

Issue Areas:  
Homelessness,  
Poverty



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## Sock Collection For The Homeless

According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, on a single night in 2017, 553,742 people were experiencing homelessness in the United States. For every 10,000 people in the country, 17 were experiencing homelessness. Approximately two thirds (65%) were staying in emergency shelters or transitional housing programs, and about one third (35%) were in unsheltered locations.

There are many ways to show you care about the homeless. Kellon Oldenettel, a 2014 Hasbro Community Action Hero, helps the homeless in his community of Jacksonville, Illinois by collecting socks for those in need through Kellon's Sock Drawer. Socks are one of the most needed items at homeless shelters, but also among one of the least donated. If you are out on the streets most of the day, you can understand why new socks are a warm, clean treasure for a homeless person.

Contact your local homeless shelter, Goodwill, the Salvation Army, The National Coalition for the Homeless and/or The National Coalition for Homeless Veterans to find out if they will accept your H.O.P.E. boxes and what requirements they may have. Set up a date and time to deliver the boxes.



### What You Need

- New socks of all colors and sizes in original packaging
- Paper and markers or computer and printer to make posters/flyers
- Tape to hang posters
- Collection bins or boxes



### How You Do It

1. If you are donating the socks from only yourself or your family, purchase the socks and deliver them to your local homeless shelter, Goodwill, Salvation Army or local organization serving the homeless.
2. If you are going to do a sock drive:
  - a. Decide on your collection location and dates for collection
  - b. Make and distribute flyers and posters
  - c. If you are doing your collection at school or with a club or after-school program, be sure to give your peers information about why the homeless have a great need for socks.
  - d. Get bins or boxes for the donated socks
  - e. Get your friends and classmates to volunteer for the sock drive by helping with flyers and packing the donations to be delivered to your selected organization or shelter.

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- f. Be sure to put a “thank-you” in your newsletter and if your school has a bulletin board, post photos of the collection and delivery.
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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.

**Kellon Oldenettel**

**2014 Hasbro Community Action Hero**

When Kellon Oldenettel was 5 years old, he and his mother talked about how some children do not have toys, food or clothing. A few minutes later, he asked, “If kids don't have toys, house and food, then do they have socks?” the answer to this question inspired Kellon to start a sock collection for kids and adults.

Kellon named his organization Kellon's Sock Drawer and he has collected over 8,000 pairs of socks. He is turning 10 and hopes to reach 10,000 pairs by the end of 2018! Kellon's heart for giving inspired his younger brother, Beckham, who is 7 years old. Beckham collects books for children who don't have any and is close to collecting and distributing over 5,000 books. He started doing this when he was 3 years old! The Oldenettel brothers truly show that you are never too young to start making a difference!