

# HOLIDAY BASKET and GIFT CARD SUGGESTIONS 2018

These are just suggestions, feel free to be creative.

We suggest putting basket items in a sturdy reusable grocery bag or cardboard box. Families may not have room for laundry baskets or buckets.

## Food Baskets – Nonperishable items ONLY

- Suggested items: peanut butter, basic cereal, applesauce, oatmeal, spaghetti sauce, tuna, chicken, rice, pasta, pancake mix and syrup, flour, sugar, brown sugar, spices, olive oil, PAM spray, mustard, ketchup, honey, salad dressing, crackers, granola bars, tea, hot chocolate mix, etc.
- **Please avoid**
  - EXPIRED ITEMS.
  - Coffee – hard to get the right types
  - Specialty/fancy foods – these are not helpful to most of the families
  - Giant size packages of anything (space may be limited)
  - Large amounts of canned vegetables, fruits, and soups - those are not as healthy and many of the families try to avoid them.

## Cleaning Supply Baskets

- Suggested items: all-purpose cleaners, kitchen soap, sponges, Handiwipes, toilet cleaner, glass cleaner, laundry soap, stain remover, bleach, Lysol wipes, rubber gloves, baggies, kitchen trash bags, aluminum foil, paper towels, toilet paper, etc.
- **Please avoid** dishwasher soap (many don't have dishwashers).

## Toiletry Baskets

- Suggested items: toothpaste, toothbrushes, floss, shampoo, conditioner, comb/brush, bath/hand soaps, bath gel, Band-aids, lotions, basic medicines (Neosporin, Tylenol, Tums, Benadryl, Advil, Aleve, etc.), thermometer, disposable razors, feminine products, hand sanitizer, cotton balls, heating pad/ice pack, etc.
- **Please avoid**
  - Hotel samples
  - Lice shampoo and Nit combs

## **College Baskets**

- Snack foods such as granola bars, popcorn, snack mixes, nuts mixes, tea, hot chocolate packets, etc.
- Toiletries such as toothpaste, toothbrush, lip balm, comb, brush, lotions, shower gel, disposable razors, Tylenol, Band-aids, nail polish, feminine products, laundry soap, etc.
- Colds spread quickly on college campuses so items such as Lysol wipes, hand sanitizer, vitamins, cough drops, cold medicine, box chicken noodle soup, etc.
- Basic school supplies that need replenishing such as highlighters, pens, college-ruled notebooks, post-it-notes, etc.
- Other items such as flashlight & batteries, simple sewing kit, small umbrella, winter gloves & hat, etc.

## **Gift Cards**

- It is easiest for us to distribute gift cards that are in increments of \$25, \$50 or \$100.
- The best stores for gift cards include: Wegmans, Acme, Giant, Trader Joes, Target, Walmart, Primark, Kohl's, TJ Maxx/Marshalls, Famous Footwear, Old Navy, Wawa (for gas). General restaurants such as, Chipotle, Chili's, Panera, Minella's, or a pizza place can be nice for an occasional dinner out. Movie tickets are a fun treat.
- Avoid specialty/expensive stores – a \$25 GC doesn't go far at a store like GAP, and it only can frustrate the kids/parents shopping there.
- Avoid Amazon.com or similar GC – many folks don't have credit cards to cover any differences in the cost.