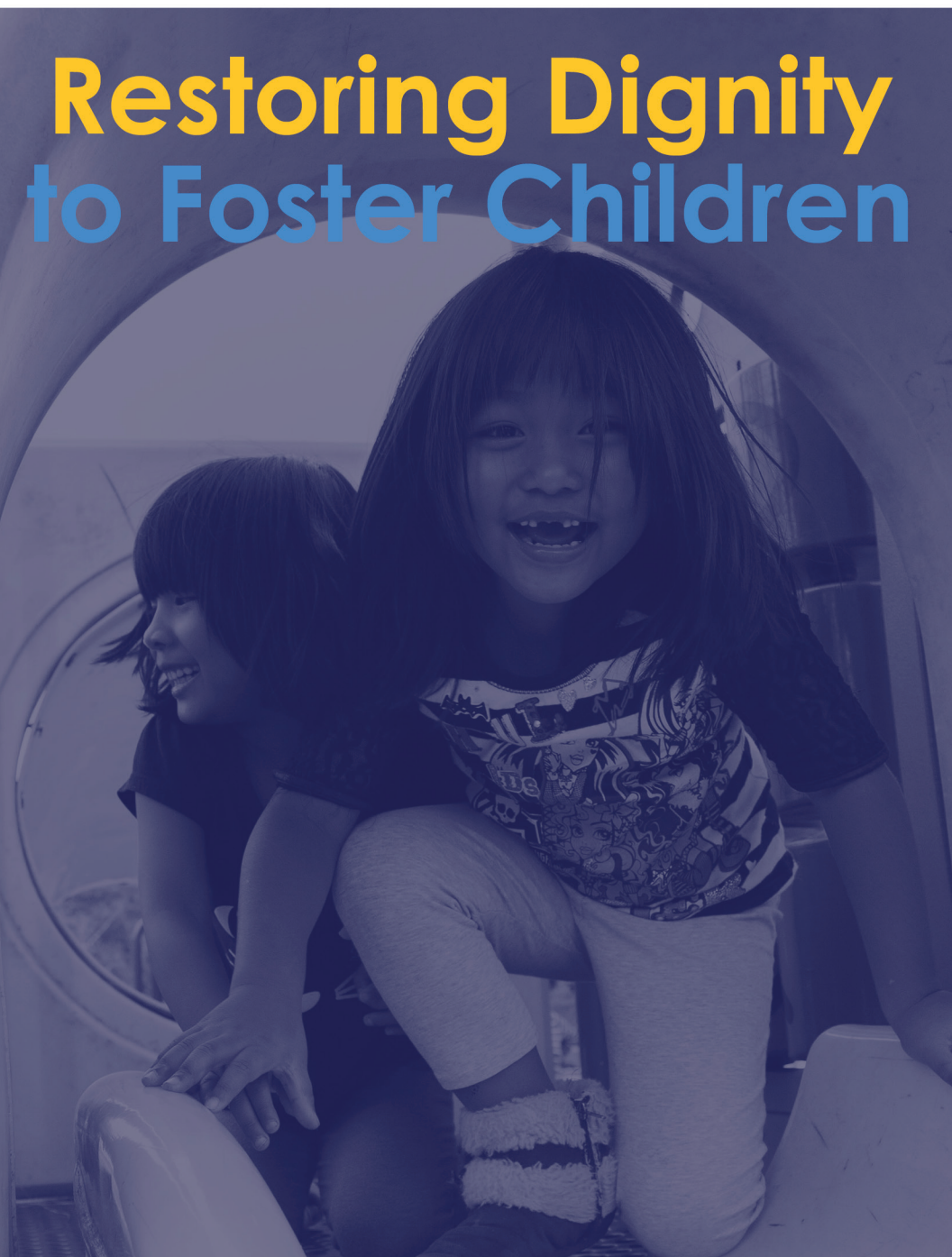




Restoring Dignity to Foster Children



RESTORING DIGNITY TO FOSTER CHILDREN

Imagine being taken from your home as a child and leaving so quickly all you have are the clothes on your back. As unbelievable as this sounds, it is a scary reality for many children who live just minutes from you. There are currently over 400,000 foster children in the United States alone, and the number is rising every week. Many local Department of Family and Children's Services (DFACS) offices are in desperate need to meet children's basic necessities while they await placement in safe homes.

The goal: to provide each foster child/teenager with a new, small rolling suitcase that contains a week's worth of new clothing and basic toiletries so that they have something to call their own, and their dignity can be restored.

"I met three brothers whose clothes were so worn and out-grown that they could not leave the DFACS office until help arrived. I wish you could have seen their faces and heard the squeals when they each received a suitcase full of nice things!" – Lynette Ezell

Restoring Dignity is seeking churches and community partners to cooperate in filling storage units across North America with new basic clothing and necessities for foster children as they are removed from harmful situations. Social workers in partnering DFACS offices would have unlimited access to specific units and would be able to pack a suitcase for each child during difficult times.

EASY STEP GUIDE

- Contact your local DFACS office or private child-placing agency in your area.
- Ask your local DFACS director what their greatest need is. Offer the idea of a rent-free storage unit filled with necessities.
- Find a centrally located storage facility, and choose the appropriate size unit for the projected need.
- Ask associations, churches or a private funder to help participate in paying rent on the facility

- Obtain shelving and bins. Converse with the local DFACS workers about what's best to keep in the unit.
- Begin donation drive. Remember, make it as simple as possible. This unit will need to be stocked long term.
- Label the bins girls/boys. Be sure to include sizes and names of items enclosed for easier access for workers.
- Keep a ledger of items removed from unit including by whom and the age and gender of the child served. Have one contact on your team notified if there is low stock of a particular item.
- Potential items for the unit: ****All new items****
- Small Rolling Suitcase (for every child), winter and summer clothing, tennis shoes, jeans, socks, shoes, underwear, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, comb/brush, coats. Diapers, receiving blankets, Bible
- Access to the unit can be given to your team, the DFACS officer and a small number of social workers.

SUGGESTED SUPPLY LIST

**based on a 10' x 25' storage unit*

- (1) 8' set of shelves from [Uline](#)
- (6) 6' set of shelves from [Uline](#)
- (80) 15 gal. stackable totes from [Amazon](#)
- Battery powered motion lights from [Amazon](#)
- Step stool
- Dust pan and broom

Estimated Budget

Rental Fee: \$80-\$150 (*monthly*)

Shelving: \$1,315 (*one-time*)

Totes (80): \$540 (*one-time*)

Lights (4): \$90 (*one-time*)

Total: \$2,025 - \$2,095



GET INVOLVED WITH SEND RELIEF

For more information and help to begin, contact Send Relief at **SendRelief@namb.net**.

Consider partnering in other mercy ministries through a variety of Send Relief initiatives found online at **namb.net/SendRelief**.

- Human Trafficking
- Refugees and Internationals
- Literacy
- Backpacks of Hope

Tell us your story so others may learn from your experience. Post a photo or video from your event and tag it with **#SendReliefStories**.

Your story can inspire others to be mission!

