
GET STARTED

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

MINISTRY GUIDE



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People around you are hurting every day. Poverty, natural disasters, human trafficking, refugees, children in crisis—the needs are enormous.

What can just one church—just one Christian—do? When the issues are close to home, you want to do something, and Send Relief is here to help.

[Send Relief](#) provides simple, practical ways to respond to the specific needs in your community, as you share the hope of the gospel.



START WITH PRAYER

Before you begin your journey toward compassion ministry, we invite you to pray over every inch of your neighborhood and communities.



Ways to pray

1. Pray the Holy Spirit gives you eyes to see and compassion to help restore what's broken.
2. Pray for wisdom to know how to listen best to those who live in your community.
3. Pray for opportunities to meet and build relationships with your neighbors.
4. Pray for patience and openness to listen to and learn from others' perspective and experiences.
5. Pray for partners to join you in serving your community.
6. Pray for every storefront, restaurant and gathering place in your neighborhood to encounter your kindness and blessings.
7. Pray that the local church pours into people outside the church walls.
8. Pray for children and families in the area to be served by you and your church.
9. Pray for the homeless, abused, addicted, lonely, neglected and afraid to receive comfort from you and your church's compassion ministry efforts.
10. Ask God to show you needs and bring you clear next steps.

“This is the confidence we have before Him: If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us...” (1 John 5:14) CSB.



3 STEPS TO DISCOVERING NEEDS IN YOUR COMMUNITY

1. Explore the physical community.

- In what condition are the buildings, homes, schools, churches and playgrounds?
- To whom are stores and businesses marketing their products?
- Who is out and about in the community (children, teenagers, senior adults)?
- What demographic breakdowns are observable?
- Where do people gather in groups?
- How do people move around the community (car, bus, taxi, walking)?¹
- Identify current ministries which serve needs in your community. (idea here is to not duplicate if established and effective, rather potentially partner)

¹ Adapted from Sean Benesh, "10 Ways to Exegete Your City," available at www.visioneeringstudios.com.



2. Listen to and learn from people in the community.

- Talk to several people as you explore the community about what they perceive as the community's best assets and greatest needs.
- Conduct a demographic study of the community. One source is Send Relief's [Asset-Based Community Assessment](#).
- Talk to local government officials about the needs they want to address in the community.
- Ride with local police officers to explore their observations and understandings about the community.
- Talk with other area church leaders about how they understand the needs of the community.
- Talk with school officials and teachers about the needs of the community they see through the children in their classrooms.
- Visit the local library to discover recent community history.²

² Chuck Lawless, "10 Ways to Read Your Community," available at www.thomrainer.com.



3. Seek God's guidance through prayer-driving and prayer-walking.

- Intentionally drive and walk through the area while looking with God's eyes.
- Pray for local congregations as you pass places of worship.
- Pray for children and families as you pass schools and playgrounds.
- Pray for those experiencing homelessness, the abused, the addicted, the lonely and the afraid, as you pass through the neighborhood.
- Ask God to show you needs you and your church can impact.



WEEKEND FOOD BACKPACK MINISTRY

FOR UNDERPRIVILEGED CHILDREN

Dennis Garcia knows what it's like to be hungry. He grew up in a family in poverty, dependent upon food stamps for food. Sometimes, his parents traded the food stamps for drugs. Most times, Dennis and his siblings didn't have enough food. Sometimes, they had none.

Dennis is now pastor of The People Church in Moriarty, New Mexico. When he realized that children in his community were experiencing the same issues he had as a child, he reached out to the local school district to ask how they could help.

Sue Gibson, the school liaison, told him "On Mondays, we have hungry, sick children. They come to school so hungry that they over-eat for breakfast and then throw up. Some of them are so hungry, they can't eat."

Dennis' church began to partner with nearby Mountain Valley Church to provide backpacks stocked with food to take home on the weekends. Yearly, the program meets the needs of 30-45 underprivileged children. As a result, the students' academic performance, attendance and grades are improving dramatically.

“On Mondays, we have hungry, sick children. They come to school so hungry that they over-eat for breakfast and then throw up. **Some of them are so hungry, they can't eat.**”

Many school-age children are dependent upon breakfast and lunch programs at school to have anything to eat. But, on weekends and holidays, there's very little, if any food at home. According to Feeding America, one out of every five children (and one of every seven adults) lack proper food at least part of the year. That means more than 42 million people, or 8.1 million families in America, are without enough food every day! No matter where your church is located, hungry children, adults and families are nearby and need your help.

¹ <https://aspe.hhs.gov/basic-report/financial-condition-and-health-care-burdens-people-deep-poverty>.



Childhood Hunger In America

- Hunger exists in every county in the United States.¹
- Over 21 million children receive free or reduced-price lunches at school, and about half of these receive free breakfast as well.²
- On weekends, holidays and summers, when schools are not in session, 18 million children have few, if any, meals.³
- Three-fourths of American teachers see the impact of childhood hunger in their classrooms.
- Children who are consistently hungry have lower academic progress, more sickness (along with stomachaches, headaches, depression, and anxiety) and more behavioral problems.⁴
- Children from families who are food insecure are more likely to drop out of school before graduation than those who have enough food to eat.⁵
- Those who were hungry in childhood tend to be less successful as adults, creating a cycle that passes along the issues of hunger, poverty and lack of success to the next generation.⁶
- One out of every four children in the United States receives food stamps — that's over 20 million children.⁷

1 Katie Dupere, "6 startling facts about child hunger in the U.S.—and how you can help," www.mashable.com.

2 Dupere.

3 Dupere.

4 Kym Klass, "Project 7: How one woman's ministry aims to reduce hunger in schools," *Montgomery Advertiser*, p. 2; available online at <https://www.montgomeryadvertiser.com>.

5 Dupere.

6 Klass, p. 2.

7 Klass, p. 2.



Discover the Needs in your Community

Before you begin any new ministry, it is important to first take time to discover and understand the unique needs within your community. Explore the physical community, listen to and learn from people living and working in the area and seek God's guidance by prayer-driving and prayer-walking the neighborhood.

If you find that serving hungry children is a need in the community, keep reading! We have practical steps to help you get started.

To learn more about how to identify needs in your community, download [*How Can We Serve? An In-Depth Guide to Discovering Community Needs.*](#)

If not, [check out some of our other ministry guides](#) for opportunities that fit for your church's gifting and community's needs.



