

Filling this little bag can make a big difference in a homeless person's life.



This Easter, you're invited to join Operation Hope Tote – Springfield Rescue Mission's outreach to area homeless men, women and children.

- Just fill a Hope Tote with items like:
- Brush and comb
 - Toothbrush and toothpaste
 - Soap/Body Wash
 - Shampoo and conditioner
 - Deodorant
 - Lip balm
 - Socks, underwear and t-shirt
 - Tissues
 - Shoelaces
 - Hand or body lotion
 - Disposable razor
 - Shaving cream
 - Body Powder

Return filled bags to the Springfield Rescue Mission. We'll begin distributing Hope Totes to Springfield's neediest people during the Easter Season. Request your Hope Tote bags today, and give homeless people "hope to hold on to".

Yes! I want to give homeless men, women and children "hope to hold on to".

I would like to pick up ___ Hope Totes.

NAME _____ TITLE _____

ORGANIZATION _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Mail to:
Springfield Rescue Mission
Attn: Julie Barnes, Community Development
19 Bliss Street, P.O. Box 9045
Springfield, MA 01102-9045

Cut and mail this coupon or call 413.732.0808 today.

Eight Ways You Can Truly Help Homeless People

What do you do when you see someone holding up a sign, "Will Work For Food"? Do you roll down your window and give him money? Do you pretend you didn't see them?

Nobody likes to be confronted by the homeless – their needs often seem too overwhelming – but we all want to treat them fairly and justly.

Here are a some simple ways you can truly help the homeless people you meet:

1. Don't give them money.

Too often well intended gifts are converted into drugs or alcohol – even when the "hard luck" stories they tell are true. If the person is hungry, buy them a sandwich and beverage. Better yet, refer people to the Springfield Rescue Mission, where they'll find food, shelter and other vital services to help them get back on their feet.

2. Talk to the person with respect.

Taking time to talk to a homeless person in a friendly, respectful manner can give them a wonderful sense of civility and dignity. And besides being just neighborly, it gives the person a weapon to fight the isolation, depression and paranoia that many homeless people face.

3. All homeless people aren't the same.

The homeless are as diverse as the colors of the rainbow. The person you meet may be a battered woman, an addicted veteran, someone who is mentally ill, a con artist, someone lacking job skills...the list goes on.

4. Share God's love whenever you can.

If Jesus were walking the earth today, He would certainly spend time with the homeless. He would speak with them, heal them, and help them. Today, Jesus chooses to work through those who believe and follow Him.

5. Pray for the homeless.

Exposure to the elements, dirt, occasional violence, and lack of purpose all drain years from a person's life. Pray that those who are homeless will find shelter. Pray that people seeking refuge at the Mission will build new lives. God can use your prayers to bring many of the broken to Himself.

6. Fill Hope Totes!

Filling these small bags with a few inexpensive, unused personal care items like soap, shampoo, toothpaste, hairbrushes, combs and shaving cream can help make a big difference in the lives of those who receive them.

7. Encourage homeless to get help.

The Springfield Rescue Mission offers a one-year Christian Rehabilitation program for men, an Emergency Shelter at 148 Taylor Street for men, homeless breakfast Monday through Saturday, free clothing available to men, women and children and a street outreach program offering free meals, clothing, blankets and referrals to people at four sites in Springfield.

8. Support your local Mission.

The Springfield Rescue Mission offers their services free of charge to any individual. They receive no city or government funding. It is supported by caring individuals, churches, businesses and civic groups who see the value of sharing their resources with those less fortunate.

Take precautions for your own safety. Some people living on the streets are criminals and fugitives running from the law. Always be prudent while talking with street people. Stay in areas where other people can see you. Don't take unnecessary chances.

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