

## BIRTHDAY-IN-A-BAG PROJECT



Imagine you're seven years old and today is your birthday. Now imagine that the place you call home is a shelter. You do not have your own room with toys or your own kitchen table where you sit and do homework. Imagine that you will not have a birthday party or, worse, that you've never experienced such a thing.

United Way's Birthday-in-a-Bag Project is for children living in safe shelters or other temporary living facilities. With your generous donation of time and basic birthday party supplies, you will make a true difference in a child's life in our community.

United Way will provide a list of suggested birthday party supply items to include in the bags. If you would like, we will come and speak to your team about what this project means to the children and families in our community who receive these bags.

### DID YOU KNOW...

- In 2019, 5,244 individuals in Erie County experienced homelessness.
- Of those 5,800 people who experienced homelessness, 86% of them spent time in an emergency shelter or transitional housing.
- Of those who spent time in an emergency shelter or transitional housing, 25% are children.
- Over 30% of Buffalo's families are living below the poverty line and more than 20% of children experience food insecurity.

## PARTNER AGENCIES

### Child & Family Services

[www.cfsbny.org](http://www.cfsbny.org)

Theresa DeLuca  
[tdeluca@cfsbny.org](mailto:tdeluca@cfsbny.org)  
716-335-7235

### Family Promise of WNY

[www.fpwny.org](http://www.fpwny.org)

Luanne Firestone  
[luanne.firestone@fpwny.org](mailto:luanne.firestone@fpwny.org)  
716-771-3007

### Ken-Ton Closet

[www.kentoncloset.org](http://www.kentoncloset.org)

Jill O'Malley  
[ken.toncloset@gmail.com](mailto:ken.toncloset@gmail.com)  
716-553-4267

### Response to Love Center

[www.responsetolove.org](http://www.responsetolove.org)

Sister Johnice  
[srjohnice@gmail.org](mailto:srjohnice@gmail.org)  
716-894-7030

### The Salvation Army

<https://buffalo.salvationarmy.org>

Bryanna Gwitt  
[bryanna.gwitt@use.salvationarmy.org](mailto:bryanna.gwitt@use.salvationarmy.org)  
716-598-1360

For more information on the Birthday-in-a-Bag Project and other Service-to-Go projects, visit [uwbec.org/business-meets-community](http://uwbec.org/business-meets-community) or contact:

### Suzette O'Brien

[suzette.obrien@uwbec.org](mailto:suzette.obrien@uwbec.org)  
716-887-2744

## BIRTHDAY-IN-A-BAG PROJECT INSTRUCTIONS



### SUGGESTED ITEMS to include in each bag

- 1 box of cake mix
- 1 container of frosting
- 10 birthday themed plates & napkins in a Ziploc bag
- 8–10 balloons in a Ziploc bag
- 1 package of candles
- Favor bag (filled with mini candies and mini toy favors for the birthday child to share with other kids at the party)
- One gift (such as a stuffed animal or \$5 gift card to Dollar Tree)
- Handmade Happy Birthday card for the birthday child

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