

pyon moo do

strength·balance·peace

Community Service Project Providing Assistance to Homeless

Homelessness is a big problem here in Austin. Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department estimates that there are 3625 individuals homeless on any given day. Of those, approximately 1788 individuals, or about 50%, of the homeless are members of families with children. 31% of the homeless people in Austin/Travis County are children; most under the age of 5. In Austin/Travis County, only 62% of the homeless receive the services they need. This project will give you the opportunity to help by collecting personal items needed by people in a desperate situation.

Option One

Collect items for donation to organizations such as Community Partnership for the Homeless (austinhomesless.org). Contact the organization of your choice and confirm what items they actually need, gather and deliver them.

Option Two

Assemble homeless care packages and deliver them directly to individuals in need. Children must be accompanied by a parent for this option. What follows are some suggestions for your care packages.

Plastic or Cloth laundry style bag
Blanket (may be wool or space blanket)
Gloves
Wool socks
Warm hat
Scarf
Rain poncho
Game of some sort (checkers, chess, deck of cards, etc.)
Novel
Clothing as available
Small first aid kit
Chemical hand and foot warmers (i.e. Hot Hands)
Gift card for food
Pre-paid phone card
Bottled water
Nuts or sunflower seeds
Hygiene items
 soap
 toothbrush

toothpaste
washcloth or hand towel
deodorant
comb
shampoo
tissues
hand sanitizers
feminine hygiene products
fingernail clippers
lip balm

The possibilities are endless but avoid the following:

Food that could easily spoil
Excess packaging that can become litter
Anything that could be used as a weapon (knife, fork, etc.)
Gift cards that might enable self-destructive behavior (smoking, drinking, drug use, etc.)