Strategically Considering Ministry Opportunities

Take the next step by enlisting a small group of people within your congregation to assess ministry opportunities by working through the following questions:

- **What partnerships in your community can you utilize to meet this need?** These could include government officials, school officials and teachers, other community churches and leaders, local food banks or other preestablished hunger-relief programs.
- **Who in your church is passionate and equipped to lead or participate in this ministry?** Consider children's ministry workers, parents, families, teenagers or youth groups, Sunday school classes, senior adults and more.
- **What resources has God given your church to support this ministry?** Consider missions offerings, grants, those with the gift of couponing and other financial resources.
- **What space can be used for collecting donations, storing food and filling backpacks?** Consider unused classrooms, closets or members' homes that can provide space and secure, dry storage.

These questions can lead this small group of local missionaries to determine whether or not:

1. There is a desire within the congregation to meet this need.
2. There are resources of people, space and money to meet this need.
3. This ministry is sustainable over time.
4. You feel God leading you as a congregation in this direction.

STARTING A FOOD BACKPACK MINISTRY



Use these eight steps as a guide as you get started:

- 1. Identify the school where you want to start a new backpack food program.** Find out how many children in the school qualify to receive free or reduced-price school meals. (Look for schools designated as Title 1 schools, which are schools with large concentrations of low-income students.)
- 2. Schedule a meeting with the principal or counselor of the school.** Let the principal or counselor know that school staff will have no added responsibilities and that no child will be publicly identified as a participant in the program because of the Privacy Act. Discuss sending out a permission slip to each potential participant, or ask if the school would like to maintain and facilitate that list. Obtain a copy of the school's official calendar.
- 3. Assess available community resources.** Research established and on-going community ministries to determine what is already being done and what resources are needed. Talk to directors of food banks, women and family shelters, churches involved in meeting the needs of hunger for indigent families and local grocery stores to identify resources available and programs already working in the community. Evaluate programs to determine if what is already in place will meet the ministry needs you've identified. Consider how you could join these programs to meet your ministry goals.
- 4. Make a budget of all the resources and materials you need—both for launch and maintenance.**
Answer each of these questions:
 - Based on the information received from the school, how many children will likely be involved?
 - Develop an itemized budget, that includes: food, large containers, bags, a dolly or cart and storage space. Keep in mind that food will likely be the largest cost for your program, so try to keep enough food on hand for three to five weeks. Each bag of food should cost \$2-4. Example: \$2.50 x 10 students = \$25.00 each week; \$25.00 per week x 36 weeks per year = \$900 each year for 10 students. Bags to use for food distribution can be backpacks or plastic shopping bags, which do not have to be returned. What partnerships did you identify in step 3 above that could help offset costs?
 - Who will write and photocopy the permission slip for the school to distribute? How much will copies cost?
 - Where will you acquire backpacks?

- How will you pay for food? (Possibilities: church budget, donations, grants, church-wide love offerings, fundraising, corporate donations, grocery store donations.)
- How will the food be obtained? (Purchased by volunteers, donations of food, etc.)
- If you're going to distribute additional food for times when the school is closed for extended breaks, add that to the budget, and discuss with the school.

5. **Develop your process.**

- Enlist Ministry Leader(s) with responsibilities to: (1) enlist additional volunteers; (2) develop relationship with school officials; (3) establish process for food collection, storage, and backpack assembly; (4) coordinate transportation and delivery of backpacks to school; (5) keep records of when students move away from or to the district.
- Determine where you will stockpile food stuffs. Consider setting up shelving units in closets and/or empty rooms at church, or other designated, limited access places.
- Determine what day of the week you will pack and deliver food bags. (Some churches pack the food bags on Wednesday night, along with their usual mid-week activities; others load and deliver backpacks to schools on Thursdays, so teachers can put food bags into recipients' backpacks on Fridays.)
- Enlist additional volunteers who can: (1) commit 1-2 hours a week to ministry; (2) pack the backpacks and deliver them to the school each week; and (3) assist ministry leader(s) as needed with other tasks.

6. **Collect food.** Many churches have success by asking church members to donate food items. Provide a list of needed items, and begin collecting food in the spring for distribution at the beginning of the school year. Two weeks before the school year begins, inventory food items received, and purchase needed items using monetary donations. Suggested items per week per student:

- **2 Breakfasts:** instant oatmeal/grits, cereal bar, Pop-Tart
- **2 Entrees:** ravioli, Vienna sausages, tuna, soup, jerky sticks
- **2 Snacks:** crackers, cookies, fruit cups, granola bars (avoid peanuts and peanut butter)
- **1 Pasta:** macaroni and cheese, Ramen noodles
- **Juice boxes:** 100% juice recommended

Things to consider:

- The weight of the bag since children will be carrying items home
- The packaging of the food— Do not include foods in glass containers; Do use pop-tops cans
- Available appliances and utensils to children

7. **Set a start date, and begin.** Set the start date (usually a Thursday) with the principal or counselor at the school. Provide permission slips to be sent home to families (with information about the start date) to encourage families to sign up. Make a final schedule for volunteers to be sure they are ready to pack the bags the day before the start date. After bags are packed, deliver them to the school on Thursday

to be sent home in children's backpacks on Friday. Continue this weekly schedule, working within the school's calendar and making adjustments as requested by school administrators.

Take note: There might be times in the school calendar when the children will not have access to a food backpack for an extended period of time. Times like this include spring break or extended holidays. You might consider packing more food than you typically do for these periods of time.

8. **Evaluate the program's success.** After two months, closely review how successful the program has been with the following questions:

- Is the program running smoothly? Why or why not?
- What problems were you unprepared for? What are solutions for these issues?
- How good is the relationship with the school administration and teachers? What can you do to strengthen relationships within the school?
- Do you feel you have successfully identified the students who need help? Do you feel some students who should be in the program have been overlooked?
- Could you expand the program to include more students or additional schools? What would that take?

What Next?

This is your opportunity to start meeting a huge need in your community...one child and one backpack at a time.

Take your next step on mission with Send Relief by not only helping your immediate neighborhood with backpacks, but also traveling to communities around the world who need your help! Learn more about Send Relief mission trips and get started today at SendRelief.org/Trips.



BACKPACK MINISTRY

**PROVIDING SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR
DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN**

When Chet's Creek Church was first started, they met in an elementary school. It was a logical next step to begin a backpack ministry as a way to partner with that school and meet the needs of their community. Ten years later, that ministry continues, and the church now provides school supplies in backpacks to five elementary schools.

Along this journey, the church has seen how financially difficult it can be for families who are already struggling to make ends meet. But with the supplies provided through the backpacks, children's lives have been changed, and relationships with the schools and the community have been deepened.

One young man the church has helped is Ernest. Ernest lives in a housing project in one of the roughest neighborhoods in the inner city. His mother had no way to provide the school supplies Ernest needed for school, so the church did. More than the gift of supplies, people in the church prayed for Ernest. God used that backpack and those prayers to reach Ernest. He works in an inner-city program every Saturday, has joined a local church youth group and attends Bible study. His grades are now As and Bs, and Ernest no longer gets involved in fights outside of school. That backpack was the first step in changing his life.

