Care Packages

A great way to teach youth about service and to help those in need is to create care packages. Care packages can be put together as a group from items donated by individuals, making this a great way to include everyone in the project. Donating several smaller items is easier on everyone’s budget and putting the packages together requires a team effort. You can even get creative and have the group make the containers!

Choosing Care Packages as a Service Learning Project:
The key to a successful care package project is to discuss who the packages are for and why the recipients need the requested items. This will help your members begin to internalize the values of generosity and service to others.

Remember: Packages always mean more when accompanied by a personal note from your members! For safety sake, always sign with only a first name and do not include phone numbers or addresses.

Once packages are put together, individuals can deliver them or work with an outside organization to have them picked up and distributed. Prior to starting the project, inquire whether packages need to be delivered or can be picked up; you should also ask what the organization will and will not accept as donations.

Many suggestions for items and containers are listed in this publication. A great way to get ideas for collecting and assembling packages is to contact the group you will be donating to and find out what they need. For example, your local senior center, children’s home or shelter may have a list of specific items they are requesting. You might also request that a representative attend your group’s meeting to talk about the individuals and families this project will serve. Search the organization’s website for information about who they serve and what they need.

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Care Package Service Learning Project Planning Worksheet

Name of Group: __________________________________________

(Ex: Clover Kids 4-H Club)

Partner Organization: __________________________________________

(Ex: Riverview Retirement Center)

Organization Contact: ______________________ Phone: ____________

Packages need to be: _____ picked up _____ delivered by what date? ______

Budgeted Amount: ___________ (if all necessary supplies will be donated, this amount should be $0.00)

Type of Container needed: __________________________________________

How will containers be acquired? Who is responsible? __________________________

Date containers needed by: __________________________

Items being requested: __________________________________________

How will items be acquired? Who is responsible? __________________________

Date items needed by: __________________________

How/when will packages be assembled? __________________________

Who is responsible for assembly? __________________________

Who is responsible for delivery/pickup? __________________________
New Hampshire 4-H  
Serving to Learn, Learning to Serve  

Care Packages

**For Children:**
- School Supplies
- Games
- Socks
- T-shirts
- Toys
- Stuffed Animals
- Children’s Books
- Hard Candy

**For Families:**
- Toiletry Items (shampoo, toothpaste, etc.)
- Laundry Needs (detergent, fabric softener)
- Kitchen Utensils
- Curtains
- Washcloths/Towels
- Socks
- T-shirts
- Food Staples (flour, sugar)
- Books
- Gift Cards (for meals or groceries)
- Tools
- Sheets or Bedding
- Magazines

**For Babies:**
- Blankets
- Bottles
- Coupons for Baby Items
- Thermometer
- Cotton Swabs
- Hairbrush and Comb
- Stuffed Animals
- Baby Shampoo/Soap
- Baby Wipes
- Socks
- Pacifier
- Diapers
- Rattle
- Story Books

**For Animals:**
- Treats
- Leashes
- Collars
- Bones
- Toys
- Beds/Blankets
- Brushes
- Grooming Supplies
- Canned Food

**Other:**
List your ideas for other packages or additional items here:

![4-H Logo](image-url)
Groups to consider or contact when planning care packages:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Habitat for Humanity</th>
<th>Nursing Homes</th>
<th>Local Hospitals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Soup Kitchens/Food Pantries</td>
<td>Local Churches</td>
<td>Dept of Children,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Domestic Violence Shelters</td>
<td>Disaster Relief Agencies</td>
<td>Youth &amp; Families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children's Homes</td>
<td>Local Animal Shelters</td>
<td>Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Senior Citizens Centers</td>
<td>Meals on Wheels</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Container Ideas:

- Backpack
- Travel Bag
- Dish drainer
- Trash Can/Pail
- Covered Box
- Decorated Bag
- Cosmetic Case or Toiletry Bag
- Christmas Stocking
- Dog Dish
- Diaper Bag
- Blanket
- Crate
- Baby Tub
- Flower Pot

Care Package Content Suggestions:

**For Senior Citizens:**

- Facial Tissue
- Lotion
- Books
- Puzzle Books
- Cards
- Slippers
- Handkerchiefs
- Shawls
- Fruit
- Socks
- Magazines
- Lip Balm
- Cups
- Washcloths
- Suncatchers
- Walker/Wheelchair Caddies
- Sachets
- Lap Quilts

**For Military Troops:**

- Lap Quilts
- Toiletry Items (shampoo, toothpaste, etc.)
- Washcloths/Towels
- Magazines
- Puzzle Books/Games
- Gum
- Socks
- Post Cards
- Lip Balm
- Hard Candy
- Sunscreen