

2022-23 Service Project Chosen

By Lisa Bortner

The Diocese of Texas DOK considered two service projects during our annual business meeting on September 17, 2022 at Camp Allen. We voted to adopt “Bags for Children in Foster Care/CPS” as our annual service project. The idea is to create simple overnight bags or backpacks to be given to foster care children at critical times. The Foster Care/CPS agencies will give them to the kids they serve. Sometimes children in foster care and CPS situations have to be moved very suddenly into a different living situation. This can be jarring and unsettling. Also, these children sometimes only have a trash bag to carry their belongings. Providing simple drawstring backpacks or tote bags with a few comforting items can make a world of difference to a child in a stressful situation.

Each DOK Chapter is being asked to contact the Foster Care and CPS agencies in their areas. It is likely that they would have specific items they would like included in the bags. However, the bags could include things like an encouraging card, a storybook, crayons, a coloring book, a small stuffed animal, toothbrush and toothpaste, a snack, and a flashlight. Each DOK should pray over the bags as they are creating them. It is suggested that the DOK also pray for the recipients of the backpacks and strength for the agency workers as they deliver them.

The website www.comfortcases.org can serve as a resource to the Chapters when deciding what to include in the bags and backpacks. This website gives wonderful suggestions on what to include for babies up to 2 years, children 3 to 10 years old, and teens.

The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services has been contacted to provide names and phone numbers of staff throughout the Diocesan area that can serve as contacts for this project. As soon as this information is made available, it will be published.

Let's be a true light to the world by joining together to make this service project a successful one this year. Please send Lisa Bortner at lisafromlsu@gmail.com, pictures and stories of how your Chapter has changed lives by participating in this campaign.

A Prayer for Faithfulness in Service

O Lord, Jesus Christ, head of the mystical body of the church of which we are members, cleanse our eyes to see You, quicken our ears to hear You, open our lips to show forth Your praise, give our hands skill to do Your bidding, and make our feet swift to go where You guide, that Your Kingdom may come and Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven, all for Your dear sake. AMEN.