



Reentry Backpacks Ministry - Adopt a Backpack

The Social Justice & Transformation Commission needs your help with its mission initiative to assist men and women recently released from the Howard County Dept. of Corrections who are without the most basic supplies. The Reentry Backpacks help bridge some of the gap for basic needs until these men and women are able to find security in their housing, food and clothing. Ultimately, it is our hope that this will be a step in breaking the cycle of recidivism.

We hope that all of our parish community will assist in this ministry. We are looking for adult and youth groups, small groups, committees, families, or individuals to collect supplies and fill some of the backpacks as a shared experience. St. John's will supply the backpacks. The Social Justice & Transformation Commission will make sure they get to the Dept. of Corrections. To volunteer your parish group, family, or yourself to adopt one or more backpacks, or for more information, please contact SocialJustice@stjohnsec.org. We can also use donations to help cover the costs of this initiative. Donate money and we'll do the shopping: Send funds via check (payable to SJEC; Memo= Backpacks) or the [Member Portal](#) (Fund=Social Justice; Memo=Backpacks)

The following items are needed to fill each Reentry Backpack. We are filling 144 backpacks this year. (# per backpack in parentheses).

- Toothpaste; 4 - 6.5 oz. (1)
- Toothbrush and holder (1 of each)
- Individually wrapped disposable face masks (3 each) (St. John's providing a cloth mask)
- Hand sanitizer; 2.5 - 4 oz. (1)
- Dark colored hand towel and washcloth (1 of each)
- Dark colored bath towel (1)
- 2-in-1 Shampoo; 12-16 oz. unisex (1)
- Body Wash or Shower Gel 12-16 oz. unisex (1)
- Deodorant/Antiperspirant; 2-3 oz. (1)
- Laundry pods (5 each)
- Lip balm (1)
- Knit beanie hat and gloves; unisex/adult one-size (1 hat; 1 pair of warm, heavy gloves)
- White tube socks; unisex/adult one-size (1 pair)
- Hand warmers (2 pairs)
- Foot warmers (2 pairs)
- Bottled Water; 16 oz. (2 each)
- Juice boxes; 6 oz - 6.75 oz carton style (2 each) no pouches!
- Granola bars (2-4)
- Fully cooked, ready-to-eat meals in a bowl, pack or pouch, such as: Hormel Compleats, Dinty Moore Beef Stew, Pace Ready Meals, Tasty Bite Rice and Beans, Mountain House Adventure Meals (4 total) no canned goods!

