

## **Lewiston High School's The Store Next Door Project**

Since 2006, Lewiston High School has created in-depth supplemental services to help eliminate barriers to education for youth and families experiencing high mobility and homelessness. Homelessness is a big enough issue in the United States that every school district nationwide has homeless liaisons and services (McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act), and there are now even relevant housing stability questions on college financial aid forms (FAFSA).

The Store Project provides tangible items such as new and gently used clean clothing and footwear, underwear and socks, toiletries and hygiene products, household goods and cleaning supplies, laundry items and laundromat vouchers, gas cards and bus/cab vouchers, food, LHS logo items and sports team gear (see attached Wish List). We maintain a bank of gift cards to address immediate needs and sometimes to do a little spoiling and lots of celebrating. Concurrent with what The Store Project provides, we also offer academic supports and tutoring, backpacks and school supplies.

Most importantly, while addressing basic needs, we provide emotional support and encouragement, and community referrals and connections to services. It all comes down to building human relationships through respect and integrity.

### **The Store Next Door Wish List**

**The Store Next Door project relies 100% on our community to meet the basic needs of over 300 youth experiencing homelessness who are living in Lewiston each year. Most of these youth are living outside of traditional family systems, and therefore do not have family members available for love, support and provision of tangible items. Living a highly mobile life takes a toll in way too many ways. We truly become the School Moms and School Dads for many of these fine kiddoes.**

#### **CRITICAL DAILY NEEDS**

##### **Old Mother Hubbard's Cupboard--**

- ❖ To Go foods: bottled waters, 100% juice boxes/pouches, poptarts, granola bars, gum, cough drops, hard candy, chocolates, hot cocoa individual packets, quick breakfast foods, fresh fruit, yogurts, cheese sticks, sliced bread for toast
- ❖ Fresh baked items for our kitchen table
- ❖ Nonperishable food items
- ❖ Freezer items: microwave meals, frozen vegetables, bagels, etc.
- ❖ Hygiene items: full-size (not travel size) body wash, hair conditioner, non-alcohol mouthwash, Q Tips, menstrual pads—thin, thick, ultra (**not tampons**),

- ❖ Laundry detergent (detergent pods are great!)
- ❖ Toilet paper, tissues, paper towels, cleaning supplies

**Clothing: everything is a critical need. New please. High school styles. New socks, underwear, bras---all shapes and sizes**

**Beginner Apartment Needs-** New pots/ pans, glasses, dishes/ silverware, blankets, sheet sets, pillows, towels

**Athletic Supporters**—sneakers, mouth guards, cleats, socks, uniforms, equipment, team logo gear

**Financial support for emergency needs and purchases** (gas gift cards, taxi vouchers, Straight Talk phones cell phone minutes)

**\*Pick-me-ups** (fast food restaurant gift certificates—such as Subway \$5 foot longs=\$5 plus tax, Dunkin Donuts, Burger King, McDonalds)

**\*Discretionary money for as-needed class expenses not covered elsewhere** (costs and lunches for field trips, required class items)

### **Ongoing initiatives**

- \***New Outfits for school** (August/gift cards for clothing)
- \***Driver Education support**
- \***Senior Sendoff** (formal portraits/frames, graduation card, and a small gift such as a yearbook or school logo sweatshirt)
- \***My First Apartment** (basic housing items: toasters, silverware, manual can openers, coffee pots, alarm clocks, pillows, sheet sets, blankets, towels, washcloths, microwaves, toaster ovens, glasses, dishes, pots and pans, etc.)
- \***Linus Project** (blankets, quilts, Beds in a Bag, new pillows)
- \***Clean Kids** (toiletries/hygiene products: full-size (not hotel samples) shampoo, conditioner, body wash, deodorant—male and female, makeup, nail polish/remover, Q Tips, tissues)
- \***Community Care** (USPS stamps, Laundromat vouchers, taxi/bus vouchers, phone cards, gift certificates with an emphasis on fun—movies, bowling, music stores, bookstores)
- \***Happy Birthdays and other celebrations** (cards, small personal gifts, cupcake/muffin)
- \***Scholarship donations** (Upward Bound, summer opportunities, college tours, fees)
- \***Pick-me-ups** (fast food restaurant gift certificates—such as Subway \$5 foot longs=\$5 plus tax, Tim Hortons, Dunkin Donuts, Burger King, McDonalds, Arby's)
- \***Semester Swing celebrations of success** (recognition luncheons and such)
- \***Discretionary money for as-needed class expenses not covered elsewhere** (costs and lunches for field trips, required class items)
- \***Small luggage pieces**—must be very clean and in working order

### **MONTH TO MONTH NEEDS**

#### **August/September**

Gift cards for new school outfits, miscellaneous needs  
Backpacks (high school age/no wheelie bags)  
Single subject notebooks  
Calculators (basic, graphing)  
Highlighters  
Magic marker sets  
Colored pencil sets  
Dividers for notebooks (5 tab, 8 tab)  
3-ring binders (.5 inch, one inch, 1.5 inch, 2 inch)  
Wooden pencils  
Notecards (3x5, lined and unlined)  
Poster boards  
Sticky notes

#### **October**

\*\*start planning December holiday projects

#### **November**

Thanksgiving baskets to go  
Winter Clothing drive

## **December**

Holidays for 100 (personalized gifts/Adopt-a-student)

Pay It Forward gifting (students select gifts to give to family and friends)  
(for students who prefer to 'give' rather than 'get')

## **January**

Senior Scrapbook (life story birth to graduation/scrapbooking materials)

## **February**

Junior/senior college planning

## **March**

Spring/summer clothing drive

## **April**

Spring/Easter baskets (nontraditional)—focus on needs for 1-week school vacation

## **May**

Prom project (tickets, hair/makeup, flowers, dresses, tuxedo rentals, dinner, photos)

Senior graduation support (caps, gowns, tassels, dress clothing/shoes, graduation gift and card)

## **June**

Planning for summer needs while school is closed

\*\*\*\*\*

## **Store Operating Items Needed**

Plastic hangers, heavy duty trash bags, totes/bins, display baskets, hot drink to-go cups/lids

## **Things we respectfully do not need:**

Partially used items such as outdated or open food containers, used deodorant, makeup, toiletries, etc.

Used underwear, bras, socks

Clothing not of school-age interest

Clothing that is clearly used and worn out, stained or torn, moldy (if it is not good enough for your home, it is probably not good enough for our school home)

Razors, Wite Out, over the counter medicines such as aspirin, Nyquil, vitamins....

Clothing that has not been freshly laundered

## **Volunteerism needed**

- Seamstress/clothing repair
- Dry cleaning/laundry
- Assistance with donations (locating, sorting, cleaning, stocking, redistribution)
- Assisting with project management/coordination of services, especially Thanksgiving, December holidays, Easter

**Contact Info:**

**Meg Dumais**

**Lewiston High School (Sept.-June) 795 4190 x2215**

**All year: [mdumais@lewistonpublicschools.org](mailto:mdumais@lewistonpublicschools.org)**

**Summer: 207 212 4581 (Mary)**