

Issue Areas:
Homelessness,
Poverty



Birthday Party In A Bag

The National Alliance for Homelessness reports that over the course of 2016, roughly half a million people in families stayed at a homeless shelter or transitional housing program — 292,166 were children, and 144,991 were under the age of six.

Homelessness has an impact on children's lives in many areas including health, education and overall development. You can help brighten up the day of a homeless child on their birthday by supplying them with a Birthday Party in a Bag!



What You Need

- Large festive bag for birthday items:
 - Cake mix, frosting, sprinkles, birthday candles, plates, forks, napkins, paper tablecloth, balloons, party hats, birthday card (for parent(s) to fill out)
 - Optional: Small age-appropriate gifts



How You Do It

1. Contact your local shelter, half-way house or domestic violence shelter and ask if they would accept your Birthday in a Bag(s).
2. Purchase items and fill bag(s).
3. Deliver to the organization that you have chosen.



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.

***Fly Away Home* by Eve Bunting**

A homeless boy who lives in an airport with his father, moving from terminal to

terminal trying not to be noticed, is given hope when a trapped bird finally finds its freedom.

The bags accumulated in ugly heaps alongside roads. Water pooled in them, bringing mosquitoes and disease. Some bags were burned, some were buried, but they strangled gardens. Something had to change.
