Milwaukee Chapter Basic Needs

My Stuff Bags Program Self Esteem Building

**Timing, duration, frequency of program**

Monthly except for July

**Fiscal Information**

Budgeted expense total for program last year: $19,345.36

Value of in-kind donations (estimated total): Hard to estimate. They have received in kind donations from 7 parishes, two outlet stores and two dental associations who donated 1900 toothbrushes and 1000 tooth paste tubes. They have also received 7 grants totaling $12,000.00 including a $7,000.00 grant from the Green Bay Packer Foundation.

**Partnerships**

Meta House, Children’s Services, New Horizon Center, Cathedral Center, Milwaukee Woman’s Center, Penfield Children’s Center

What role does your partner(s) have in the program? They distribute My Stuff Bags directly to children when they are being removed from their homes because of abuse, neglect, or disaster.

**Clients**

Number of children/families served your last fiscal year: 800+

Age range of clients served: infant to 18

**Volunteers**

How many volunteers participate in this program (planning and working): 45

What roles do the volunteers have in this program?

1. Chairmen send out reminders to selected agencies a week before our assembly date to learn number of My Stuff Bags that were distributed and an estimate of the number of My Stuff Bags that are needed.

2. On the 1st Thursday of each month (except July) , volunteers meet at 9:00 am to assemble My Stuff Bags. They

average between 85-95 assembled bags at each session.

3. The chairmen deliver assembled bags to the agencies.

4. The chairmen send out donation requests in October for Advent donations to parishes.

5. The chairmen also deliver yarn to two prisons and then pick up finished hats, mittens and scarves knit by

prisoners with yarn that we provide.

**Program Description**

Overall goal of this program: To provide comfort to children who have experienced abuse, neglect or a crisis and remind them that someone does care about them

What service/materials do you provide to your clients? A pair of pajamas, 2 pair of underpants, 2 shirts, 2 pair of socks, stuffed animal, nerf ball, Toothbrush, Toothpaste, a hairbrush. And in Winter a knitted hat, scarf, and mittens. All these items are packed in a blue canvas bag with a special place on the bag for the child to write his name.

To produce, assemble and distribute My Stuff Bags, volunteers:

● Purchase clothing items in a variety of sizes (Sizes 2-18) for boys and girls

● Solicit donations from members, parishes, and community organizations

● Clip tags off clothes, stuffed animals, and hairbrushes

● Sort donated clothes by size and sex into labeled bins

● Set up bins for the assembly of the My Stuff Bags

● Check in volunteers on the 1st Thursday of the month

● Assemble My Stuff bags

● Arrange My Stuff Bags by size and sex

● Deliver yarn to prisons

● Pick up knitted hats scarves and mittens from prisons

● In Winter, match hats, scarves, and mittens by color and size

● Deliver My Stuff bags to shelters and social service agencies

● Research additional shelters or social service agencies who need our services adding them if funds allow.

● Knit hats scarves and mittens

● Spread the word to parishes about our My Stuff Bag Program by becoming a Parish Liaison

● Write detailed grant requests for our My Stuff Bag Program to foundations

● Solicit donations (in kind as well as monetary) from members of the community, community organizations and human concerns committees

● Write personalized thank you notes acknowledging all donations

This is a very worthwhile project that truly helps children in need.

Contact: milwaukee@nationalchristchild.org