

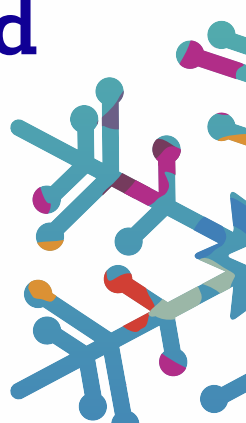



Holiday Shopping Guide

We are so grateful that you have joined our conspiracy of love to sponsor a child in our local foster care system for the holidays. This is so much more than just providing gifts for a child! It's about ensuring a child or young person in our local child welfare system has an opportunity to




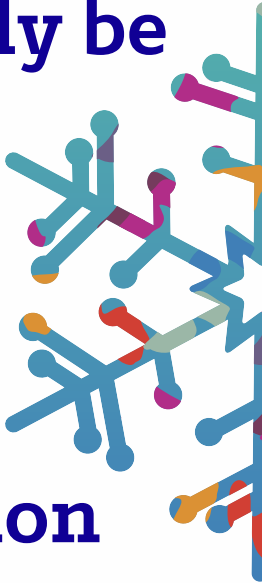
experience joy during a time that is often filled with feelings of loss, sadness and grief.






The children and young adults we serve are only referred to our organization if their social worker believes they will otherwise not be celebrated this holiday season. The gifts you give will likely be the only gifts they receive.

Please review the child's wish list closely as very pertinent information has been included. We will share the child's name and any demographic information we have about the child in an email in an effort for gifts to be personalized and reflective of each individual child.



We like to celebrate children by name! Don't hesitate to reach out if you don't have the first name of the child!



We encourage you to use the wishlist information provided as a guide to your shopping. We encourage you to consider purchasing at least one of the child's listed wishes and one of their needs (if listed). Also consider purchasing:



at least one book

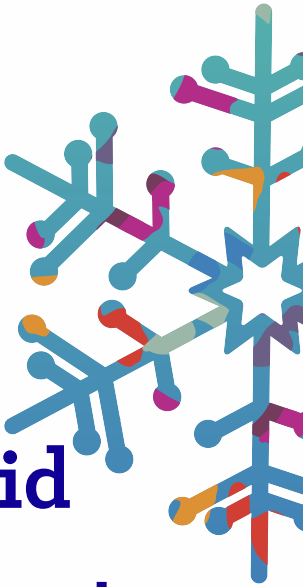


Research shows kids in foster care are more likely to have limited access to libraries and books.



a gift card (for kids 13+)

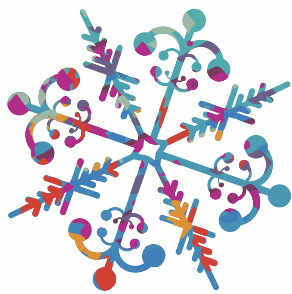
A good rule of thumb when considering gift ideas is that the kid you are sponsoring is most likely just like any other child that age - they just happen to be in foster care!





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



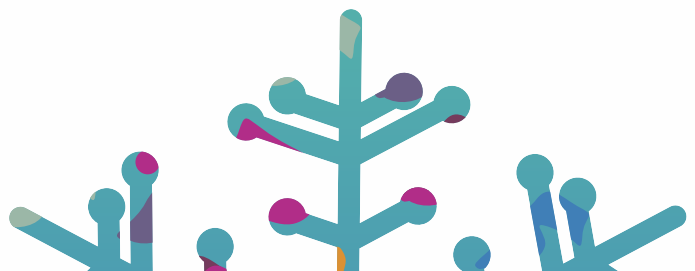
We want to do more than just provide a tangible box of gifts. We want your box to scream 'You are so worth it'. Many of the children receiving these boxes could use an extra dose of positivity!



Consider the Child's Placement

Children who are in foster/kinship homes, trial home placements, group homes, Independent Living homes or living on their own likely have very minimal restrictions and can receive most age appropriate items.

Children and youth living in treatment centers may have very strict restrictions on what they are able to receive. If there are strict restrictions, this will be noted on the child's wish list. Many treatment centers are more of a "hospital-like" setting and safety is paramount.



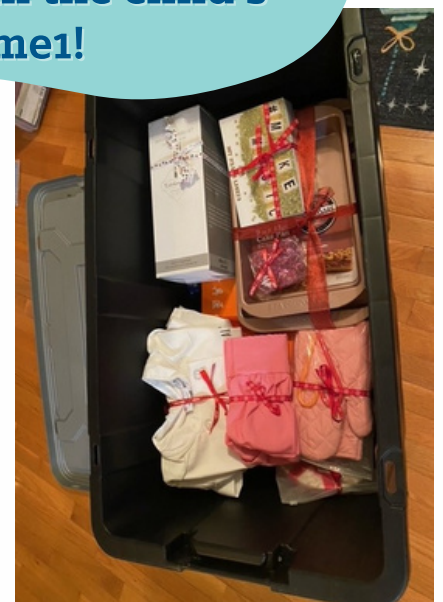


To Wrap or Not to Wrap?