The crisis in the schools is growing. According to the latest government census, 40.6 million people (8.1 million families) live below the poverty line the United States. Of these, 19.9 million people live in deep poverty, meaning they receive only fifty percent of what the government classifies as the poverty line. Almost 6.5 million of these are children below the age of 18.¹ No matter where your church is located, children nearby are struggling to have the supplies they need for school.

¹ <https://aspe.hhs.gov/basic-report/financial-condition-and-health-care-burdens-people-deep-poverty>.

Discover the Needs in your Community

Before you begin any new ministry, it is important to first take time to discover and understand the unique needs within your community. Explore the physical community, listen to and learn from people living and working in the area and seek God's guidance by prayer-driving and prayer-walking the neighborhood.

If you find that resourcing underprivileged children for school is a need in the community, keep reading! We have practical steps to help you get started.

To learn more about how to identify needs in your community, download [*How Can We Serve? An In-Depth Guide to Discovering Community Needs.*](#)

If not, [*check out some of our other ministry guides*](#) for opportunities that fit for your church's gifting and community's needs.



The Cost Of School Supplies

- One out of every four children in the United States live below the poverty line (that's over 20 million children), and many more are in families who struggle to make ends meet.¹
- Parents spend an average of \$200 for school supplies for elementary students, \$330 for middle school students and \$375 for high school students.²
- Parents are asked to buy more than is necessary for their children to help provide supplies for those who cannot afford them, a burden shared by many teachers.
- One out of every 10 teachers spend \$1,000 or more each year to make sure students have what they need in the classroom.³
- An issue for many families is the growing need for electronic equipment (such as Scientific Calculators and thumb drives), which inflate the costs for upper grades.

The bottom line is this: The need is great—and you, and your church, can make a difference!

1 <http://www.nccp.org/topics/childpoverty.html>

2 <http://neatoday.org/2016/08/18/cost-of-school-supplies>; "The Growing Challenge of Buying School Supplies," <https://www.learningliftoff.com/author/learning-liftoff-staff>.

3 "The Growing Challenge.."



Strategically Considering Ministry Opportunities

Take the next step by enlisting a small group of people within the congregation to assess ministry opportunities by working through the following questions with you:

- **What partnerships in your community can you utilize to meet this need?** These could include government officials, school officials and teachers, other community churches and leaders or other preestablished school supply programs.
- **Who in your church is passionate and equipped to lead or participate in this ministry?** Consider children's ministry workers, parents, families, teenagers or youth groups, Sunday school classes, senior adults and more.
- **What resources has God given your church to support this ministry?** Consider missions offerings, grants, those with the gift of couponing and other financial resources.
- **What space can be used for collecting and stockpiling supplies and for packing supplies to send to schools?** Consider unused classrooms, closets or members' home that can provide secure and dry storage.

These questions can lead this small group of local missionaries to determine whether or not:

1. There is a desire within the congregation to meet this need.
2. There are resources of people, space and money to meet this need.
3. This ministry is sustainable over time.
4. You feel God leading you as a congregation in this direction.

STARTING A SCHOOL SUPPLIES BACKPACK MINISTRY

God may be moving you to be the catalyst of starting a ministry to provide school supplies to disadvantaged children and/or teenagers in your community. If so, where do you start? We've provided seven steps that can lead you to successfully meeting this much-needed ministry:



1. **Identify the school where you want to start a new backpack school supplies program.** Begin with one school that is in your area of ministry (elementary, middle school or high school). Find out how many children/teens in the school qualify to receive free or reduced-price school meals. (Look for schools designated as Title 1 schools, which are schools with large concentrations of low-income students.) This is a great place to begin to get a sense of how many children/teens would qualify. Individual teachers will also be able to identify children/teens who need help.
2. **Schedule a meeting with the principal or counselor of the school.** Let the principal or counselor know that school staff will have no added responsibilities and that no child will be publicly identified as a participant in the program because of the Privacy Act. Obtain a copy of the school's official calendar and school supply lists. Discuss the best time and date for delivering backpacks full of supplies to the school.
3. **Assess available community resources.** Research established, on-going community ministries to determine what is already being done and what resources are needed. Talk to directors of women and family shelters, churches involved in meeting the needs of indigent families and local grocery and discount stores to identify resources available and programs already working in the community. Evaluate programs to determine if what is already in place will meet the ministry needs you've identified. Consider how you could join these programs to meet your ministry goals.
4. **Make a budget of all the resources and materials you need—both for launch and maintenance.**
 - Based on the information you've received from the school, how many children will likely be involved?

- Develop an itemized budget that includes: school supplies, backpacks, a dolly or cart and storage space. Consider what partnerships you identified in step 3 above that could help offset costs.
- Determine where you will acquire backpacks.
- How will you pay for school supplies? Possibilities might include church budget, donations, grants, church-wide love offerings, fundraising, corporate donations, grocery store or discount store donations.
- How will supplies be obtained? They could be purchased by volunteers or donated.

5. **Develop your process.**

- Enlist Ministry Leader(s) with responsibilities to: (1) enlist additional volunteers; (2) develop relationship with school officials; (3) establish process for collection of supplies, storage, and backpack assembly; (4) coordinate transportation and delivery of backpacks to school; (5) communicate with the school administration, staff, and teachers about the program; (6) keep track of how well the program is working at a school; and (7) coordinate events to raise money.
- Determine where you will stockpile school supplies. Consider setting up shelving units in closets and/or empty rooms at church, or other designated, limited access places.
- Set dates to collect supplies, to load backpacks and to deliver loaded backpacks to schools.
- Enlist additional volunteers who can: (1) commit 5-8 hours at the beginning of the school year to the ministry; (2) pack the backpacks and deliver them to the school; and (3) assist ministry leader(s) as needed with other tasks

6. **Collect supplies.** Many churches have good success by asking church members to donate school supplies. Provide a list of needed items and begin collecting supplies in late spring or early summer (depending on when supply lists are available) for distribution at the beginning of the school year. Two weeks before the school year begins, inventory supplies received, and purchase needed items using monetary donations. School lists differ and are usually available through individual schools.

Note: Some churches have found that members prefer taking care of the backpack and supplies for one student.

On the following page are three different supply lists, one for younger elementary students, one for older elementary/middle school students, and one for high school students to use as examples.

