



Media Release

Contact:

Amy Webb, Director of Communications
501-682-8650

For Immediate Release

May 7, 2015

Drive-by Donation Drive Scheduled for May 18 as part of National Foster Care Month

DHS will be accepting new items that children need the moment they come into care

Caseworkers say that children often come into foster care without even basic items like toothbrushes or clean socks and underwear. So the Arkansas Department of Human Services (DHS) Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) is hosting a donation drive as part of its National Foster Care Month activities in May.

Currently there are about 4,300 children in the state's foster care system. Items collected will be distributed to caseworkers across the state so they will be more able to immediately provide children with essential items for daily life.

"Having things like diapers, duffle bags or new packs of underwear in our cars will keep caseworkers from having to go to a store in the middle of the night with the children in tow," said DCFS Director Cecile Blucker. "That also will make a difficult situation just a little bit easier on the kids."

The "Drive-by Donation Drive" will be held May 18 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Little Rock. People wishing to show their support for children in foster care can go to the main DHS office at 700 Main Street in Little Rock during this time to drop off items. DHS staff will be standing along the sidewalk on Main Street outside the building so people don't have to get out of their cars or find parking spots. There will be a designated area for people to pull in and give donations.

Donations also will be accepted all month long at any DHS county office in Arkansas. You can find a county office near you at this [link](#).

A list of needed items that will be accepted is below (Please bring NEW items only).

- Backpacks and duffle bags
- Diapers (sizes 1 and up) and pull-ups
- Wipes
- Hairbrushes and combs
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Hairbands/ponytail holders
- Pajamas (all sizes)

-more-

- Shampoo, lotion, body wash, baby shampoo, unscented baby soap
- Baby bottles, sippy cups and pacifiers
- Deodorant
- Children's socks
- Children's underwear 2T and up

If your church, office or organization would like to make a large donation of items, please contact Lecole White at lecole.white@dhs.arkansas.gov or 501-682-8460.