold, with thin blankets and they would have liked an additional blanket to keep warm)
* Journals (for writing and expressing feelings)
* Gel Pens (color, for expression when journaling)

Again, we are seeking your support in this effort to collect 2,500 of each item identified above by October 30, 2021.

Your donation will go towards ensuring that when a youth enters the substitute care system, they have the personal hygiene items needed for sanitation and dignity, the

clothing accessories to stay warm, and the writing materials needed to help them express and process their feelings.

Thanks, you in advance for your contribution! Your consideration and generosity mean so very much.

Calvisha Wilson

SaySo Program Assistant