**For elementary students
(Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd,
and 3rd grade):**

- New Backpack
- 12—#2 Pencils
- 24—Crayons (1st Grade only)
- 1—Pink Eraser
- 8—1 package Broad Tip Washable Markers
- 2—Glue Sticks
- 1—Bottle of School Glue
- 1—Box of Tissues
- 1—Bottle of Hand Sanitizer
- 1—Pair of Blunt Tip Scissors (Regular Scissors for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Graders)
- 1—Pencil Box
- 3—Plastic Pocket Folders with Brads
- 2—Wide Ruled Spiral Bound Notebooks
- 2—Primary Composition Notebooks
- 12—Pencil Crayons
- 2 Packages Wide Ruled Loose Leaf Paper (3rd Graders only)

**For elementary/middle
school students
(4th-8th Graders):**

- New Backpack
- 12—#2 Pencils
- 2—Glue Sticks
- 1—White Glue
- 2—Pink Erasers
- 1—White Eraser
- 1 Package Washable Felt Markers
- 1—Pair of Scissors
- 1—Pencil Case
- 10—Pocket Folders
- 2—Packages Lined Paper
- 1—Package Plain Paper
- 8—Lined Notebooks
- 2—Blue Pens
- 1—Red Pen
- 1—Ruler
- 1 Package Pencil Crayons
- 2—1” Binders
- 1—Package of Subject Dividers
- 1—Scientific Calculator
- 1—Geometry Set
- 1—Pocket Dictionary
- 1—Pencil Sharpener
- 1—Stapler
- 1—Staple Remover
- 3—Highlighters

**For High School
students
(9th-12th Grades):**

- New Backpack
- 12—#2 Pencils
- 2—Glue Sticks
- 1—White Glue
- 1—Pink Erasers
- 1—White Eraser
- 1—Package Washable Felt Markers
- 1—Pair of Scissors
- 1—Pencil Case
- 10—Pocket Folders
- 2 Packages Lined Paper
- 1 Package Plain Paper
- 8—Lined Notebooks
- 10—Blue Pens
- 3—Red Pen
- 1—Ruler
- 1 Pkg Pencil Crayons
- 2—1” Binders
- 8—Subject Dividers
- 1—Scientific Calculator
- 1—Geometry Set
- 1—Pocket Dictionary
- 1—Thesaurus
- 1—Agenda Book/Student Planner
- 1—Pencil Sharpener
- 1—Stapler
- 1—Staple Remover
- 3—Highlighters
- 1—Bottle Correction Fluid
- 1—Package Pencil Leads

Things to consider:

- Provide new supplies (not used).
 - Different school grades need different supplies; different school systems have their own supply lists that can usually be obtained online.
7. **Set date for beginning collections and for delivery to school.** Set the delivery date for backpacks with the principal or counselor at the school. Publicize the schedule for volunteers to fill backpacks before the delivery date.
8. **Evaluate the program's success.** After distribution of backpacks, closely review how successful the program has been with the following questions:
- Did the program run smoothly? If no, why not?
 - What problems or issues came up that were unprepared? How can these be handled better next time?
 - How good is the relationship with the school and individual teachers? What can you do to strengthen relationships within the school?
 - Do you feel you have successfully identified the students who need help? Or, do you feel some students have been overlooked who should be in the program?
 - Could the program be expanded to include more students and/or additional schools? What would that take?
9. **Consider other ways to help your schools.** The reality is that every school (especially high schools) are underfunded. Here are a few ways your congregation can make a difference without further outlay of cash:
- Use the **Target RED Card**, and Target will donate 1% of your purchases to a local school of your choice. Look for rewards programs from other retailers.
 - **Box Tops for Education** provides supplemental help to school budgets. For every Box Top clipped and redeemed, Box Tops for Education will send the school 10 cents, which the schools cause to purchase whatever they need. Since 1996, Box Tops for Education has given \$525 million to participating schools.
 - **Labels for Education** includes Campbell soup labels and is another way to help schools. Collect and turn in participating product labels to your local schools. These labels are converted into points that schools can use to “shop” a catalog of school supplies including academic, athletic and art supplies.
 - **Amazon Smile.** If you shop from Amazon.com, sign up in the Amazon Smile program. Sign up is free. Choose your charity, and Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the organization. If your school isn't listed, you can add it, and Amazon Smile will get them set up.
 - **Finding Grant Money.** There are agencies that provide help through grant monies for this kind of program. Check for grants available to your church through your state.

10. **Be aware that there are other models for this ministry.** The benefit of this model is that it provides the opportunity to develop long-term relationships with schools, administrators and teachers in your area. That is a lot of open ministry opportunities. However, many churches prefer to bring students and families onto the church property. Some have even made it a day for free haircuts, backpacks and clothing giveaways, as they address some of the other helps that these families need.

Remember that schools located in low-income areas receive less money from property taxes, and they do not receive the same kind of state funding that schools in more affluent neighborhoods tend to get. Therefore, designating your efforts for one of these schools will make a bigger difference to the school and its students.

What Next?

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BACKPACK MINISTRY

PROVIDING BACKPACKS FOR REFUGEES

Refugees come to the United States because they have no other choice. They’ve fled the violence in their homeland, desperate to find a place of peace where they and their families can begin fresh. Sadly, they’ve had to leave almost everything behind—their country, their culture, their language, their homes, their possessions, their livelihoods, their sense of safety and security, even family members and friends. After a harrowing journey to freedom, they arrive in America with practically nothing—except for their belief that there’s a better life waiting for them here.

Refugee Fatmata Bayoh was only eight-years-old when she and her family arrived. They left Sierra Leone too afraid to even say goodbye to friends and neighbors. Fatmata was enrolled in an American school, but she struggled to catch up with the other students, to grasp English and to be accepted by the other children. Fatmata just felt different than the other children.

Through an after-school program in her community, Fatmata received help with homework and took violin lessons. The music lessons led her to Christ: “I come from a Muslim background. I grew up Muslim. I remember hearing worship music back home; I remember it inside a church, but we were not allowed inside. When I came to the United States, I knew I could come inside church.” For Fatmata, coming to church was the first step in becoming who she was meant to be. She says, “I wanted to become a Christian. I love it. I love that it is who I am now—not a refugee, not some ‘poor thing’ people pity but a person. His.”

Refugees have been through a lot just to make it to the United States. They need a hand to help them begin again, to learn to resettle in a “far and distant land,” and to be able to succeed in this new land. The church is uniquely qualified and called to help refugees through this process.

Refugees In America

- In 2015, more than 65.3 million people (one in 113) in the world had been displaced from their homes by conflict or persecution.¹
- According to Global Trends, on average, 24 people were forced to flee every minute in 2015, four times as many as 10 years earlier when six people fled every 60 seconds.²
- Children made up 51% of the world's refugees in 2015; many of them traveled alone or without their parents.³
- The United States accepted approximately 85,000 refugees during 2016, with the largest numbers coming from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burma and Syria.⁴
- In 2016, 46% of refugees to the U.S. were Muslim, while 44% were Christian.⁵

The bottom line is this: Thousands of refugees and internationals arrive in the United States every year. You, and your church, can make a difference to the refugees and internationals in your community.

