

A MESSAGE FROM ROBIN EGDISH

I am excited to share the start of a new project with our Congregation. We are tying it into the theme of Tikkun Olam, repairing the world, and making it a better place. I share this message with the hope that our NJC community will make a difference for children in foster care.

My husband and I were foster parents to 2 boys. When we picked them up to bring them to our home, they had a shredded bag with unusable and unwearable items. This is how many children come to their host families.

The goal of this project is to provide backpacks for children with numerous items included to provide a sense of hope and stability when first entering the Foster Care System. The items include a backpack, a blanket, pajamas, toothpaste, toothbrushes, 3-in-one shampoo, conditioner, and body wash, a brush or comb, hair elastics, socks, washcloths, coloring book, crayons, a reading book (age appropriate), a toy, and stuffed animal. We have connected with Southwest Children's Network which is the lead agency for child welfare services in Circuit 20 which covers Hendry, Glades, Lee, and Collier Counties including Immokalee. These bags will be brought to Camelot Community Care which is part of the SW Children's Network on South Horseshoe Dr. in Naples and then distributed to the children as determined by the Children's Welfare Agency. There are over 400,000 children in foster care in the United States at any given time. Approximately 700 children enter the Foster Care System daily.

A group of 15 women in the Fort Myers area started this project approximately 6 years ago and together we continue providing backpacks. We choose to purchase items for children from 2 to 5 years old and only through donations can we continue to do this. It is an ongoing project and one we do throughout the year. Each backpack has \$50.00 dollars of items in them. I ask you to support these children as part of the NJC commitment to Tikkun Olam.

Order your filled backpack today. Please make checks payable to Naples Jewish Congregation, P.O. Box 111994, Naples, FL 34108, or [CLICK HERE](#) to pay by credit card.