

Issue Areas:
Homelessness,
Poverty



H.O.P.E. (Having Only Positive Expectations) Boxes 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. Joshua Williams, 2015 Hasbro Community Action Hero, helps the homeless in his community of Miami, FL through the H.O.P.E. Boxes for the Homeless.

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

- Shoe boxes
- Meal: Peanut butter, jelly, bread, apples and juice boxes
- Plastic sandwich bags
- Toiletries
- Large rubber bands or packing tape to seal boxes.
- Construction or drawing paper
- Marker or crayons for card



How You Do It

1. Determine the number of H.O.P.E. boxes that you will donate and collect the boxes.
2. Make and bag the peanut butter and jelly sandwiches.
3. Fill the boxes with the sandwich, apple juice pack and toiletries.
4. Write a note of encouragement to let the receiver know that someone cares about them.
5. Place note in box.
6. Seal the box with tape or rubber bands.
7. Deliver to shelter.



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.

Joshua Williams

2015 Hasbro Community Action Hero

When Joshua was four-and-a-half years old, his grandmother gave him \$20 to spend on whatever he wanted. On the way to church, Joshua saw a hungry, homeless man begging for help and gave him his money. Shortly after that, he saw an infomercial for Feed the Children featuring the plight of homeless children in Africa and Joshua knew he had to help. So, he founded the [Joshua's Heart Foundation \(JHF\)](#) in 2005 to help "stomp out world hunger" by collecting food donations and creating awareness about world hunger.

Joshua's Heart has impacted people in many different ways, including through food distributions, book distributions, and overseeing relief efforts. Their many youth members target various issues for which they are passionate. Over the years, Joshua's Heart has become much more than stomping out hunger. Joshua and his youth volunteers tackle numerous global issues and try to make the world a better place!