1 <http://www.unher.org/en-us/news/latest/2016/6/5763b65a4/global-forced-displacement-hits-record-high.html>.

2 Ibid.

4 Ibid.

3 Ibid.

5 Ibid.



Discover the Needs in your Community

Before you begin any new ministry, it is important to first take time to discover and understand the unique needs within your community. Explore the physical community, listen to and learn from people living and working in the area and seek God's guidance by prayer-driving and prayer-walking the neighborhood.

If you find that providing backpacks for refugees is a need in the community, keep reading! We have practical steps to help you get started.

To learn more about how to identify needs in your community, download [How Can We Serve? An In-Depth Guide to Discovering Community Needs.](#)

If not, [check out some of our other ministry guides](#) for opportunities that fit for your church's gifting and community's needs.



Strategically Considering Ministry Opportunities

Take the next step by enlisting a small group of people within the congregation to assess ministry opportunities by working through the following questions with you:

- **What partnerships in your community have you considered to meet this need and use this resource?** These could include government officials, school officials and teachers, other community churches and leaders, local shelters or other preestablished programs addressing refugees.
- **Who in your church is passionate and equipped to lead or participate in this ministry?** Consider children's workers, parents and/or families, teenagers or youth groups, Sunday School classes, senior adults—anyone with a desire to help provide resources to help those who have been displaced.
- **What resources and relationships has God given your church to support this ministry?** Consider missions offerings, other financial resources, church members who are connected to ministries, those with the gift of couponing and Sunday School classes as places to start.
- **What space can be used for collecting and stockpiling donations and for filling backpacks?** Consider unused classrooms, closets or members' home that can provide secure, dry storage.

These questions can lead this small group of local missionaries to determine whether or not:

1. There is a desire within the congregation to meet this need.
2. There are resources of people, space and money to meet this need.
3. This ministry is sustainable over time.
4. You feel God leading you as a congregation in this direction.

STARTING A BACKPACK MINISTRY

God may be moving you to be the catalyst of starting a ministry to refugees in your community. If so, where do you start? We've provided eight steps that can lead you to successfully engaging in this much-needed ministry:



- 1. Learn about refugees in America and your community.** Research the needs and issues of refugees in America and the world online. Identify areas in which immigrants and refugees have settled in your city. Locate community-based and faith-based programs which already work with refugees in your city.
- 2. Schedule meetings with local organizations who are involved with refugees.** Find out what is being done and what help is needed. Discuss the details of backpacks for refugees, and find out what the needs of the organization are. Carefully determine which organization meets the ministry needs your congregation has identified. If there are no local groups already involved in assisting refugees, move outward geographically by looking for possible ministry partners in your state or your region, or prayerfully consider beginning a program through your congregation.
- 3. Create a budget, including all the resources and materials you will need and a schedule for operating.** Answer each of these questions:
 - Based on the information you've received from local organizations, how much aid and support can and will the church commit to do? Determine how often supplies and backpacks will be collected from the congregation and passed on to local ministries for refugees. Or, determine how many backpacks you want to be able to distribute to refugees in your area.
 - How will you pay for the supplies for refugees' backpacks? (Possibilities: church budget, donations, grants, church-wide love offerings, fundraising, corporate donations, grocery store donations.)
 - How will supplies be purchased or collected? (By volunteers, donations of supplies and/or filled backpacks)
 - How and where will you store and pack backpacks before delivery?
 - When should collection of supplies and/or cash begin? When is the target deadline for the delivery of backpacks?

4. **Find volunteers.** You'll need a strong, dependable group of volunteers to keep your program organized and successful.

The **volunteer leader's** responsibilities include: enlisting additional volunteers, coordinating the transportation and delivery to local ministries, fundraising, and collecting of materials. The leader communicates with the local ministries about the program, keeps track of how well the program is working and coordinates events to raise money. Finally, the leader organizes the collection of supplies for refugee backpacks.

Other volunteers pack the backpacks and deliver them local ministry partners.

5. **Collect Backpack Items.** Begin collecting two months before established delivery date by providing a list of needed items (see below). Two weeks before delivery date, inventory items received, and purchase needed items using monetary donations. Many churches have success by asking church members to donate needed items. Some members will prefer to supply the entire contents for a backpack. Backpacks and/or boxes can be packed to meet a myriad of needs for refugees. Refugees arrive with almost nothing. Here are some suggestions:

- Provide **food items** like pasta cooking oil and rice to feed their families.
- Provide **cooking utensils and dishes** so families can prepare their own meals and keep their own culture alive.
- Provide **hygiene items** (soap, toothpaste and brushes, razors, shampoo, deodorant) to help refugees stay clean and healthy.
- Provide **newborn supplies** (bottles, blankets, diapers, formula) when needed.
- Provide **clothing for children**, especially for quickly growing youngsters.
- Provide **school supplies**, such as pencils, rulers, notebooks and backpacks to help prepare refugee children to go to school.
- Provide **stuffed animals** for comfort to small children who have had to leave toys behind.
- Provide **children's books** for kids to read and practice their English.
- Provide **soccer balls and shoes** to children who play. Since soccer is an international sport, it helps many refugee children heal from trauma and feel a sense of normalcy.

6. **Deliver Backpacks to Ministry Partner(s).** Set up a time and deliver backpacks to ministry partner(s). Pray over backpacks before they leave your location, and pray for them as they are delivered. Pray for the refugees who will receive them. As you are able, pray for the workers within the ministry partners.

7. **Evaluate the program's success.** After the first collection and delivery of backpacks, closely review how successful the project has been with the following questions:

- Did the project run smoothly? If no, why not?
- What problems or issues have come up that you were unprepared for? How can these be handled?
- How good is the relationship with the church and the local ministry partner? What can you do to strengthen those relationships?
- Could you expand the project to include more backpacks or additional ministry partners? What would that take?

8. Consider other ways to help refugees.

- Provide Bibles in the refugees' home language. Bibles in most languages can be found at AmericanBibleSociety.com. Evangelistic Bibles for Spanish readers are available at Shop.IronStreamMedia.com.
- Start a [prayer ministry](#) dedicated to refugees and internationals.
- [Donate](#) to help provide ministry to refugees and internationals through Send Relief.

What Next?

This is your opportunity to start meeting a huge need in your community...one refugee and one backpack at a time.

