

HOUSING FORWARD'S HOUSE TO HOME KIT PROJECT

FOR GROUPS

*Providing
essentials
to turn an
individual
or family's
new empty
apartment
into a home.*



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 a 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 & Outreach team.
- **Collect the items.** Communication among your volunteer team is very important—especially to avoid duplicate items. **Consider using our [Target on-line registry](http://www.bit.ly/H2HomeKit) found at www.bit.ly/H2HomeKit** and have your items delivered directly to our Maywood office. We also recommend that your team use Google Docs to share the list in a "live" format.
- **Contact Housing Forward's Volunteer Manager** once you've collected the items to set-up delivery to our offices.
- **Help make "Move-In Day" a warm celebration** by including a house-warming card signed by members of your group, or by creating a "Welcome Home" poster, banner or piece of artwork.
- 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 **Enid Johnson**, Volunteer & Community Outreach Manager at **708.338.1724 ext 220** or email: ejohnson@housingforward.org.

Housing Forward is the only nonprofit organization in west Cook County with a comprehensive, long-term solution for preventing and ending homelessness. Founded in 1992, the agency provides integrated services to at-risk and homeless individuals and families in six areas: Emergency Assistance, Employment Readiness, Supportive Housing, Outreach & Engagement, Supportive Services, and Emergency Shelter. Housing Forward's goal is to transition people from financial and housing crisis to stability. For more information, visit www.housingforward.org.

**housing
FORWARD**
ending homelessness

A House to Home Kit contains:

Kitchen

- Dishes (set of 4)
- Glasses
- Silverware
- Pots and pans
- Cooking utensils
- Knives for food preparation
- Can opener
- Cutting board
- Kitchen towels
- Coffee mugs
- Food storage containers

Small Appliances/Electronics

- Toaster
- Microwave
- Coffee Maker
- Vacuum
- Fan
- Television* (See note below.)

Bedroom

- Bedding (full/double)
- Bedbug mattress protectors
- Alarm clock radio
- Hangers

Miscellaneous

- Lamps & light bulbs
- Calendar
- Laundry basket or bag

Bathroom

- Towels (4)
- Hand towels
- Wash cloths
- Non-slip mat for shower/tub
- Shower curtain and rings
- Bath mat/rug



“When they moved in the boxes we couldn’t believe it! Now I can make up our beds with our own sheets and hang clothes in the closet.”

Cleaning Supplies

- Toilet brush
- All-purpose spray
- Sponges (non-scratch/scrub type)
- Bucket
- Mop
- Broom/dustpan
- Trash can and bags
- Paper towels
- Dish soap
- Dust spray
- Toilet bowl cleaner
- Laundry soap/fabric softener sheets

Personal Hygiene

- Tissues
- Toilet paper

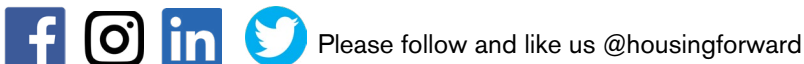
- Bar soap
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Disposable razors (mens)
- Hand lotion
- Deodorant
- Nail clippers
- Shave gel or cream
- Comb or brush

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

Our [online Target registry](http://www.bit.ly/H2HomeKit) (www.bit.ly/H2HomeKit) lists these items, but groups also set up their own collection systems.

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 **Enid Johnson**, Volunteer & Community Outreach Manager at **708.338.1724 ext 220** or email: ejohnson@housingforward.org.



Please follow and like us @housingforward

Main Office: 1851 S. 9th Ave, Maywood, IL 60153
Oak Park Office: 6634 W. Roosevelt Rd, 2nd Floor, Oak Park, IL 60304
708.338.1724 | 1.888.338.1744 | www.housingforward.org

**housing
FORWARD**
ending homelessness