

# COLLECTION DRIVE TOOLKIT



Everything you need to host your very own collection drive for Bright Blessings!

Thank you for hosting a collection drive for Bright Blessings! Your willingness to host a collection drive will help us supply gifts and necessities to the families we serve. This year, we anticipate we will serve over 25,000 children, so that means this collection drive is imperative to our mission and we are so grateful for your help!

Bright Blessings first began in 2005 as a monthly birthday program for children staying at the Salvation Army Center of Hope in Charlotte, North Carolina. Our organization's founders, John and Amy Cervantes, wanted to help brighten the lives of homeless or impoverished children while also instilling a love and commitment for community service in their own young children. What started as a family project to celebrate homeless and impoverished children on their birthday has grown in ways we could not have imagined.

Today, Bright Blessings remains a volunteer-led organization that impacted more than 26,000 homeless and impoverished children in 2024. Through our core programs; Bless-A-Birthday, Bless-A-Baby, Gift of Literacy and Gift of Care, we are able to reach thousands of children every single month. Bright Blessings now has partnerships with over 30 local agencies and is serving school children in the following 4 counties: Mecklenburg, Union, Cabarrus & Gaston.

This collection drive toolkit will provide you with:

- A list of needed items
- A collection sign to use for advertising
- A tip sheet for a successful drive
- A donation receipt



# BLESS-A-BIRTHDAY PROGRAM COLLECTION DRIVE WISHLIST

Our Bless-a-Birthday program is grounded in the belief that every child is a shining star, regardless of circumstance. We bring this message of joy and positive recognition to thousands of children of all ages every year— children whose special day may otherwise go unnoticed. Join us in celebrating the unique and wonderful lives of each and every child we serve by making sure they know just how special they are!

## BLESS-A-BIRTHDAY PROGRAM WISHLIST

\*All items must be NEW and in unopened packages.

- Barbie Dolls
- Baby Dolls
- Toddler Toys
- Craft Kits
- Board Games
- Card Games
- Small Lego Sets
- Baseball Hats
- Teen Jewelry
- Nail Polish
- \$10 Gift Cards
- Ear Buds
- Cologne
- Nerf Footballs
- Wallets
- Perfume

### Did You Know?

Promoting positive behaviors and experiences are key to helping homeless children overcome the early adversity they face.



# BLESS-A-BABY PROGRAM

## COLLECTION DRIVE WISHLIST

Our Bless-a-Baby program believes that every baby deserves a healthy and positive start to life, and we want to make sure that the tiniest victims of poverty in our community have the care essentials they need. Each Blessing Basket that we prepare for homeless and impoverished babies is filled with basic healthcare necessities, feeding supplies, clothing, blankets and much more. Additionally, our 'Tots of Love' sets help encourage the healthy development of toddlers by providing educational toys, books and essential care items.

## BLESS-A-BABY PROGRAM WISHLIST

\*All items must be NEW and in unopened packages.

- Baby Bottles
- Teethers/Rattles
- Baby Wash
- Baby Lotion
- Diaper Cream
- Sippy Cups
- Pacifiers
- Baby Wipes
- Diapers (Size 1)
- Bibs
- Burp Cloths
- Plush Blankets
- Hooded Towels
- Washcloths
- Onesies (0-3 months)
- Sleepers (0-3 months)
- Outfits (0-3 months)
- Baby Hats (0-6 months)
- Receiving Blankets

Did You Know?

1 in 3 low-income mothers can't afford diapers for their baby



# GIFT OF CARE PROGRAM COLLECTION DRIVE WISHLIST

Our Gift of Care program gives essential support to children who lack the most basic of necessities, including personal care and hygiene supplies and comfort items like stuffed animals. We want to ensure that every child we serve receives the extra support they need to help combat the effects of poverty.

## GIFT OF CARE PROGRAM WISHLIST

\*All items must be NEW and in unopened packages.

- 12oz Shampoo
- Bar Soap
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Lip Balm
- Wash Cloths
- Stuffed Animals
- Stuffed Animals
- Oatmeal Packs
- Fruit Gummies
- Cheese Crackers
- Cereal bar (Nutri-grain)
- Pudding or Applesauce
- Spoon

Did You Know?  
Homeless children get sick four  
times as often as children living in  
secure homes.



# GIFT OF LITERACY PROGRAM COLLECTION DRIVE WISHLIST

Books do more than tell a story. For disadvantaged children, the path to academic success is often hindered by poverty circumstances. With little or no resources for books and learning tools, many of these otherwise capable students lag behind their peers in reading and academics. Our Gift of Literacy program helps fill the gaps where poverty undermines promise. Every year we provide thousands of children with new books and educational learning resources. Please join our efforts and help ensure that these deserving children have the tools they need to rise to their potential!

## GIFT OF LITERACY PROGRAM WISHLIST

\*All items must be NEW and in unopened packages.

- New Books (PreK, Baby, Toddler)
- Preschool Flash Cards
- Preschool Activity Books
- Small Cinch Sacks

Did You Know?

North Carolina ranks 3rd among states with the highest percentage increase in number of homeless students.



# BRIGHT BLESSINGS COLLECTION DRIVE



**HELP BRING JOY, CARE, AND HOPE  
THROUGH OUR BLESS-A-BABY PROGRAM**



# TIPS FOR HOSTING A SUCCESSFUL COLLECTION DRIVE

Location is key - Wherever you decide to hold your drive, make sure it's in a place where a lot of people are available to contribute. Consider your business, school, neighborhood, church, club, or other community group.

Advertise - Make sure you advertise your drive. Use the flyer to let your group know the details, mention the drive in a newsletter or email potential participants. Create an event on Facebook to help get the word out. Consider using Twitter or Instagram to communicate with participants!

Make it FUN! - Consider making your drive a competition to encourage donations! Develop a game, a Facebook page or another interactive aspect for your drive. Hold a kickoff event. Be creative and have fun with it. The excitement of helping others is contagious.



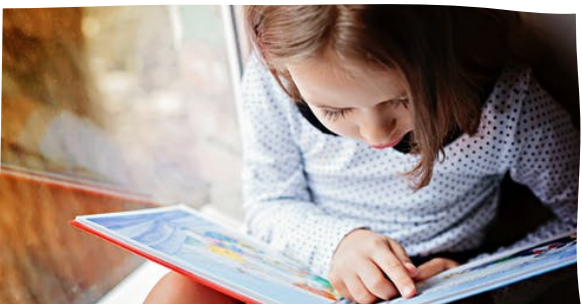
## BRIGHT BLESSINGS SERVES:

- Mecklenburg, Union, Cabarrus & Gaston Counties
- 30+ Agency Partners



## WHERE TO FIND BRIGHT BLESSINGS:

- 1150 Crews Road, Suite C,  
Matthews, NC 28105



## INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

Contact Suzanne Millendorf:  
[suzanne@brightblessingsusa.org](mailto:suzanne@brightblessingsusa.org)  
704-846-2329 EXT. 103

# TAX RECEIPT FOR YOUR DONATIONS

Bright Blessings  
1150 Crews Road, Suite C, Matthews, NC 28105

Our Tax Identification Number: 35-2324487



## A TAX RECEIPT FOR YOUR RECORDS:

**DONOR'S NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY, STATE, ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ITEMS DONATED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**VALUE OF ITEMS:** \_\_\_\_\_

Save this receipt for tax purposes. This receipt is the only record of your tax deductible donation. The IRS requires that donors estimate the fair market value of their contributions. No goods or services were provided to the donor by the Bright Blessings in exchange for this donation. For more information, visit [irs.gov](http://irs.gov).