Take your next step on mission with Send Relief by not only helping your immediate neighborhood with backpacks, but also traveling to communities around the world who need your help! Learn more about Send Relief mission trips and get started today at SendRelief.org/Trips.



RESTORING DIGNITY SUPPLIES FOR FOSTER CARE MINISTRY

PROVIDING BAGS FOR FOSTER CARE

When Hope Church Las Vegas challenged its members to ask God how He wanted to use them in ministry, the Murray family prayed, and God answered. They became a licensed foster family. The Murrays expected to change the lives of children in foster care—what they didn't expect was the affect it would have on their biological son.

When their first placement arrived, teenager Nijel Murray noticed that the boy didn't have any clothes that fit.

“When we bought him clothes, he seemed so much happier,” Nijel says of his first foster brother. I thought this probably happens to a lot of kids in foster care, so I decided that I could do something.”

Nijel started Klothes 4 Kids. He hosts clothing drives and gift card drives, sometimes even forgoing birthday presents to raise more resources for the ministry. He delivers full bags of clothes and supplies to foster families with new placements. “My goal is to help as many kids as possible,” Nijel says.



Nijel Murray has provided duffel bags
full of clothes to dozens of kids.

**As the ministry grows, he is receiving
more requests from case workers and
foster parents in need of assistance.**

Churches are uniquely called and equipped to take care of those who are vulnerable, neglected and far from home. One thing the church can do is to create Restoring Dignity Backpacks or Duffel Bags that will give children some things of their own to help them settle into foster homes.

Discover the Needs in your Community

Before you begin any new ministry, it is important to first take time to discover and understand the unique needs within your community. Explore the physical community, listen to and learn from people living and working in the area and seek God's guidance by prayer-driving and prayer-walking the neighborhood.

If you find that providing Restoring Dignity Bags to children as they go into foster care is a need in the community, keep reading! We have practical steps to help you get started.

To learn more about how to identify needs in your community, download [*How Can We Serve? An In-Depth Guide to Discovering Community Needs.*](#)

If not, [check out some of our other ministry guides](#) for opportunities that fit for your church's gifting and community's needs.

Foster Care in America

- Each year more than 390,000 children and teenagers are in foster care, and about 210,000 move in and out of the system.¹
- Many children have been victims of frequent abuse and continued neglect.
- Children in foster care have much higher rates of physical, developmental and mental concerns than children outside the foster care system.²
- Children and teens in the U.S. end up in foster care because of: neglect (75%), physical abuse (18%), sexual abuse (8%), psychological and other types of neglect (7%).³ (Because some children/teens suffered from more than one type of maltreatment, the percentages exceed 100%.)

These children and teens are often removed from their homes with nothing but the clothes on their backs. Providing these children with new clothes, toiletries and items of comfort help them begin to feel safe as they walk through times of transition. Restoring Dignity Backpacks or Duffel Bags can help meet this need.

1 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau, <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/cb/afcars-report-29.pdf>

2 "Health Care Issues for Children and Adolescents in Foster Care and

Kinship Care," American Academy of Pediatrics, v. 136, no. 4, October 2015, <https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/136/4/e1142>

3 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration of Children and Families, "Child Maltreatment," January 25, 2016; <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/resource/child-maltreatment-2014>.



The bottom line is this:

*Children in foster care need help and support.
You and your church can make a difference!*

Strategically Considering Ministry Opportunities

Take the next step by enlisting a small group of people within the congregation to assess ministry opportunities by working through the following questions:

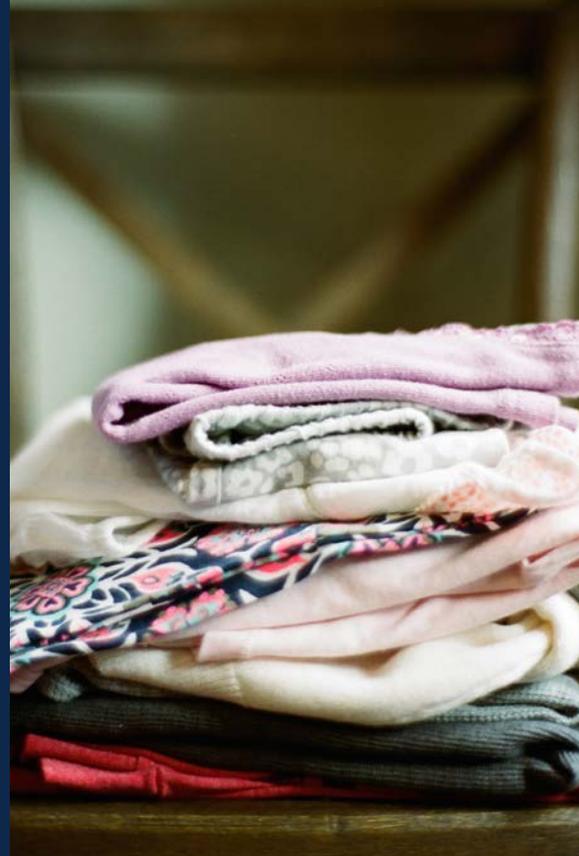
- **What partnerships in your community have you considered connecting to meet this need and use this resource?** These could include government officials, foster agencies, other community churches and leaders, local children's homes or other preestablished programs addressing foster care.
- **Who in your church is passionate and equipped to lead or participate in this ministry?** Consider children's workers, parents and/or families, teenagers or youth groups, Sunday school classes, senior adults—anyone with a desire to help provide resources to help the children entering foster care.
- **What resources and relationships has God given your church to support this ministry?** Consider missions offerings, other financial resources, church members who are connected to local child welfare agencies, those with the gift of couponing and Sunday school classes as places to start.
- **What space can be used to collect and stockpile donations and for filling backpacks/duffels?** Consider unused classrooms, closets or storage units that can provide secure, dry storage.

These questions can lead this small group of local missionaries to determine whether or not:

1. There is a desire within the congregation to meet this need.
2. There are resources of people, space and money to meet this need.
3. This ministry is sustainable over time.
4. You feel God leading you as a congregation in this direction.