We are unable to accept wrapped gifts (as unorthodox as that may seem!) In an effort to simultaneously address the issue of children in foster care carrying their belongings around in trash bags, we ask that you consider providing your gifts in a REUSABLE container such as a plastic tote, duffel bag or luggage. By doing so, we continue to send the message 'You are so worth it!' long after the holidays have passed by allowing them to carry their belongings with dignity! Heres some ideas about how to get creative with "wrapping":



Each seperate piece donated will need to be labeled with the child's name!





Other Helpful Info to Know




Sizing can be hard. Please include gift receipts, when possible, in an envelope contained in the bag.

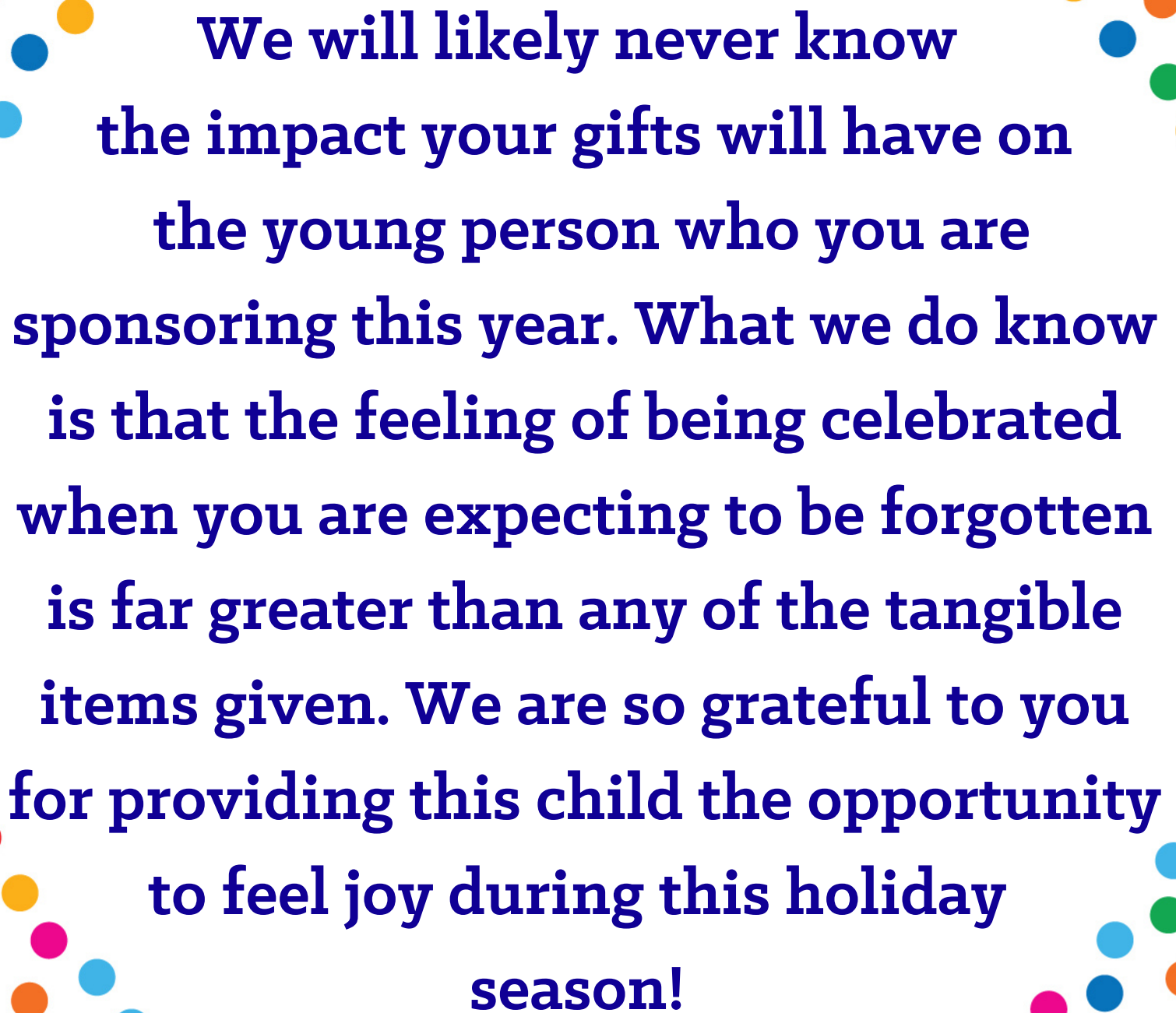


Please include a greeting card! You can sign it "the Smith family" or all the first names of those who helped!



We try to avoid writing the child's number on items because we want them to know they are more than a number. Please write the child's first name on items when possible!





**We will likely never know
the impact your gifts will have on
the young person who you are
sponsoring this year. 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
items given. We are so grateful to you
for providing this child the opportunity
to feel joy during this holiday
season!**



Have questions?

Email us at

holidays@worthdays.org

www.worthdays.org

