

HYGIENE KITS

Description:

Assemble kits with personal hygiene items to support individuals experiencing homelessness.

Restrictions:

- Room for assembly line

Materials:

- Quart or Gallon sized plastic bags
- Some or all of the following:
 - Travel-sized
 - Toothpaste
 - Shampoo
 - Soap/Body Wash
 - Deodorant
 - Mouthwash
 - Lotion
 - Safety Razor
 - Toothbrush
 - Washcloth
 - Comb or Brush
- Label or card to attach to the kit (JVC can provide a template)

Instructions:

1. Fill the plastic bag with one of each item.
2. Add a label or card with a well wish for the recipient.

LEARNING RESOURCES:

HYGIENE KITS

Hygiene kits are the most commonly requested donation from the majority of JVC's non-profit service partners. All people need these items to prepare them for the day ahead: work, school, or receiving the help or treatment they need.

Jewish Value connected to this project:

Atzmaut - עצמאות - self-sufficiency, independence

Facts about Self-Sufficiency

- According to one of JVC's service partners, "A clean, neat appearance is one of the keys to getting a job."¹
- The unemployment rate in Baltimore City is 7.4%.²
- Employment not only provides much needed income (lack of income is the number one cause of homelessness), but also provides an opportunity for socialization and can be a source of feelings of pride and self-worth.³

Consider this:

The great Jewish scholar, Maimonides, wrote that the highest form of charity is helping someone to become self-sufficient, so he/she is no longer dependent on others.

(Mishneh Torah, Gifts to the Poor 10:7-14)

Discussion Questions:

- Do you agree that the type of charity above is the "highest form"?
- How might the hygiene kit you assembled help someone on a path to self-sufficiency or independence?
 - Beyond personal hygiene, what would someone need to help them gain employment?
- How else can we support those who are working to become self-sufficient or independent?

¹ <https://app.betterimpact.com/PublicEnterprise/EnterpriseActivity?enterpriseGuid=9e9e1ba8-03e4-4d78-a2ef-2c29a701150e&activityGuid=b452edd8-eb99-4afc-a6ad-2b718b5a66c4&searchUrl=https%253a%252f%252fapp.betterimpact.com%252fPublicEnterprise%252fEnterpriseSearch%253fEnterpriseGuid%253d9e9e1ba8-03e4-4d78-a2ef-2c29a701150e%-2526SearchType%253dActivityClassification%2526SearchId%253d14857>

² <https://www.vincentbaltimore.org/unemployment>

³ <https://www.vincentbaltimore.org/unemployment>