STARTING A FOSTER CARE BAG MINISTRY

God may be moving you to be the catalyst of starting a ministry to children in the foster care system in your community. If so, where do you start? We've provided eight steps that can lead you to successfully meeting this much-needed ministry:



1. **Learn about the needs of foster children in America.** Research the needs and issues of foster children in America.
2. **Schedule meetings with local organizations who are involved in helping children going into foster care locally.** Find out what is being done and what help is needed. Discuss the details of Restoring Dignity Backpacks or Duffel Bags, and find out what the needs of the organization are. Carefully determine which organization meets the ministry needs your congregation has identified. If there are no local groups already involved in helping children going into foster care, move outward geographically by looking for possible ministry partners in your state or your region.
3. **Make a budget, including all the resources and materials you will need and a schedule for operating.** Answer each of these questions:
 - Based on the information you've received from local organizations, how much aid and support will the church commit to do? Determine how often supplies and backpacks/duffels will be collected from the congregation and passed on to local ministries for children in foster care. Recognize that this need is ongoing.
 - How will you pay for Restoring Dignity supplies? (Possibilities: church budget, donations, grants, church-wide love offerings, fundraising, corporate donations, discount store donations.)
 - How will supplies be purchased or collected? (By volunteers, donations of supplies and/or filled backpacks/duffels)
 - How and where will you store and pack backpacks/duffels before delivery?
 - When should collection of supplies and/or cash begin? When is the target deadline for the delivery of backpacks/duffels?

4. **Find volunteers.** You'll need a strong, dependable group of volunteers to keep your program organized and successful.

The **volunteer leader's** responsibilities include: enlisting additional volunteers, coordinating the transportation and delivery to local ministries, and fundraising. The leader communicates with the local ministries about the program, keeps track of how well the program is working, and coordinates events to raise money. Finally, the leader organizes the collection of supplies for Restoring Dignity Backpacks or Duffels.

Other volunteers pack the backpacks/duffels and deliver them to local ministry partners.

5. **Collect backpack/duffel Items.** Begin collecting two months before established delivery date by providing a list of needed items (see below). Two weeks before delivery date, inventory items received, and purchase needed items using monetary donations. Many churches have success by asking church members to donate needed items. Some members will prefer to supply the entire contents for a backpack/duffel. Suggested items per backpack/duffel:

Each backpack/duffel should be labeled with sizes and gender. The clothing items in each bag should be new and the same size.

| Babies & Toddlers | Older Children | Teens |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Backpack or duffel bag• Set of pajamas• 3 Outfits• Socks• Small blanket or other comfort item• Age-appropriate Bible• Age-appropriate small toy• Diapers or trainers• Wipes | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Backpack or duffel bag• Set of pajamas• 3 Outfits• Socks• Underwear• Comfort items like a stuffed animal• Age-appropriate Bible• Age-appropriate small toy• Toothbrush & toothpaste | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Backpack or duffel bag• Jeans and shorts• Tops• Pajamas or lounge pants• Socks• Underwear• Comfort item• Bible• Journal/pens• Toothbrush & toothpaste• Deodorant |

Label each bag according to gender and age.

6. **Deliver Restoring Dignity Backpacks or Duffels to ministry partner(s).** Set up a time and deliver bags to ministry partner(s). Pray over bags before they leave your location, and pray for them as they are delivered. Pray for the children who will receive them. As you are able, pray for the workers within the ministry partners.

7. **Evaluate the program's success.** After the first collection and delivery of Restoring Dignity Backpacks or Duffels, closely review how successful the project has been with the following questions:
- Did the project run smoothly? If not, why not?
 - What problems or issues have come up for which you were unprepared? How can these be handled?
 - How good is the relationship with the church and the local ministry partner? What can you do to strengthen those relationships?
 - Could you expand the project to include more bags or additional ministry partners? What would that take?
8. **Consider other ways to help children going into foster care and their foster families.**
- Begin a prayer ministry in the church for the children, the workers and the families within the foster care system. [Here's a list of prayer concerns.](#)
 - Learn how to expand your ministry by starting a [Family Advocacy Ministry \(FAM\).](#)

What's Next?

This is your opportunity to meet a huge need in your community...one child, one family and one bag at a time.

Take your next step on mission with Send Relief by not only helping your immediate neighborhood with backpacks, but also traveling to communities around the world who need your help! Learn more about Send Relief mission trips and get started today at SendRelief.org/Trips.



BACKPACK MINISTRY

PROVIDING BACKPACKS FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

Addie met a guy at school who just seemed to “get her.” He understood her weaknesses and her vulnerabilities. She thought he really cared about her. She trusted him. When he offered to take her to New Orleans, a place she had always wanted to visit, she gladly went along. There, the unimaginable happened. Addie was sold to a human trafficker who took her to a hotel and advertised her services through social media.

Addie’s story has a happy ending. While in the hotel room, she saw a bar of soap in the bathroom that had the Human Trafficking Hotline phone number on it. Addie was able to call the hotline and was rescued.

Because of the work of the Baptist Friendship House in New Orleans, those bars of soap have been placed in all New Orleans hotels. The Baptist Friendship House in New Orleans ministers to homeless women and children in the city. Many of them are survivors of human trafficking. One way the center provides help to these survivors is through backpacks that provide clothing and toiletries. Kay Bennett, the founder of Baptist

Friendship House, explains that one common misconception is that human trafficking happens only overseas. Her perception was changed when someone talked to a resident in the Friendship House and tried to buy the resident's one-year-old daughter to sell into sex slavery. Kay says, "That was eye opening for our ministry. How much closer can it get than right across the street?"

Discover the Needs in your Community

Before you begin any new ministry, it is important to first take time to discover and understand the unique needs within your community. Explore the physical community, listen to and learn from people living and working in the area and seek God's guidance by prayer-driving and prayer-walking the neighborhood.

If you find that providing backpacks for the victims of human trafficking is a need in the community, keep reading! We have practical steps to help you get started.

To learn more about how to identify needs in your community, download [*How Can We Serve? An In-Depth Guide to Discovering Community Needs*](#).

If not, [check out some of our other ministry guides](#) for opportunities that fit for your church's gifting and community's needs.



Human Trafficking In America

- The International Labor Organization estimates that there are over 40.3 million victims of human trafficking globally.¹
- Estimates suggest somewhere between 20 to 30 million people are held in some form of slavery.²
- Every year, 600,000 to 800,00 people are forcibly trafficked across international borders. Of these, 80% are female; half are children.³
- Eighty percent of those trafficked are for sexual reasons; nineteen percent involves labor exploitation.⁴
- The average age of minors being placed in the sex industry in America is 12-14 years old.⁵
- Many of the victims in America are runaway teens who have been sexually abused as children.⁶

The bottom line is this: People who have been trafficked are all around you, usually hidden in plain sight. You, and your church, can make a difference to these victims!

1 "Human Trafficking: The Facts," Polaris Project, available at www.polarisproject.org/human-trafficking/facts.

