

Ten Ways You Can Help Our Students in Housing Transition

1) **Donate money to the Polk Education Foundation in the name of the HEARTH Project.**

These donations are part of what allows us to provide homeless students with the full school experience (Payless shoe vouchers, field trips, sports uniforms, musical instruments, etc.) You can do this by visiting: <http://www.polk-fl.net/districtinfo/departments/officeofthesuperintendent/pef.htm>.

2) **Provide hygiene packs and school supplies.**

Hygiene packs are gallon-sized Ziploc bags with body soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, washcloth, comb, brush, shampoo, conditioner and deodorant. We welcome a variety of school supplies.

3) **Purchase local grocery gift cards or Crockpots for our program.**

Cards from supermarkets like Publix, Wal-Mart and Winn-Dixie can help our students stay fed, healthy and ready to learn! New crockpots provide a way for families to prepare meals.

4) **Purchase a bus pass or gas card to help students and their families get to school and school events.**

We accept any amount, but are especially in need of gas cards in small denominations (\$5, \$10).

5) **Bring shelf stable boxed or canned food items to kidsPACK and SmilePak that provide food to our students and their families.**

To donate to kidsPACK, please call at 1(800) 598-7871 and to donate to SmilePak, please call at (863) 665-7074. Your local school may also have a food pantry for students in need. Call the school for more information on what is needed and the best way to help. Thank you!

6) **Give clothing to the Children's Clothes Closet or the Cops Care Closet.** They only accept gently used clothing, belts, new socks and new underwear for our students. To donate, please call the Children's Clothes Closet at (863) 683-2086 or the Cops Care Closet at (863) 499-2745 before delivering. Thank you!

7) **Consider being a mentor or tutor in our schools.**

For more information visit this website: <http://www.polk-fl.net/community/volunteers/default.htm>

8) **Become informed.** Learn about homeless education and the challenges that the many children in poverty face today. Share this knowledge with friends, family and co-workers.

9) **Contact the HEARTH Project for volunteer opportunities.** Throughout the year we could use volunteers to help with office work as well as sorting and organizing clothing and hygiene donations.

10) **Contact the shelters that house some of the HEARTH Project students to see how you can volunteer or contribute to their program.**

George Harris Youth Shelter: 863-595-0220

Lake Wales Care Center: 863-676-1949

Lighthouse Ministries: 863-687-4076

Peace River Center: 863-519-3741

Salvation Army Lakeland: 863-682-8179

Salvation Army Winter Haven: 863-291-5109

The Way Center: 863-422-2309

Women's Care Center: 863-534-3844

Please drop off donations of gift cards, hygiene packs, and school supplies at the HEARTH office at:

1915 South Floral Avenue

Bartow, FL 33830

(863) 534-0801

<http://www.polk-fl.net/districtinfo/departments/learning/title1/hearth.htm>