

CLIENT NEEDS

Essentials Closet

The Family Resource Center recognized a need for someone in the community to provide necessities to help families in need. A frequent barrier to personal hygiene in the families being helped was the cost of hygiene and necessity items were not in their budget when forced to choose between food for their family or toothpaste and laundry soap. The following list was born out of this awareness of need. In 2008, there were 95 requests for these items in addition to gas, grocery and phone cards.

These are items that we consider necessities & take for granted on a daily basis... but for many clients of the Family Resource Center, they are often difficult to find money enough to buy:

NECESSITIES CLOSET LIST OF ITEMS

Laundry Soap	Baby Wipes
Shampoo & Conditioner	Bath Soap
Toilet Paper	Paper Towels
Tissues	Diapers (all sizes)
Disinfectants & cleansers	Tooth brushes & toothpaste
Lotions (some unscented)	Dish Soap
Trash Bags: 33 & 20-gal size	Paper Plates

CHRISTMAS FOR FAMILIES IN NEED

Every year in late fall, families begin to anticipate their holiday budgets and some realize there won't be enough money to buy presents for under the tree, or a festive holiday dinner, and barely enough to handle the extra food needs while children are on school break. The Family Resource Center knows what it's like to be a child of parents who struggle, and their biggest wish for Christmas is just to "fit in" and have something to unwrap and share stories about with their friends. They're embarrassed as their friends return from vacation with new boots, hats, clothes, coats, games, and DVD's or video toys. Through the generosity of strangers and friends coming in to adopt a family, the agency is able to match angels and families in need -- and somehow it all evens out with help from local foundations, civic groups, and others. We are proud to collaborate with other groups helping out so no child has to learn the painful lessons too soon about doing without. Reality shows and Christmas stories don't teach children about poverty, the ones living in it already know it exists. But the help for families at Christmas teaches them that people are basically good and want to help their fellow man.

What some of us take for granted, others try to do without...

A mom came in to the office having escaped from a domestic assault situation, and had managed to find a home on her own -- but it was in filthy condition and she had no funds to buy cleaning and hygiene products to prepare their new home for them.

We were able to provide laundry detergent, disinfectant cleansers, toiletry products, paper towels, and other items for them. She has since made expressions of gratitude as well as donations as her funds would allow to replenish the closet for the next one in her shoes.

Christmas angels come in all shapes and sizes:

A single mom of two teen-age boys was dying of cancer, but chose to remain at home with her boys. However, the idea of providing them with a last Christmas together to remember was out of the question. Angels of the Family Resource Center bought them the dressers and bicycles on their wish list, and baked goods rounded out the delivery a few days before Christmas. In the spring, she passed away and her boys moved to Omaha with relatives, but we found out the boy uses his bicycle as his transportation to and from his job and school. They will never forget the kindness of strangers for the last Christmas they had with their mom.