



## Shelter Readiness 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.*

There are lots of reasons families end up in shelters - they might have nowhere else to turn, be displaced because of a natural disaster, or be a veteran who has no other options. Lend a helping hand to support homeless shelters in preparing for a natural disaster so they can serve your community in times of need.

### Pre-Project Discussion:

Interview the director of a local homeless shelter about their needs during a natural disaster.

- Where should residents go when there is a disaster?
- How many people do they typically serve during a crisis?
- What is the shelter's disaster plan?
- Are there rules about bringing pets to shelters?
- What food and emergency supplies do they need on hand?

Take notes about what the shelter needs most.

### What You Need:

- Poster-making supplies
- Boxes for collecting donations
- Supplies determined by your needs assessment with the shelter

### Steps:

1. Gather friends and family to make a plan to help the homeless shelter gather supplies and meet their disaster preparation needs.
2. Obtain the materials requested by the homeless shelter by holding a drive, organizing a fundraiser or asking local organizations for help. Advertise your campaign with posters and on social media.
3. Collect money and supplies and store them in boxes in a clean, dry, locked place.
4. When the collection period is over, have someone drive the supplies to the homeless shelter. Help put the supplies away.

### Reflection Questions:

- What did you learn about the mission of your local homeless shelter?
- What services do they offer?
- How do they prepare for disasters?



- How does the homeless shelter typically receive funding and materials? How do they typically get volunteers?
- Did you have any misconceptions about homeless shelters before this project?
- What surprised you?