
GRR DW Arkansas Projects – Duffle Bag Project for Foster Kids

This year your Arkansas Disciples Women Cabinet has chosen a “grass roots” project to support as a part of our Arkansas State Service Project. At the Regional DW Cabinet meeting in February, Rev. Linda White shared with us the journey of a family who have been foster parents in central Arkansas for several years – Matt & Allison Ward. Matt and his wife are truly “boots on the ground” and know the struggles that foster parents and foster children face from the very beginning of the “foster journey”.

Because of their work in the foster care system, the Wards have a dream of providing a duffle bag full of “emergency” supplies for kids coming into a foster home – those middle of the night, last minute moves when a child is removed from their home with nothing but the clothes on their back. We’d like you to be a part of fulfilling this dream for kids all around the state of Arkansas.

A local congregation in central Arkansas recently donated 5,500 duffle bags to support this dream and we have an opportunity to play a small part through our Arkansas State Service Project this year – we’d like to fill those as many of those duffle bags as possible! Once filled, Matt & Allison will get them distributed to Department of Human Services offices around the state.

For this project, duffle bags will be provided for us, and we are asking that when you come to Retreat this year, you bring a completed set (or sets) of the following:

1. Hypoallergenic soap
2. Hypoallergenic shampoo
3. Washcloths
4. Deodorant
5. Small stuffed animals
6. Small non-battery-operated toys and games

If, as a group, you’d like to send a check to support this service project, that will work too – just be sure to mark in the memo line of the check how much is designated for each service project – global, regional and local. If you designate it to local, someone in central Arkansas will purchase the items and get them delivered to Matt & Allison. Or, if you’d rather, you could also donate gift cards (in \$5 and \$10 amounts) from WalMart, Target, Kroger, etc.