

Imagine living on the streets or in an overnight shelter, focused mostly on survival, with all of your possessions in a backpack.

When a Housing Forward client is ready to move into their own independent space, they receive a very special house-warming gift.

Our Volunteer & Community Outreach Team works with community groups and congregations to collect common household items needed to help someone transition from homelessness to housing stability. "House to Home Kits" contain the practical comforts of home, and give warmth, generosity and compassion as a new life chapter begins.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

- >Gather Volunteers. Identify a group who will work together to collect the essential household items listed on the back.
- >Identify an H2H Kit Leader. The leader will act as project organizer within your volunteer group, and also serves as the contact for Housing Forward's Volunteer Team. Your Kit Leader should contact Housing Forward before you begin collecting so that we can have a destination aligned for you by the end of your collection. You can reach Cherrell Jackson, Volunteer & Community Outreach Manager at 708.338.1724 ext 201 or cjackson@housingforward.org
- >Collect the items. Communication among your volunteer team is very important—especially to avoid duplicate items. We recommend that your team use a "live" format (like Google Docs) to track collections.
- >Contact Housing Forward's Volunteer Team once you have collected all the items in your kit to be matched with a client and set up a delivery date.
- >Help make "Move-In Day" a warm celebration by helping the client move in. Create a house-warming card signed by members of your group or make a "Welcome Home" poster.
- >After Move-In Day, your team leader will receive client photos and a thank you to share with your organization.

To learn more about participating in the House to Home Kit Project, contact Cherrell Jackson at **708.338.1724 ext 201 or cjackson@housingforward.org**

Housing Forward is the only nonprofit organization in western Cook County with a comprehensive, long-term solution for preventing and ending homelessness. Founded in 1992, the agency provides integrated services for nearly 2,000 at-risk and homeless individuals and families each year.

Housing Forward's mission is to transition people from housing crisis to housing stability. For more information, visit **housingforward.org**.



A House to Home Kit "When they moved in the boxes we couldn't believe ☐ Dish set with coffee cups (set of at least 4) it! Now I can make ☐ Glasswear (set of at least 8, various sizes) up our beds with ☐ Silverware (set of at least 4) our own sheets ☐ Pots/pans set (1 pot, 2 saucepans, 2 frying pans w/ lids) and hang clothes ☐ Baking sheets in the closet." ☐ Cooking utensil set ☐ Wooden mixing spoons ☐ Mixing bowl set ☐ Kitchen knife set (chef, utility, paring, etc) □ Can opener □ Pizza cutter ☐ Glass liquid measuring cup, 2 cup size ☐ Colander/strainer □ Cutting boards, 2-3 LARGE BO □ Kitchen towel set □ Food storage containers, 20 piece set ☐ Food storage bags (gallon, quart & sandwich sizes) **Personal Hygiene Bedroom** ☐ Aluminum foil ☐ Facial tissues, 4 large boxes ☐ Bedding (queen) ☐ Plastic cling wrap ☐ Toilet paper, 12 roll pack ☐ Bedbug mattress protectors (queen) ☐ Paper napkins

contains:

Kitchen

Cleaning Supplies

- □ Toilet brush
- ☐ All-purpose spray, 32 oz
- ☐ Sponges, 6 pk (non-scratch/scrub type)
- □ Bucket
- □ Мор
- ☐ Broom/dustpan
- ☐ Trash can, 13 gallon with lid
- ☐ Trash bags, 13 gallon, 40 count
- ☐ Paper towels, 6 rolls
- □ Dish soap, 28 oz
- □ Dish pan & dish drainer
- ☐ Dust spray
- ☐ Toilet bowl cleaner
- □ Laundry basket
- ☐ Laundry bag
- ☐ Laundry soap (pods), 32 oz
- ☐ Fabric softener sheets

- ☐ Extra blanket (queen)
- □ Alarm clock radio
- □ Hangers

Small Appliances/Electronics

- □ Toaster
- □ Microwave
- ☐ Coffee Maker, 4-cup and filters
- ☐ Vacuum
- ☐ Box or floor fan
- ☐ Television* (See note below)

Bathroom

- ☐ Towel set (2 bath, 2 hand, 2 wash cloth)
- ☐ Extra washcloths (4)
- ☐ Non-slip mat for shower/tub
- ☐ Shower curtain and rings
- □ Bath mat/rug
- ☐ Small wastebasket

- ☐ Bar soap, 3-4 bars
- ☐ Liquid soap, 2 containers
- ☐ Shampoo and conditioner
- ☐ Toothbrush and toothpaste
- ☐ Disposable razors (mens)
- ☐ Hand lotion, 16 oz
- ☐ Deodorant, 2 (mens & womens)
- □ Nail clippers
- ☐ Shave gel or cream
- □ Comb & brush set
- ☐ First aid kit

Miscellaneous

- ☐ Floor lamps
- ☐ Table lamps (2)
- ☐ LED Light bulbs (6 60-watt equivalent)
- □ Calendar
- □ Sewing kit
- □ Scissors

*Note: A television is an important House to Home Kit item because it helps our clients transition back to living alone in an apartment. Watching television is one way they can re-establish their connections to the community and world around them.

Why are we asking for newly purchased items rather than those that are gently used?

Clients who are emerging from homelessness are making a fresh start. Providing them with the warmest welcome possible means making sure they feel they are equally valued community members. We appreciate your help in sending that affirming message.

Your contribution will be greatly appreciated and will make a world of difference to a client just starting out.

To learn more about participating in our House to Home Kit Project, contact Cherrell Jackson at 708.338.1724 ext 201 or cjackson@housingforward.org.









@housingforward