

HOLIDAY GIFT BAG PROJECT

Sharing Love and Hope with WOMEN Behind Bars

History: Since 2001 --- Volunteers and Donors have prepared Holiday Gift Bags for the Women incarcerated at the Central California Women's Facility in Chowchilla.

This year our Goal is to Bless 2500 Women with a Holiday Gift!!!

Process: ALL YEAR LONG --- We purchase, collect and sort items for the ladies.

Next starting in October, volunteers package the individual bags for EACH woman to have her own bag. Then in Early December, the completed Gift bags are delivered to the prison, and finally distributed to the inmates before Christmas by staff members.

Current Requests for Donated Items:

Greeting Cards -- ALL Holidays, Special Occasions, Life Events, Post Cards

On Cards --- NO Glitter, No Glued-on Items, No Stickers -- (per CCWF Guidelines)

Candy Canes -- individually sealed

Hot Chocolate -- individually sealed packets,

Coffee -- freeze-dried single serve packets, not pods or hotel packs

Tea Bags -- individually sealed packets

Pencils -- regular or colored, not mechanical, clickable or retractable

Pens -- with lids, regular or colored, not mechanical, clickable or retractable

Emery Boards -- not metal or with sharp points

Lip Balm -- stick type only, not round balls, medicinal, glosses or lipsticks

Toothbrushes -- individually sealed packages



Please Call for Drop-Off Hours --- at these two locations

Wesley United Methodist Church

559-224-1947

Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno (UUCF)

559-322-6146

Prefer to Shop Online: "LIVE" Wishlist --- **Click here: [Amazon - Direct Shopping Link](#)**

Greatest Need: ***** Cash Donations ***** This Project can not continue without them.

Your Cash donations **are immensely appreciated** to allow the program volunteers, (we have no paid staff), to make cost effective bulk purchases of items and packaging supplies.

Cash donations mail to: UU Church of Fresno, 2672 E. Alluvial Ave., Fresno, CA 93720.

Make checks payable to UUCF and write **"CCWF Holiday Gift Bags"** on the memo line.

Questions on how to Support, Volunteer, Donate, and/or Lead a Packing Team

Contact our UUCF Liaison -Cheyenne Jenvey livevertically77@gmail.com

Sending a Big Hello to you!!!

We are reaching out today because you have asked for more information OR have been a prior supporter of the Holiday Gift Bag (HGB) Project for the women in the CCWF Chowchilla prison system, (previously coordinated by the Inmate Family Council). Through the giving of many people's Time, Talents, and Treasures we have been able to provide gift bags for between 2000–4000 women for over 20 years! **Yaaaaaaay Team!!!**

This is a project coordinated completely by volunteers. We had to be extremely creative during the pandemic to continue this outreach, and are thrilled to report that we were able to deliver a Holiday Gift Bag for each woman for every Christmas season so far.

Key Reminder: Often this is the ONLY gift that they receive all year long!!! 🎁💜🎁

One of our favorite sayings is that "Many Hands Make Light Work". Like many organizations, currently due to limitations in volunteers, space, time, and finances, we need to change the way we work together if we wish to keep this project located in the Central Valley of California.

Would you be willing to commit to support us with your: Body, Mind, Soul, and Spirit?

BODY - Provides Physical Muscles or Transportation for delivering items to/from donors to sorting teams, stacking boxes in storage locations, participating in packing days, and assisting with delivery of the completed Holiday Gift Bags to the Chowchilla prison in December.

MIND - Ability to Lead or Participate in a Sorting, Counting, and Packing Team.

No group size is too small or too large. It is Consistency of Commitment with each task given that matters for this part of the project.

For example - You can be a team of ONE in your own home working with the HGB items, if that is your preference.

SOUL - Desire to become a Designated Liaison and Contact Person for your: church, service organization, community group, friends, and family members. Intentionally Reaching Out to others through phone calls, texts, direct messages, emails, and outreach presentations to spread this ministry opportunity and request donations.

SPIRIT - Supporting us through Donations of Approved Items, Cash Donations, and Prayer Support
You will find our HGB Informational Flyer attached. This will provide you with additional information on our Project's History, Process, and the CURRENT Items we are planning to collect and purchase for this year. [Prefer to Shop Online: "LIVE" Wishlist --- Click here: Amazon - Direct Shopping Link](#)

I would love to speak with you directly to answer any questions you may have, and be able to solidify how YOU would like to serve with us this year --- **using YOUR Strong Body, Sound Mind, Joyful Soul and Willing Spirit.** 🙏👊🙏