

HOLIDAY BASKET and GIFT CARD SUGGESTIONS 2019

These are JUST suggestions! Feel free to be creative!

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

Food Baskets – Non-perishable items only (assume family of 5 size unless you know otherwise)

- Suggested items: peanut butter, basic cereal, applesauce, oatmeal, spaghetti sauce, tuna, rice, pasta, pancake mix and syrup, flour, sugar, brown sugar, spices, olive or canola oil, PAM spray, mustard, ketchup, barbecue sauce, honey, salad dressing, crackers, granola bars, tea, hot chocolate mix, etc.
- Suggested paper/storage products: baggies, aluminum foil, Tupperware-type items, 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 is often limited)
 - Large amounts of canned vegetables, fruits, and soups - those are not as healthy and many of the families try to avoid having a lot of them.

Cleaning Supply Baskets

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

Suggestions for Toiletry or General 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; nit combs or lice shampoo.

Suggestions for College Baskets

- Snack foods such as granola bars, popcorn, nut mix, tea, hot chocolate packets, etc.
- Toiletries such as toothpaste, toothbrush, 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, cold medicine, box chicken noodle soup, etc.
- Basic school supplies that need replenishing such as highlighters, pens, college-ruled notebooks, post-it-notes, etc.
- Random items such as flashlight/batteries, simple sewing kit, stationary/stamps, small umbrella, water bottle, winter gloves & hat, etc.

If you are considering getting just 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, Chiles, Panera, Minella's, Nudy's, etc. or even 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.