



Birthday Boxes DIY Project

Civic Circle Area: Donate

The impact of COVID-19 continues to change our daily lives and routines, but volunteering and civic engagement are just as important as ever. This project can be modified to adhere to social distancing guidelines set by local and national authorities, to do virtually or to do at home and deliver via mail or drop off.

Birthday parties are the best, but it can be hard to celebrate your special day if you're living in a shelter or adjusting to a new family in foster care. Help kids and teens celebrate their birthday by donating birthday boxes to your local homeless shelter or social service agency!

Why Is It important?

Everyone deserves to be celebrated on their birthday. For the over 400,000 kids in foster care and close to 2 million kids living in shelters or on the streets in the United States, birthdays are often forgotten. You can help change that and spread a little joy to other kids on their birthdays by donating kits filled with everything they need to celebrate their special day.

What You Need:

- A plastic container or shoe box with a lid
- Cake mix
- Frosting
- Sprinkles
- Candles
- Markers
- Birthday Card

Optional:

- Birthday banner
- Bubbles
- Chalk
- Necklaces
- Birthday hats
- Crayons
- Bouncy balls
- Stickers
- Candy

Steps:

1. Call your local shelter or foster care agency and let them know what you are interested in doing and ask if they will accept your donation.
2. Assemble your Birthday Boxes. Lay out all the items and put one of each item in the boxes, making sure the lids can close.



3. Decorate the box with inspirational and encouraging messages or pictures.
4. Write a special note to the box recipient on the birthday card.
5. Take the boxes to your local shelter or foster care agency.

Reflection Questions:

- How do you think the kids that got the birthday boxes felt when they received the donation?
- What did you learn from this project?
- What would you do differently?
- What other things could you do to help kids in shelters, on the streets, or in foster care?