Mission Projects/SMALL GIFT BAGS

We love to distribute small gifts to our clients.

These small gifts are wonderful mood lifters for people

struggling to get by every day. Small bags come in all shapes

and sizes and many different budgets. When you are

contemplating what type of giftbag you wish to create, put

yourself in the place of the recipient and ask, “What would

really surprise me and make me feel like I am loved

and treasured?”

Yes, we can collect hotel sized soaps and lotions and put them in a bag and that is a genuinely nice gift. However, if your target audience is an elderly client with arthritic hands, imagine trying to open tiny bottles with wet hands. If you are working with a small budget, please let me know. It is possible that Forever Fed could already have some items on hand, and we could also share the cost of your project with you if needed.

Below is a list of ideas that have been popular with our clients. Our mission is to show everyone we meet how treasured and loved they are by God. For this reason, we ask that the items in the bag are new and not second hand or used. Our guests live and shop through used items every day. An unexpected gift of something NEW provides the most positive experience in the heart of the recipient.

**Hygiene Bag**: Gift bag filled with shampoo, lotion, toothpaste, toothbrush, non-gender specific deodorant, soap, travel sized tissues, etc. Due to the nature of the hygiene products, we ask that these bags be assembled in a plastic bag. Elderly clients have dry skin. Moisturizing liquid soaps with minimal scents are very desirable.

**Cold and Flu Season Bag:** This can be a fun bag for clients to receive. A can of chicken soup, a hydrating drink, tissues, a jar of mentholated rub, bottle of hand soap or sanitizer, a small bottle of Tylenol/Motrin, cough drops, a linen napkin or handkerchief that the group has prayed over and blessed! Include a note of explanation for the prayer cloth and some scripture about healing, love, rest.

**Children’s Activity Bag:** Seasonal Christian Coloring book or coloring page, markers-crayons- colored pencils, stickers, a “make a craft” bag with the craft components, including the glue stick, instructions, etc. needed to make the craft. When assembling these please consult Susan with ideas you might have prior to finalizing your project.

**Kitchen Gift Bag:** Content ideas include new kitchen cloth, new kitchen towel, bottle of dish soap, scrubby sponge, refrigerator magnets with Christian encouragements, wooden spoons, can opener, etc.

**Bath Gift Bag:** Content ideas are a NEW bath towel (bright or dark color that will show stains less, wash cloth, bar soap, body wash, lotion that is not highly scented, disposable razor, travel size shaving cream, fluffy socks, nail files, pumice stone, loofah, etc. \*\*Many of our clients live in extended stay hotels. Those hotels do not provide towels. This is a great gift to wrap in a box as well and good for every season of the year.

**Movie Night Bag:** Microwave popcorn, inexpensive fleece throw ($5 at Walmart), one chocolate candy, one fruity candy, a drink mix (something they can add to water like Kool aide, hot chocolate, spiced cider, etc. Please do not include a movie-we will assume they will watch one on TV.

**Birthday Bag:** Items needed for a birthday party such as cake mix, microwave cake cups, frosting, tube of decorating frosting, sprinkles, candles, party hats, table cover, plates, forks, cups, straws, party favors, etc.

**Table Scape Bag:** Items used to decorate a seasonal kitchen table. Tablecloth or covering, place mats (could be made by a student and laminated) pretty napkins, a small seasonal centerpiece, a picture of the small table set up with the items in the bag.

**Blooming Bag:** A “grow your own flower” bag. Small plastic flowerpot (one that drains and has a tray for water drainage), Ziplock bag filled with enough potting soil to fill the enclosed pot, packet of easy to grow flower or herb seeds, etc. The flowerpot can be decorated by a student.

**First Aid Bag/box:** Meant to be a small, easy to find, first aid kit. This could include Band-Aids, medical tape, antibiotic ointment, Telfa pads, antiseptic sprays, small pkg. of OTC meds, etc.

**Spruce Up Your House Bag/bucket/basket:** Window cleaner, cleaning towels, all-purpose cleaner, scrubby sponges, air freshener, candle, laundry soap, fabric softener, etc.

Every set of these small give away items will be stored in boxes at our facility before they are distributed. Please keep that in mind when you choose your packaging. If possible, seal the bags closed in some way to keep the contents from escaping.

Kraft paper bags are great canvases for students to decorate their gifts. Did you know that many shoe boxes can be turned inside out allowing the non-printed side to become the exterior of the box?

If your bag will be heavy you may want to consider a cloth or reusable shopping bag, basket, box, etc.

 Be creative!

Please contact Susan Vanderheyden prior to deciding on your project.

Susan@foreverfed.org