

ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED HOPE TOTE QUESTIONS

What is a Hope Tote?

A Hope Tote is a small plastic bag. It can be filled with inexpensive personal items like soap, shaving cream, toothpaste and deodorant. The Mission will distribute Hope Totes to homeless individuals and families during the Easter season.

Why are Hope Totes a good way to help the homeless?

A Hope Tote may be the first contact the Mission has with a homeless or needy person. We've found that people feel better about themselves when they are able to shower, shave and change into fresh clothes. When they're physically refreshed, they're more likely to make other, more long-lasting changes in their lives—like getting involved with the education, work training and spiritual counseling programs we offer here at the Mission.

What do we need to do?

You can pick up as many Hope Totes as you think you can fill. Distribute them to friends, family, students, members of your church to be filled with new, unused items like soap, shampoo, socks, toothpaste and lip balm. We also ask that whenever possible, each individual also send a gift of \$10 directly to the Mission to help provide meals, shelter, spiritual help and other essential care.

How long will we have to fill the bags?

We'd like to begin handing out the Hope Totes during the Easter season. That means we need to have them back no later than March 31st.

What do I do when I'm finished filling the bags?

You can drop all filled bags at the Mission, 19 Bliss Street, Springfield, MA.

How will this benefit us?

You will have the satisfaction of knowing that you have reached out and helped some of the Springfield area's neediest people. And what better time than Easter to provide a tangible expression of the love Christ taught us? We will also provide materials to help everyone learn more about homeless people and what you can do to help them.