FATHERS' UPLIFT

Bags for Dads

Program
Getting Involved in Our Bags for Dads Program

What is the Bags for Dads Initiative?

To achieve our organization's mission, we strive to strengthen the support offered to fathers to achieve their desired lives. One barrier that is especially difficult for the fathers we work with is coping with life after prison. We provide services mainly to Fathers of color from the Dorchester and Roxbury area. When a man enters prison, the experience directly impacts his identity and separates him from his role as a father. During our Fathers Homecoming Program, licensed staff social workers and coaches work with incarcerated fathers three months before their release to put together a comprehensive mental health plan. Fathers' UpLift staff meet fathers at the prison gate of Suffolk County House of Corrections to escort them to their homes, monitor their mental health, and create a pathway for success. One of our co-founders, Samantha Fils, created an additional component to the Homecoming program called "Bags for Dads." One-hundred percent of fathers who are released from prison only get a plastic bag upon release. Bags for Dads will provide fathers with necessities such as a comb, a toothbrush, shampoo, deodorant, and other items inside a sturdy duffel bag, so they have the fundamental tools and dignity to be a successful parent after release.

What Do Bags for Dads Include?

Cost of 1 minimal Bag for Dad = $30

- One Sturdy Duffel Bag
- Handle Comb or Hair Brush
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Body Wash Bar Soap
- Shave Gel/Cream
- Razor
- Lotion
- Deodorant
- Transportation home from incarceration
- A Comprehensive Resource plan (with direct links to services)

Cost of 1 full Bag for Dad = $80

- All of the above +
- Towel
- Undergarments
- Socks
- Sweatshirt
• Sweatpants
• Blanket

What is the impact of Bags for Dads?

It is not just a bag. Bags for Dads provides fundamental tools for men to be successful individuals and parents. Men who are released from incarceration need a way to get a leg up; however, many men who leave incarceration have limited resources and struggle to re-enter society. Captivity is traumatizing, restricts access to employment, and restricts access to housing opportunities. Bags for Dads provides peace of mind to men with multi-dimensional stressors that take time and patience to overcome. Bags for Dads not only provides hygiene products and clothing, but Bags for Dads includes transportation back to their residence. Our trained Social Workers and Life Coaches create a comprehensive mental health plan and mentoring. Support and accountability make a difference. Through all of the Bags for Dad's services, men are less likely to re-enter prison.

There is a cost to prevention. However, the investment of prevention is NOT nearly as much as the cost of services children and families require due to absent Fathers. The U.S. spends $100 billion a year in taxpayer money to pay for the effects of absent fathers. The following statistics show the number of children who are growing up without their Father due to incarceration. The cost of providing each of those Fathers with a Bag for Dad ($80 or $30), reducing the effects of Fatherlessness.

How Do I Get Involved?

There are several ways schools, companies, and organizations can contribute to our Bags for Dads Initiative. Below are the ways that other schools and organizations have chosen to get involved. We are certainly open to new ideas you may have that are not listed below.

Hygiene Item Donation Drive

• Your location will confirm a day, week(s), or month they would like to hold the donation drive
• Fathers UpLift will assist you with gathering all the materials necessary to keep a donation drive, including electronic or physical copies of flyers, information about the program, boxes, or bags for you to place your items.
• Your location would host a donation drive where students, teachers, and parents receive a list of items required for each Bag for a Dad (including but not limited to body wash, shampoo, hair comb, razor, shaving cream, lotion, socks, toothbrush, etc.)
• Items on the list will be brought to your location and placed in a designated donation drive bin/box.
• After the end of the donation drive, Fathers' UpLift employees will pick up all of the donated items and bring them back to our office for packaging and distribution.
Change Collection

- Your location will confirm a day, week(s), or month they would like to hold the change collection.
- Fathers' UpLift will provide you with materials needed to complete a change collection, including electronic or physical copies of flyers, information about the program, and coin jars or cans.
- Spare change from students, teachers, and parents can be placed in the donation jars.
- At the end of the designated drive date, Fathers' UpLift employees will pick up all of the donated change and bring it back to the office for counting.
- Collected donations will be used to purchase more Bags for Dad's duffel bags and hygiene products.

Participation in Pack a Bag for Dad Event

- Students, teachers, and parents collaborate with Fathers' UpLift to come to our office [Event may be pre-planned for all interested community members or can be reserved for one organization/school].
- Those who attend will help pack duffel bags with every item from the packing list to complete a Bag for Dad set.
- Hand-written notes of inspiration and encouragement are written for each Dad.
- Hygiene products, any required clothing items, and the hand-written note will be ready for delivery to Fathers re-entering society from incarceration

Send a monetary donation through our website or check

- For organizations that would like to make a specific monetary donation, you may do so through the giving page on our website: https://www.fathersuplift.org/donate/
- For organizations that would like to buy a bag (a $80 bag or $30 bag), you may do so through this page: https://www.fathersuplift.org/buy-a-bag-for-a-dad/
- One Bag for Dad Includes each of the items listed above.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions. We look forward to working with you!

Fathers’ UpLift, Inc.
Address: 12 Southern Avenue Boston, MA 02124
Email: info@fathersuplift.org
Main office: (617)-708-0870.