

# WE LOVE HOLLAND

NONPROFIT

Hope Packages

DIY PROJECT

First Night Bags

Central

## IMPACT

Everyday children are removed from their own homes for their own protection, when they need a safe place to stay. This is foster care. Too often children cannot pack anything, sometimes because they are picked up at school. It could be for sanitary reasons or just lack of personal items. We have approximately 170 to 220 children in foster care just within Ottawa County all the time. In the state of Michigan there are nearly 14,000 children in care. First night bags are an ongoing need.

## INSTRUCTIONS

**STEP 1:** As a group spend some time learning about Hope Packages. Their website is [www.hopepkgs.org](http://www.hopepkgs.org).

**STEP 2:** Make a plan to collect or purchase the suggested items. Feel free to invite others (neighbors, coworkers) to donate as well. Baby (NB-3T), Child (4T-10), Teen (Child 12-Adult XL).

**STEP 3:** Set a date to bring your items to small group. Once you've packed your first night bag, pray for the child that will be receiving the bag.

**STEP 4:** Completed bags can be brought to Central Mon-Fri, 9:00a.m. - 2:00p.m. or Sunday morning.

**STEP 5:** Let us know how it went! Please give us your feedback by filling out the form found here, so we can continue to improve your serve experience. If you have any questions, please email [missions@centralholland.org](mailto:missions@centralholland.org).

**SUGGESTED ITEMS:** Baby(Newborn-3T): Pjs, sleepers, socks, blanket, bottle, baby wash. Child (4T-10): Pjs, socks, underwear, stuffed animal, blanket, child's toothbrush, tear free body wash. Teen(child 12-Adult XL): Pj's, socks, underwear, blanket/throw, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, body wash. Onesize per bag.

## FUN IDEAS

- Children can help shop for the items you'll donate. They can also go with you to deliver your donation.
- Take picture and post them to social media with #WeLoveHolland
- Shop for items and decorate together and then enjoy a hike or time outside!