

Issue Areas:
Poverty,
Homelessness,
Foster Care



The Pajama Program

The right to a loving, good night is inherent and universal, one shared by all children, regardless of their family circumstances.

More than 1 in 5 children in the United States live in families with income below the poverty line. Some of the affects of poverty include hunger, lack of resources such as clothing and books, and homelessness. As bedtime comes each night, millions of children in this country don't have a bed of their own or pajamas to change into.

Pajama Program is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 2001 that believes that every child, no matter their circumstances, has the inherent right to a loving good night, complete with the comforting bedtime ritual of changing into new, clean pajamas and enjoying an enchanting story. Pajama Program offers children at-risk the unconditional, magical gifts of new pajamas and new books so that they can enjoy the greatest benefit of a loving bedtime and peaceful good night: a fulfilling good day.

You can help make sure that more children have a "good night" by donating new children's pajamas and books to the Pajama Program. Find out if there is a local chapter in your area, [here](#).

You can also organize a Pajama and Book Drive with your friends, classmates or school.



What You Need

- Boxes or bins for the collection of the new pajamas and books
- Wrapping paper to decorate the boxes
- Printer and paper to print the Pajama Program invitation, poster or brochure to promote the drive, templates available their online toolkit.



How You Do It

1. Collect
2. Report
3. Distribute

The Pajama Game offers a toolkit on their site that provides you with all the tools needed to plan and implement the drive.



Before
the
project

READ ONE OF THESE BOOKS.

***A Shelter in Our Car* by Monica Gunning**

Zettie and her Mama left their warm and comfortable home in Jamaica for an uncertain life in the United States. With Papa gone, Mama can't find a steady job that will sustain them and so they are forced to live in their car. But Mama's unwavering love, support, and gutsy determination give Zettie the confidence that, together, she and her mother can meet all challenges. Monica Gunning's moving and authentic story about homelessness in an American city was developed with the help of the Homeless Children's Network in San Francisco.

***Murphy's Three Homes: A Story for Children in Foster Care* by Jan Levinson Gilman**

Murphy is told he is a good luck dog. However, after going through two different homes and an animal shelter, Murphy starts to feel like a bad luck dog who nobody wants. *Murphy's Three Homes* follows this adorable pup through his placement in three new homes, as well as through his anxiety, self-doubt, and hope for a new, loving family. Finally, Murphy is placed in a caring foster home where he feels comfortable and valued. He learns that he is not a bad dog after all and can go back to being a playful puppy and a good luck dog!