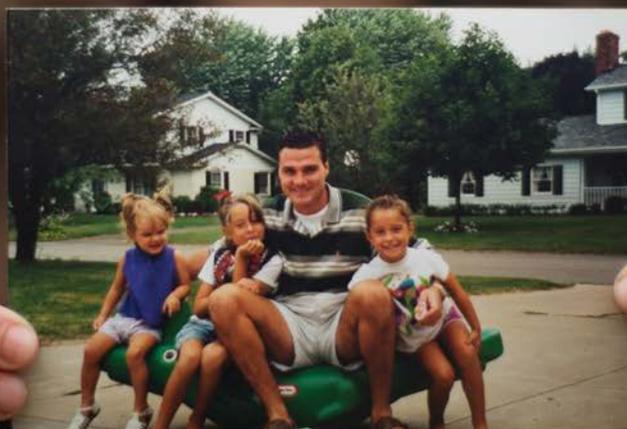
2 Alliance for Freedom, Restoration, and Justice.

3 "11 Facts about Human Trafficking," DoSomething.org.

4 Ibid.

5 The National Report on Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking: America's Prostituted Children, Shared Hope International, May 2009.

6 The Federal Bureau of Investigation's Efforts to Combat Crimes Against Children, Audit Report 09-08, January 2009.



Strategically Considering Ministry Opportunities

Take the next step by enlisting a small group of people within the congregation to assess ministry opportunities by working through the following questions with you:

- **What partnerships in your community have you considered connecting to meet this need and use this resource?** These could include government officials, school officials and teachers, other community churches and leaders, local shelters, or other preestablished programs addressing human trafficking victims.
- **Who in your church is passionate and equipped to lead or participate in this ministry?** Consider children's workers, parents and/or families, teenagers or youth groups, Sunday School classes, senior adults — anyone with a desire to help provide resources to help those who have been human trafficking victims.
- **What resources and relationships has God given your church to support this ministry?** Consider missions offerings, other financial resources, church members who are connected to local schools, those with the gift of couponing, and Sunday School classes as places to start.
- **What space can be used for collecting and stockpiling donations, and for filling backpacks?** Consider unused classrooms, closets, or members' home that can provide secure, dry storage.

These questions can lead this small group of local missionaries to determine whether or not:

1. There is a desire within the congregation to meet this need.
2. There are resources of people, space and money to meet this need.
3. This ministry is sustainable over time.
4. You feel God leading you as a congregation in this direction.

STARTING A BACKPACK MINISTRY

God may be moving you to be the catalyst of starting a ministry to survivors of human trafficking in your community. If so, where do you start? We've provided eight steps that can lead you to successfully meeting this much-needed ministry:



- 1. Learn about Human Trafficking in America.** Research the needs and issues of human trafficking in America and the world online. Two sites to begin are [AFRJ \(Alliance for Freedom, Restoration, and Justice\)](#) and the [Polaris Project](#).
- 2. Schedule meetings with local organizations who are involved with survivors of human trafficking locally.** Find out what is being done and what help is needed. Discuss the details of backpacks, and find out what the needs of the organization are. Carefully determine which organization meets the ministry needs your congregation has identified. If there are no local groups already involved in addressing human trafficking, move outward geographically by looking for possible ministry partners in your state or your region.
- 3. Make a budget, including all the resources and materials you will need, and a schedule for operating.** Determine the answers to each of these questions:
 - Based on the information you've received from local organizations, how much aid and support will the church commit to do? Determine how often supplies and backpacks will be collected from the congregation and passed on to local ministries for trafficking victims.
 - How will you pay for backpacks and supplies? (Possibilities: church budget, donations, grants, church-wide love offerings, fundraising, corporate donations, grocery store donations.)
 - How will supplies be purchased or collected? (By volunteers, donations of supplies and/or filled backpacks)
 - How and where will you store and pack backpacks before delivery?
 - When should collection of supplies and/or cash begin? When is the target deadline for the delivery of backpacks?
- 4. Find volunteers.** You'll need a strong, dependable group of volunteers to keep your program organized and successful.

The **volunteer leader's** responsibilities include: enlisting additional volunteers, coordinating the transportation and delivery to local ministries and fundraising. The leader communicates with the local ministries about the program, keeps track of how well the program is working and coordinates events to raise money. Finally, the leader organizes the collection of supplies for Backpacks for Restoration.

Other volunteers pack the backpacks and deliver them local ministry partners.

- 5. Collect Backpack Items.** Begin collecting two months before established delivery date by providing a list of needed items (see below). Two weeks before delivery date, inventory items received, and purchase needed items using monetary donations.

Many churches have good success by asking church members to donate needed items. Some members will prefer to supply the entire contents for a backpack. Each backpack should be labeled with sizes—either small, medium, large or extra-large. The clothing items in each bag should be the same size and new. Hygiene items should be travel size and should not have any hotel logo or name on them. Make sure the toothbrush is in an unopened pack to avoid contact with the bar of soap. Feminine hygiene items can be packed in a single storage bag

Suggested Items per backpack:

| Clothing: | Hygiene Items: | Other useful items: |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sweatpants • Sweatshirt • T-shirt • Underwear and Sports Bra • Socks • Sunglasses (to help the victim feel safe) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shampoo & Conditioner • Lotion • Deodorant • Soap • Washcloth & Towel • Toothbrush & Toothpaste • Hair Brush • Hair Bands • Feminine hygiene products • Make-up | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note of Encouragement • Fleece Blanket or Weighted Blanket • Bible • Journal and Pen • Prepackaged, Non-perishable Snacks • Grocery Store Gift Card • Gift Card to Local Restaurant |

- 6. Deliver Backpacks of Restoration to ministry partner(s).** Set up a time and deliver backpacks to ministry partner(s). Pray over backpacks before they leave your location, and pray for them as they are delivered. Pray for the victims who will receive them. As you are able, pray for the workers within the ministry partners.

7. **Evaluate the program's success.** After the first collection and delivery of backpacks, closely review how successful the project has been with the following questions:

- Did the project run smoothly? If no, why not?
- What problems or issues have come up that you were you unprepared for? How can these be handled?
- How good is the relationship with the church and the local ministry partner? What can you do to strengthen those relationships?
- Could you expand the project to include more backpacks and/or additional ministry partners? What would that take?

8. **Consider other ways to help human trafficking survivors.**

- **Baptist Friendship House** in New Orleans has a ministry to women and children who are homeless and/or survivors of human trafficking. They accept donations of cash and supplies at BaptistFriendshipHouse.org.
- Pray for victims of human trafficking using the [Send Relief prayer guide](#).
- Check with your local and state law enforcement agencies to see what needs they have in their work with human trafficking victims.

What Next?

This is your opportunity to meet a huge need in your community...
one survivor and one backpack at a time.

Take your next step on mission with Send Relief by not only helping your immediate neighborhood with backpacks, but also traveling to communities around the world who need your help! Learn more about Send Relief mission trips and get started today at SendRelief.org/Trips.



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