

Worthdays Birthday Box Guide

You are now officially a party planner for a young person in our community who will be celebrated on their birthday because of YOU! We are so grateful that you have joined us to ensure this young person knows they are worthy of being celebrated on their big day by creating a birthday box!



The children we serve are only referred to our organization if their social worker believes they will otherwise not be celebrated. This means that your gifts will not be a duplication of other gifts received on their birthday but will likely be the only gifts they receive.



What to Include

- ✓ **Plastic tote, duffel bag or reusable bag/box (recommended)**
- ✓ **Gifts!**
- ✓ **Birthday Card**  Include a personalized message! Can be signed using first names or ex. 'the Smith family'. Please don't seal it!
- ✓ **Cake mix, Icing, Candles, Candy or Pre-packaged snack cakes**
- ✓ **Party Decorations** (As appropriate based on placement)
- ✓ **Paper Products** (As appropriate based on placement)
- ✓ **Other Party Essentials**



Be Creative!

Consider the child's interests, don't be afraid to get crafty, consider what you would have wanted at the child's age, think outside the box, put your personal touch on the box!



Remind Them Of Their Worth

We want to do more than just provide a tangible box of random gifts. We want your box to scream 'You are so worth it'. Many of the children receiving these boxes could use an extra dose of positivity!





Consider the Child's Placement

Foster or Kinship Home: Typically the child can receive any age-appropriate items. The child may have the opportunity to have a typical celebration with decorations, paper products, etc.

Group Home: Typically age appropriate items can be accepted. There will be a large range of what an actual celebration looks like for a child in a group home. It is possible it will be like a typical birthday celebration or the child may simply celebrate with their social worker. Use the number of people the child is celebrating with as a guide to plan.

Treatment Center: Treatment centers can vary but typically are considered a hospital-like setting. The items that can be accepted will be more limited. Please be careful not to include anything that can be considered dangerous or that is sharp. Consider books, adult coloring books, full-size toiletries, blankets, slippers among many others.

Candy and/or pre-packaged sweet treats are better to include in place of cake mix and toppings! Decorations and paper products are not necessary as the child is likely only celebrating with their social worker or possibly one other important person.





Independent Living Program/Living on Their Own: Some youth in foster care continue to receive services after the age of 18 to increase their independent living skills while continuing to receive support from social workers and mentors. Many times these young people live in a supervised apartment program and then graduate to living on their own. This is very similar to a college dorm or apartment setting. A celebration may include friends or family members. Most age appropriate items are allowable.

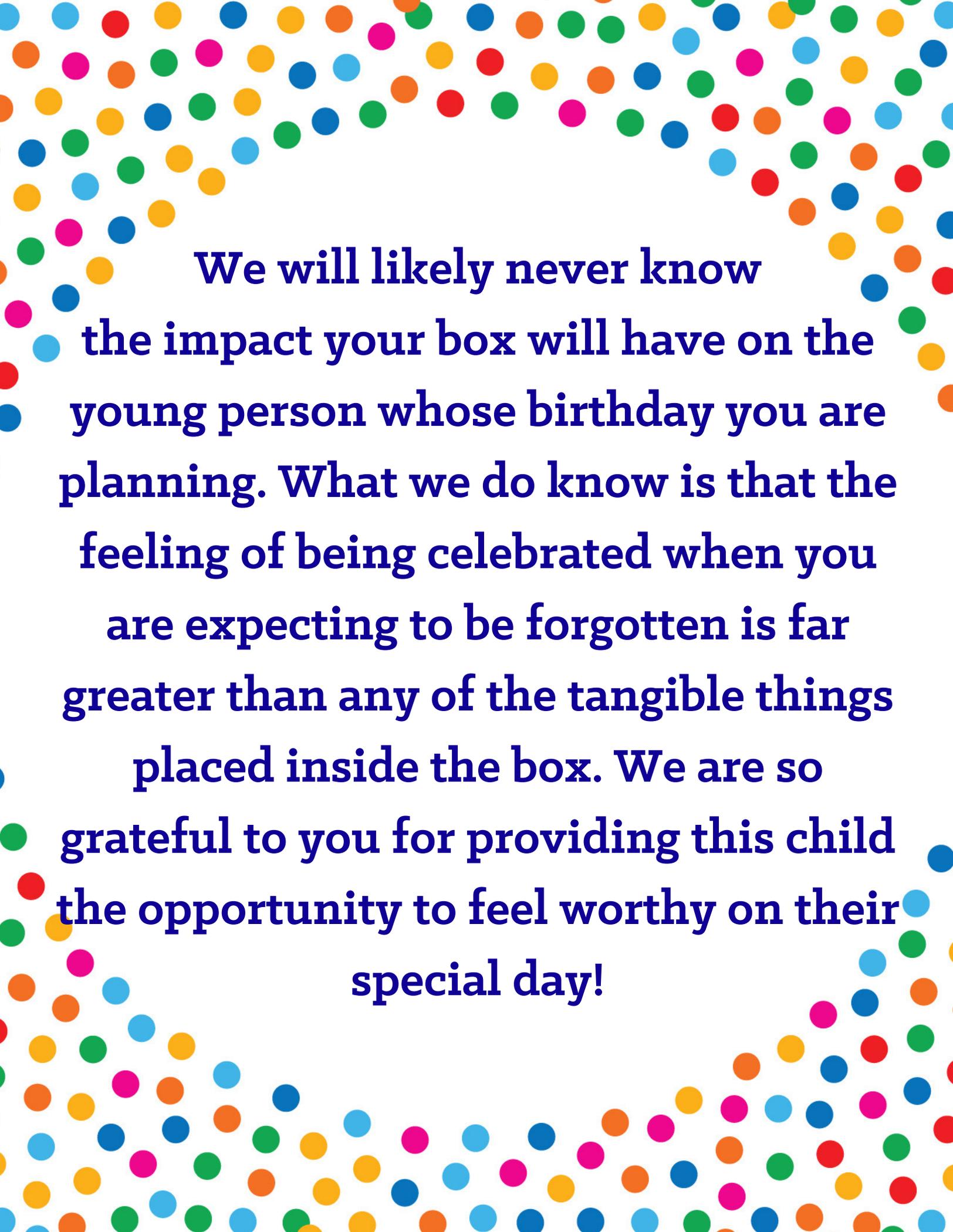
Unknown Placement: There are times that the social worker simply does not know where the child may be placed because the child is in a state of transition. This requires creativity on the part of the sponsor. If an item is not able to be accepted, we have instructed social workers to return the item to us.



Why not just a Disposable Birthday Bag?

Children and youth in foster care often carry their belongings from place to place in trash bags. By providing a plastic tote, backpack, duffel bag or other reusable container we continue to send the message 'You are so worth it!' long after their birthday has passed by allowing them to carry their belongings with dignity!

Feel free to get creative with the presentation of your box however items can not be completely wrapped. Feel free to use tissue paper, bows, smaller gift bags inside the box or other creative means to 'wrap' gifts!



**We will likely never know
the impact your box will have on the
young person whose birthday you are
planning. What we do know is that the
feeling of being celebrated when you
are expecting to be forgotten is far
greater than any of the tangible things
placed inside the box. We are so
grateful to you for providing this child
the opportunity to feel worthy on their
special day!**



www.worthdays.org

