



At-Church Projects for Christian Community Service Center

Hygiene Kits



Visitors to Emergency Services need hygiene items as well as food. This project may be done in steps. First, collect the hygiene items for a couple Sundays. On the last Sunday, form an assembly line after service and fill gallon-size Ziplocs with these essentials that CCSC gives out every day (list of items on back of this sheet). This is a great 30-minute project for all ages and abilities. If you want your group to tour CCSC when you drop off the hygiene kits, we are happy to show you around and have you get to know us even better.

Rice & Bean Rebagging



Large bags of rice and beans are more economically priced than the smaller 2 lb. bags we give out at the food pantries. Your congregation can help CCSC by rebagging rice and beans into smaller 2-lb. sizes (2 lbs. is about what fits in a quart-size Ziploc bag). First, purchase the rice, beans, Ziploc bags and disposable gloves. On the day of your project, push together a few tables, load up a few clean plastic tubs with rice or beans, and then use plastic cups to scoop the rice or beans into the Ziplocs. A 20 lb. bag of rice at Walmart is \$8.13 while 10 2 lb. bags of rice at Walmart cost \$41.60, so buying large and rebagging saves \$33.47 on every 20 lb. of rice. Kids love this project because it's so tactile and fun. *Note: For this project someone overseeing it at your church should have a food handler's permit.*

Can Opener Drive



Another on-site project is the can opener drive. Many people don't even think of it, but if CCSC is giving away canned food we often need to give recipients the means to open the cans. The food pantries are ALWAYS in need of can openers. This is a great drive to involve other groups in—parents from your school or outside groups that meet at your church.

Jingle Bell Express Book Drive



Another great drive for any church, but especially for those with schools, is a book drive for Jingle Bell Express. Each child at JBE receives a new, age-appropriate book. One of the easiest ways to collect books is in conjunction with a school book fair. Set up a JBE collection box at the book fair and folks can purchase a book for CCSC and drop it directly into the box—it doesn't get much more convenient. Proceeds from the books purchased benefit your church or school, and JBE gets a book for a needy child. Everyone wins. If you don't have a school book fair, you can still set up a box for JBE book donations in your fellowship hall.

No-Sew Blankets



This is a meaningful project for after service or for your Sunday school, Bible Study or Mothers of Preschoolers groups. In fact, one group can cut the fabric ahead of time, maybe during Sunday school, and others can put the blankets together after service. True to the name, these blankets require no sewing, instead you tie the ends together (directions for this great way to help keep our neighbors in need warm are on the back of this sheet).

For more information on volunteering at CCSC, please contact Erin Donohue at volunteer@ccschouston.org

No-Sew Fleece Blankets

Supplies Needed: A pair of sharp scissors or rotary cutter and mat; ruler or tape measure; two coordinating pieces of any fleece--for a baby or toddler blanket purchase 1 to 1 1/2 yards (in each of two fabrics), for a child's blanket purchase 1-3/4 yards (in each of two fabrics), for a teen or adult blanket purchase 2-21/2 yards (in each of two fabrics). **Note:** Large blankets are always appreciated. Remember: Fabric is usually 54 inches wide or greater; you need two separate pieces of fabric for the blanket (one will be the front, one will be the back); you can choose two coordinating fabrics or the same fabric; double-check the widths of the two fleeces to make sure they are the same; fleece panels look very nice, but be sure there is enough material at the edge to cut the fringe without cutting into the pattern on the fabric; and watch for sales at your fabric store, as you can save a lot of money that way, often more than 50%. For step-by-step instructions with pictures, please visit www.instructables.com/id/No-Sew-Fleece-Blanket-1/

Directions:

1. Cut off rough selvage edge on both sides. (This is the side that is machine finished, not cut.) Trim only as much as necessary, usually not more than 2 inches on each side. At this point, make sure that your cut sides are relatively straight. (They don't have to be perfect.) Do this on each piece of fabric.
2. Lay your fleece wrong sides together, with edges matching up. (Often times with fleece it's hard to tell which side is the wrong side and it often doesn't matter which side you use as the front or back.) Some people choose at this point to pin the layers together, this is a personal preference. It is quicker not to pin, and there is usually not a problem with slippage or keeping the sides aligned.
3. Cut a 4x4" square (or 5x5" square for a longer fringe) out of each corner (through both layers of fleece) and discard. If you want your fringe longer (not recommended for a baby or toddler), make your square bigger. It really does help to cut out your square from each corner before proceeding.
4. Cut all 4" (or 5") cuts into fleece at 1" intervals around all four sides. Tie overhand knot close to blanket edge by using one strip from the front and one strip from the back to create finished fringe edge, then tie again. Repeat around all four sides. Make sure you make two tight overhand knots for your fringe. This should hold it together through washer and dryer cycles.

Several notes here:

- To help make your strips approximately wide (again, it doesn't have to be perfect), you can use a tape measure across the top of your four-inch section so that you not only make your cuts about 1" apart but also only four inches deep.
- To make the tying look more even, tie every other one, all the way around the blanket, then flip the blanket over to the back and tie the rest. That way neither side is really the front or the back.
- Experiment with the way you tie the knots for different looks. You can make the knot show in either fabric as well as the fringe in either fabric.
- The nature of fleece makes two of the sides stretchy. Don't fear! Just be gentle when tying those sides (the selvage sides) so that your fringe isn't stretched out of shape.

Hygiene Kits (packed in gallon-size Ziploc bags)

Single

- 1 regular type Shampoo (regular size)
- 1 adult toothbrush (individually wrapped)
- 1 toothpaste (regular size)
- 1 gender specific deodorant (regular size)
- 1 nice extra (may include health and beauty products, first aid, dental, razor, collection of travel-size supplies)

Families with Children

- 1 regular type shampoo (15-ounce size)
- 1 toothpaste (regular size)
- 2 toothbrushes (individually wrapped)
- 1 children's toothbrush
- 1 gender neutral deodorant (regular size)
- 1 nice extra (may include health and beauty product, first aid, dental, razor, collection of travel-size supplies)

Families without Children

- 1 regular type shampoo (15-ounce size)
- 1 toothpaste (regular size)
- 2 adult toothbrushes (individually wrapped)
- 1 gender neutral deodorant (regular size)
- 1 nice extra (may include health and beauty product, first aid, dental, razor, collection of travel-size supplies)

If you have questions or need more information, please email volunteer@ccschouston.org