

BCC Blessing Box

Hello all volunteers. Thank you, thank you, thank you! We appreciate your assistance with this ministry! After having monitored the monitors for a few months, I have a few observations and suggestions. In no order:

1. It seems the Blessing Box primarily serves individuals who are on-the-go (vs. families who can go home and cook). When donations come in, I suggest focusing on putting out single serving items, pop-top items, things that can be eaten cold, out of the package.
2. Put ramen out too - people must be getting hot water somewhere because ramen is disappearing.
3. No pressure, but if you have the time and inclination, you can take large packages of cookies, crackers, cereal etc. and divide it into single serve portions. There are baggies in a kitchen drawer. Last week I bagged up Q-tips. If not, I will be checking out the back stock and I can pack it up.
4. With packages of snack crackers etc, please open the package and put out the single servings (not a whole cello-wrapped 12-pack).
5. Big packages (e.g. chicken, tuna, peanut butter), things that have to be cooked (beans, rice, corn muffin mix, boxed mac and cheese, cereal etc), cans that need a can opener, and large toiletries (big bottles of shampoo or lotion) can go on the shelf directly to the right of the blessing box stock. Jan will take these items to our "CELN" pantry (Center for Early Learning families).
6. We have recently been finding donated clothes and toys in the box. Unfortunately, these have been worn or smell of cigarette smoke. We don't have a way to deal with these and I have been throwing them away. I put a sign on the blessing box asking visitors to NOT leave such things. :(

FINALLY - I have discovered that packaged plastic utensils (sometimes with salt/pepper or a napkin) are POPULAR! BCC had a lot of these from past Olive Garden and HyVee catering. If they are all gone from the box, please put a couple of hands full out there from the shelf. AND IF YOU HAVE ANY of these in a drawer at home, we would love to have more donated!

Please feel free to email me with any questions or observations!

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