

Kits for a Cause 2017

The Lehigh Valley Regional Homelessness Advisory Board, in conjunction with the Disability Friendly Community network, invites members of faith communities to once again help provide survival kits to be distributed to homeless people in the Lehigh Valley this winter through the annual Kits for a Cause campaign.

Beginning now and running through the end of November, Kits for a Cause is seeking the donation of personal care items most needed by individuals who have no home and who sleep outdoors. Volunteers will assemble the donated items into backpacks for distribution to the homeless people that enumerators encounter during the annual Point-in-Time count in Lehigh and Northampton counties in January. Last year, eight churches and other organizations contributed enough items to produce 215 backpacks.

Please consider establishing a collection site and organizing a “Kits for a Cause” campaign in your congregation or place of employment. The steps are straightforward: Form a small committee of one or two persons, post or circulate the attached flyer, promote the project during worship services and provide a collection bin or box at a central collection site. Collect items and store them until Thanksgiving. After November 30th, contact campaign coordinator Bob Wittman to arrange for the pickup of the donations. Kits for a Cause volunteers will assemble the survival kits in backpacks and deliver them to the organizations assisting in the January Point-in-Time count.

Volunteer enumerators use the kits to engage the homeless people they encounter the night of the count in a discussion about resources and other assistance that’s available to help them obtain a place to live.

The Regional Homelessness Advisory Board secures the federal funding distributed to homelessness programs throughout the region annually and works as a coalition on innovative approaches to addressing the needs of people struggling with homelessness. The Disability Friendly Community is a network of consumers with disabilities along with caregivers, advocates and service providers who are working together to create a community that is inclusive, accessible and welcoming.

To register your congregation in the “Kits for a Cause” campaign, please contact:

Bob Wittman, campaign coordinator
Disability Friendly Community
Bob4DFC@ptd.net
610. 770. 9542

For additional information about local homeless services, contact:

The Lehigh Conference of Churches
Contact: Deanne Best Email: DMalacsics@lehighchurches.org

New Bethany Ministries
Contact: Pamela Lewis Email: plewis@newbethanyministries.org

When you have no place to live, simple things can make a **BIG** difference.

You can make a difference! Participate in this year's
KITS FOR A CAUSE CAMPAIGN

Sponsored by the Lehigh Valley Regional Homelessness Advisory Board
and the Partnership for a Disability Friendly Community*

You can help by donating whatever you can from the list below. The campaign concludes on November 30, 2017. Volunteers will assemble the donations into personal care kits that will be distributed to homeless people during the annual Point-in-Time count in January 2018.

<i>KITS FOR A CAUSE Wish List:</i>	✓ Socks (new)
✓ New/Lightly Used Backpacks	✓ Deodorant
✓ Batteries	✓ Toothbrush/Toothpaste
✓ Rain Poncho	✓ Soap/Shampoo
✓ Can Opener	✓ Feminine Hygiene Products
✓ Duct Tape	✓ Toilet Paper/Tissues
✓ Candles (pillar or jar)	✓ Hand Sanitizer
✓ Gift Card	✓ Comb
✓ Flashlight	✓ First Aid Kit

*In conjunction with the Lehigh Conference of Churches and New Bethany Ministries.

For additional information, please contact Bob Wittman, campaign coordinator: Bob4DFC@ptd.net or 610. 770. 9542